

PHYSICAL, PROCEDURAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SAFEGUARDS:

1. Access to working spaces and patient medical record storage areas in VA health care facilities is restricted to authorized VA employees. Generally, filing areas are locked after normal duty hours. Health care facilities are protected from outside access by the Federal Protective Service and/or other security personnel. Access to patient medical records is restricted to VA employees who have a need for information in the performance of their official duties. Sensitive patient medical records, including employee patient medical records, records of public figures, or other sensitive patient medical records are generally stored in separate locked files or a similar electronically controlled access environment. Strict control measures are enforced to ensure that access to and disclosures from these patient medical records are limited.

2. Access to computer rooms within health care facilities is generally limited by appropriate locking devices and restricted to authorized VA employees and vendor personnel. Only authorized VA employees or vendor employees may access information in the system. Access to file information is controlled at two levels: the system recognizes authorized employees by a series of individually unique passwords/codes as a part of each data message, and the employees are limited to only that information in the file that is needed in the performance of their official duties. Information that is downloaded and maintained on personal computers must be afforded similar storage and access protections as the data that is maintained in the original files. Access by remote data users such as Veteran Outreach Centers, Veteran Service Officers with power of attorney to assist with claim processing, VARO staff for benefit determination and processing purposes, OIG staff conducting official audits or investigations, and other authorized individuals is controlled in the same manner.

3. Access to the VA National Data Centers is generally restricted to Center employees, custodial personnel, Federal Protective Service, and other security personnel. Access to computer rooms is restricted to authorized operational personnel through electronic locking devices. All other persons gaining access to computer rooms are escorted. Information stored in the computer may be accessed by authorized VA employees at remote locations including VA health care facilities, VA Central Office, VISNs, and OIG Central Office and field staff. Access is controlled by

individually unique passwords/codes that must be changed periodically by the employee.

4. Access to records maintained at the VA Boston Development Center, Chief Information Office Field Offices, and VISNs are restricted to VA employees who have a need for the information in the performance of their official duties. Access to information stored in electronic format is controlled by USAccess card or individually unique passwords/codes. Records are maintained in manned rooms during working hours. The facilities are protected from outside access during non-working hours by the Federal Protective Service or other security personnel.

5. Computer access authorizations, computer applications available and used, information access attempts, and frequency and time of use are recorded.

6. Access to Oracle Health Technology Centers is generally restricted to Oracle Health employees, contractors or associates with an Oracle Health issued ID badge and other security personnel cleared for access to the data center. Access to computer rooms housing Federal data, hence Federal enclave, is restricted to persons Federally cleared for Federal enclave access through electronic badge entry devices. All other persons, such as custodians, gaining access to Federal enclave are escorted.

7. VA Enterprise Cloud data storage conforms to security protocols as stipulated in VA Directives 6500 and 6517. Access control standards are stipulated in specific agreements with Cloud vendors to restrict and monitor access.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURE:

Individuals seeking information regarding access to VA medical records in this system pertaining to them should write, call or visit the Release of Information Office at the last VA health care facility where medical care was provided. A request for access to records must contain the requester's full name, address and telephone number, be signed by the requester and describe the records sought in sufficient detail to enable VA personnel to locate them with a reasonable amount of effort.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Individuals seeking to contest or amend records in this system pertaining to them should write, call or visit the Release of Information Office at the last VA health care facility where medical care was provided. A request to contest or amend records must state clearly and concisely what record is being

contested, the reasons for contesting it, and the proposed amendment to the record.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Individuals who wish to be notified if a record in this system of records pertains to them should submit the request following the procedures described in "Record Access Procedures," above.

EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

HISTORY:

69 FR 18428 (April 7, 2004); 79 FR 47732 (August 14, 2014); 85 FR 62406 (October 2, 2020)

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0261]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Application for Refund of Educational Contributions

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 31, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted through www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Program-Specific information: Kendra McCleave, 202-461-8924, kendra.mccleave@va.gov.

VA PRA information: Dorothy Glasgow, 202-461-1084, VAPRA@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Application for Refund of Educational Contributions, VA Form 22–5281.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0261 <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRASearch> (Once at this link, you can enter the OMB Control Number to find the historical versions of this Information Collection).

