

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR VA FORM 10-8678
APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE (UNDER 38 U.S.C. 1162)
(2900-0198)**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection of information.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) through its Veterans Health Administration (VHA) administers an integrated program of benefits and services, established by law, for veterans, service personnel, and their dependents and/or beneficiaries. Information is requested by this form under the authority of 38 U.S.C., Section 1162, Clothing Allowance, which provides authority for the Secretary to pay a clothing allowance to veterans who because of a service-connected disability, wears or uses a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (including a wheelchair) which tends to wear out or tear clothing or uses medication that causes irreparable damage to the outer garments. Entitlement to this benefit is granted by 38 CFR 3.810, Clothing Allowance, upon application by the eligible individual.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purposes the information is to be used; indicate actual use the agency has made of the information received from current collection.

VA Form 10-8678 was used to gather the necessary information to determine if the veteran has established entitlement to a clothing allowance payment.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also described any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

This form will be available on the VA Forms website in a fill, print and save format at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>. Business process redesign to permit on-line submission is not cost effective due to the low usage of this form. Therefore, VHA has met the intent of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA).

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

Program reviews were conducted to identify potential areas of duplication; however, none were found to exist. There is no known Department or Agency which maintains the necessary information, nor is it available from other sources within our Department.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

No small businesses or other small entities are impacted by this information collection.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not

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conducted or is conducted less frequently as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

38 CFR 3.810 requires accurate information to determine eligibility to the clothing allowance. This form solicits information needed to determine eligibility to the benefit. VA would not be responsive to the needs of the veteran if information were collected less frequently.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted more often than quarterly or require respondents to prepare written responses to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it; submit more than an original and two copies of any document; retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years; in connection with a statistical survey that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study and require the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB.

There are no such special circumstances.

8. a. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the sponsor's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the sponsor in responses to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

b. Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure or reporting format, and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed or reported. Explain any circumstances which preclude consultation every three years with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained.

Outside consultation is conducted with the public through the 60- and 30-day Federal Register notices. No comments were received as a result of these public notices.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payment or gift is provided to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of privacy, to the extent permitted by law, provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

Assurances of privacy are contained in 38 U.S.C. 5701, Confidential Nature of Claims and 7332, Confidentiality of Certain Medical Records. Respondents are informed that the information collected will become part of the Consolidated Health Record that complies with the Privacy Act of 1974. These forms are part of the system of records identified as 24VA19 "Patient Medical Record – VA" as set forth in the 2003 Compilation of Privacy Act Issuances via online GPO access at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/>.

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11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature (Information that, with a reasonable degree of medical certainty, is likely to have a serious adverse effect on an individual's mental or physical health if revealed to him or her), such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private; include specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of the hour burden of the collection of information:

a. The annual burden is 1,120 hours (6,720 respondents x 1 x 10 minutes / 60). The estimated completion time of 10 minutes is based on review by staff personnel and previous usage of this form.

b. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB 83-I.

This request covers only one form.

c. Provide estimates of annual cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14 of the OMB 83-I.

The cost to the respondents for completing this form is \$26,880 (1,120 x \$24 per hour). We do not require any additional recordkeeping.

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

a. There is no capital, start-up, operation or maintenance costs.

b. Cost estimates are not expected to vary widely. The only cost is that for the time of the respondent.

c. There are no anticipated capital start-up cost components or requests to provide information.

14. Provide estimates of annual cost to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operation expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

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a. Processing/Analyzing costs	\$248,747.52
GS-12/5 @ \$40.66 x 6,720 x 6/60 minutes =	\$ 27,323.52
GS- 9/5 @ \$28.04 x 6,720 x 60/60 minutes =	\$ 188,428.80
GS- 3/5 @ \$14.73 x 6,720 x 20/60 minutes =	\$ 32,995.20

15. Explain the reason for any burden hour changes since the last submission.

There is no change to the burden hours.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

The information collection is not for publication or tabulation use.

17. If seeking approval to omit the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

A valid expiration date will be included on the forms in accordance with OMB policy.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions," of OMB 83-I.

This submission does not contain any exceptions to the certification statement.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

No statistical methods are used in this data collection.