

Post-9/11 GI Bill—CBO’s January 2020 Baseline

Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Department of Veterans Affairs pays certain expenses of eligible veterans and service members, or their designated dependents, enrolled at educational institutions or training establishments. Educational institutions include public, nonprofit, and for-profit colleges and universities, as well as other entities offering approved programs of education. The benefit paid for tuition and fees is equal to the actual amount charged to in-state residents for students attending public institutions or up to a maximum amount, adjusted annually for inflation, for students at private or foreign institutions. The program also provides a monthly housing allowance to beneficiaries who pursue education or training at a rate greater than half-time. Generally, people who served on active duty after September 11, 2001, for at least 36 months are eligible for the full benefit, and those who served for shorter periods receive a reduced benefit. Service members with at least six years on active duty who agree to serve four more years can transfer benefits to their dependents.

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By Fiscal Year

January 28, 2020

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Beneficiaries (Thousands)	680	680	680	680	680	680	680	680	680	680	680
Average Annual Benefit (Dollars)	15,956	16,548	17,104	17,781	18,437	19,095	19,766	20,462	21,187	21,945	22,729
Total Payments (Millions of dollars)	10,845	11,247	11,625	12,085	12,531	12,978	13,434	13,907	14,400	14,915	15,448
Adjustment for Timing Shifts (Millions of dollars) ^a	0	0	657	21	-678	0	0	0	785	-785	0
Total Outlays (Millions of dollars)	10,845	11,247	12,282	12,106	11,853	12,978	13,434	13,907	15,185	14,130	15,448

a. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) makes certain payments under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (housing allowances and supplementary benefits) to beneficiaries on the first day of the month. If the first day of the month occurs on a weekend or holiday, VA will make the payments on the preceding business day. When this occurs in October (the beginning of the fiscal year), the payment is made at the end of September (in the preceding fiscal year). This results in shifting the October payments in fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2029 backwards into fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2028, respectively.