



2016 COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

INFORMATION AND SUGGESTED SCRIPT

ISSUED DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2015

GENERAL INFORMATION

Periodically, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) makes cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to VA compensation and pension benefits to ensure that the purchasing power of VA benefits is not eroded by inflation. Under federal law, the cost-of-living adjustments to VA's compensation and pension rates are the same percentage as for Social Security benefits.

COLAs are determined by an increase in inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). The Bureau of Labor Statistics determined there was no increase in the CPI-W. Therefore, under existing law, there can be no COLA in 2016.

The announcement below has been recorded and placed on the automated messages on the general benefits toll free number (1-800-827-1000) and the Pension toll free number (1-877-294-6380).

“Please be advised, the VA has been informed there will be no Cost of Living Adjustment, or COLA, for VA compensation and pension payments for 2016.”

SUGGESTED SCRIPT:

“There will be no cost of living adjustment for VA compensation and pension payments in 2016. Under federal law, the cost-of-living adjustments to VA's compensation and pension rates are the same percentage as for Social Security benefits. As there is no increase to Social Security benefits, there will be no increase to VA benefits this year.”

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department
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