

REENTRY MYTH

BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

MYTH: Veterans cannot request to have their VA benefits resumed until they are officially released from incarceration.

FACT: Veterans may inform VA to have their benefits resumed within 30 days or less of their anticipated release date based on evidence from a parole board or other official prison source showing the Veteran's scheduled release date.

The Veterans Administration (VA) is proactive with ensuring Veterans are receiving their full entitlement of benefits once released from incarceration.

If the evidence is dated no more than 30 days before the anticipated release from incarceration, VA may resume disability benefits prospectively from the anticipated date of release based on evidence received from a parole board or other official prison source showing the Veteran's scheduled release date.

If the release does not occur on the scheduled date, VA will inform the Veteran that benefits will be discontinued or reduced effective from the date of increase without advance notice.

VA staff conduct outreach in correctional facilities across the nation to share this information with Veterans and prison staff in preparation for release.

For More Information:

VA website
www.va.gov

eBenefits
www.ebenefits.va.gov

VA Benefits
1-800-827-1000

Homeless Hotline
1-877-4AID-VET

What is a REENTRY MYTH BUSTER?

This Myth Buster is one in a series of fact sheets intended to clarify existing federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. Each year, more than 700,000 individuals are released from state and federal prisons. Another 9 million cycle through local jails. When reentry fails, the social and economic costs are high -- more crime, more victims, more family distress, and more pressure on already-strained federal, state, and municipal budgets.

Because reentry intersects with health and housing, education and employment, family, faith, and community well-being, many federal agencies are focusing on initiatives for the reentry population. Under the auspices of the Cabinet-level interagency Reentry Council, federal agencies are working together to enhance community safety and well-being, assist those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens, and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

For more information about the Reentry Council, go to:
www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/reentry-council