

Post-9/11 GI Bill—CBO’s January 2019 Baseline

Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Department of Veterans Affairs pays higher education benefits for veterans and service members, and in some cases their designated dependents, who enroll at a public or private, nonprofit or for-profit college, university, or other entity that offers an approved education or training program. Benefits for tuition and fees equal actual amounts charged to in-state students at public institutions. Students at private or foreign institutions receive an amount up to an annual maximum, which is adjusted for inflation. The program also provides a monthly housing allowance to beneficiaries who participate more than half-time. Generally, people who served on active duty for at least 36 months after September 10, 2001, are eligible for full benefits; those with service of shorter duration are eligible for reduced amounts. Service members with at least six years on active duty who agree to serve an additional four years may transfer benefits to their dependents.

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By Fiscal Year

January 28, 2019

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Beneficiaries (Thousands)	710	728	749	749	749	749	749	749	749	749	749
Average Annual Benefit (Dollars)	16,002	16,660	17,334	17,938	18,552	19,157	19,858	20,574	21,319	22,098	22,910
Total Payments (Millions of dollars)	11,363	12,130	12,979	13,431	13,891	14,344	14,869	15,405	15,963	16,546	17,154
Adjustment for Timing Shifts (Millions of dollars) ^a	0	0	0	603	19	-622	0	0	0	719	-719
Total Outlays (Millions of dollars)	11,363	12,130	12,979	14,034	13,910	13,722	14,869	15,405	15,963	17,265	16,435

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.