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Public Law 94–502 established the Post-Vietnam Era Educational Assistance Program (VEAP). The VEAP program account is jointly funded by the eligible participant and the Department of Defense. The fund provides educational assistance payments to eligible participants who entered the service after December 31, 1976, and before July 1, 1985, and are pursuing training under chapter 32, title 38 U.S.C. The Application for Refund of Educational Contributions, VA Form 22–5281, is required to process a refund of contributions made by eligible participants who wish to disenroll from the program. If a participant stops enrollment from the program prior to discharge or release from active duty, such participant's contributions will be refunded on the date of the participant's discharge or release from active duty, or within 60 days of receipt of notice by the Secretary of the participants' discharge. If a participant stops enrollment from the program after discharge or release from active duty, the participant's contributions shall be refunded within 60 days of receipt of an application for a refund from the participant. In 2022, VA conducted a project which attempted to identify all Veterans with remaining chapter 32 contributions and provide them with the VA Form 22–5281 to receive a refund, as they're no longer eligible to use chapter 32 benefits. The burden for the current renewal has decreased because no similar large-scale effort to

contact Veterans was conducted during 2023, 2024, or 2025.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 429 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per

Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Once.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,571.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

Shunda Willis,

Alternate, VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Information Technology/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[Docket No. VA–2026–VACO–0001]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Debt Management Center (DMC), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice of a modified system of records.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974, notice is hereby given that VA is modifying the system of records titled “Centralized Accounts Receivable System/Centralized Accounts Receivable On-Line System (CARS/CAROLS)” (88VA244). This system is used to collect and maintain information on individuals that have an accounts receivable resulting from participating in a VA benefit program. It is designed to assist in the collection of government overpayments (debts). The system reflects the accounts receivable under the jurisdiction of the VA DMC. The system displays debts which are generated from four main areas in the Veterans Benefits Administration: Education, Compensation, Pension, and Loan Guaranty. The system also houses some debts relating to the Veterans Health Administration but does not directly contain medical records.

DATES: Comments on this modified system of records must be received no later than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. If no public comment is received during the period allowed for comment or unless otherwise published in the **Federal Register** by VA, the modified system of records will become effective a minimum of 30 days after date of publication in the **Federal Register**. If VA receives public comments, VA shall review the comments to determine

whether any changes to the notice are necessary.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted through www.regulations.gov under docket number VA–2026–VACO–0001 or mailed to VA Privacy Service (005X6F), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to “Centralized Accounts Receivable System/Centralized Accounts Receivable On-Line (CARS/CAROLS)” (88VA244). Instructions for accessing agency documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket are available on www.regulations.gov under “FAQ.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Morgen Egesdal, Management Analyst, FOIA, Privacy and Records Officer, Debt Management Center, Office of Management, Morgan.Egesdal@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: VA is modifying the systems of records by revising the following sections: System Name, System Location, System Manager, Categories of Records in the System, Routine Uses, Policies and Practices for Storage of Records, Policies and Practices for Retention and Disposal of Records, Administrative, Technical, and Physical Safeguards, Record Access Procedures, Contesting Records Procedures, Notification Procedures, and History.

System Name is being changed to “Benefits Accounts Receivable Records (BARR)—VA.”

System Location is being updated to “Applications servers, external interface, and databases located at the VA Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) in Austin, TX.”

System Manager email is being updated to “DMC_SSOD_Questions@va.gov.”

Categories of Records in the System is being updated in part to “VA file number, social security number, Receivable ID, Tax Identification Number (TIN), name, date of birth, mailing address, loan reference number, phone number, email address, financial information, and VA benefit overpayment (debt) information.”

Routine Uses are being updated to align with VA standard practices.

Routine uses 1–16 and 19–23 remain the same in substance, if not exact verbiage.

The former routine use 17 is being removed, as it is covered under routine use 5.

The former routine use 18 is being split into routine uses 17 and 18, respectively, to state “Treasury, for Payment or Reimbursement—To the