

Post-9/11 GI Bill—CBO’s May 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

May 02, 2019

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Beneficiaries (Thousands)	720	732	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751
Average Annual Benefit (Dollars)	15,641	16,285	16,947	17,538	18,139	18,731	19,416	20,116	20,845	21,607	22,400
Total Payments (Millions of dollars)	11,260	11,917	12,731	13,175	13,626	14,071	14,586	15,112	15,659	16,231	16,827
Adjustment for Timing Shifts (Millions of dollars) ^a	0	0	0	569	12	-580	0	0	0	671	-671
Total Outlays (Millions of dollars)	11,260	11,917	12,731	13,743	13,638	13,490	14,586	15,112	15,659	16,902	16,157

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.
