

# Department of Veterans Affairs

## The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008





# Post-9/11 GI Bill

- Implementation Update
- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Enrollment Certifications
- Q and A



# Implementation Update

- Regional Processing Office Staffing
  - 500+ term appointment Veterans Claims Examiners
  - Hiring initiative from January 2009 – March 2009
  - Additional clerical support
- Central Office Yellow Ribbon Program Team
- Minor construction and expansion



# Implementation Update

## Information Technology (IT) – Application Development

- Short-term Solution
  - Front End Tool application
  - Back End Tool application
  - Job Aids
- Phased deployment
  - Phase I – March 2009
  - Phase II – July 2009
  - Phase III – Fall 2009



# Implementation Update

## Information Technology (IT) – Application Upgrades

- Web-Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS)
- VA Online Application (VONAPP)
- VA Online Certification of Enrollment (VA Once)
- Electronic Certification Automated Processing (ECAP)
- The Image Management System (TIMS)



# Implementation Update

## GI Bill Website

- General eligibility and entitlement
- Highest in-State tuition and fees
- Benefit comparison and case studies
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Yellow Ribbon Program participating institutions



# Implementation Update

## Training and Outreach

- Veterans Claims Examiner
  - Phase I – March 2009
  - Phase II – June 2009
  - Phase III – Fall 2009
- Education Liaison Representatives and Education Compliance Survey Specialists
- Conferences and webinars
- Informational DVD



# Implementation Update

- VA began accepting applications for Certificates of Eligibility beginning May 1, 2009
  - Veterans and servicemembers enrolling in Fall 2009
  - VA will announce when applications for TOE will be accepted pending final DOD regulations
- Certificates of Eligibility
  - Benefit level based on length of service, including Yellow Ribbon for individuals at the maximum benefit level
  - 15-year eligibility date for individuals not on active duty
  - Number of months of entitlement
  - Program approval, if applicable
- Nationwide Workload
  - Claims received = 50,421
  - Claims processed = 13,379



# Implementation Update

- VA plans to begin accepting Fall 2009 enrollment certifications beginning July 6, 2009
  - Advance payment will not be available
  - Enrollment processing will begin in July 2009, however, payments **cannot** be released before August 1, 2009
- VA will begin issuing payment transactions to the Department of Treasury on August 1, 2009 for:
  - Tuition and fees
  - Yellow Ribbon, if applicable
  - Books and supplies stipend
  - College fund “kickers”
- Payments for the monthly housing allowance will be issued beginning September 1, 2009



# Yellow Ribbon Program

- Institutions within the U.S. may voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition and fee costs that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition and fees
- Provides additional funding for:
  - Training at private institutions
  - Graduate training
  - Out-of-state tuition
- Only individuals entitled to the 100% benefit rate may receive this funding



# Yellow Ribbon Program

- VA will match each additional dollar that an institution contributes, up to 50% of the difference between the student's tuition benefit and the total cost of tuition and fees
- The combined amounts may not exceed the full cost of the school's established charges
- Yellow Ribbon Program payments will be issued to the school on behalf of each student via EFT
- Payments will include student identification information and the semester, quarter or term the payment is covering



# Yellow Ribbon Program

- VA began soliciting for submission of VA Form 22-0839, Yellow Ribbon Program Agreements in early April
- List of Yellow Ribbon Program Frequently Asked Questions distributed to assist with agreement process



# Yellow Ribbon Program

OMB Control No. 2900-0718  
Respondent Burden: 10 minutes

<b>Department of Veterans Affairs</b>		<b>YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM AGREEMENT</b> (Under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code)	
NAME OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING (IHL)		FACILITY CODE <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Public IHL <input type="checkbox"/> Private IHL	
ADDRESS OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING		Date Received (For VA use only)	
<p>The above named institution of higher learning (IHL) agrees to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (authorized under title V of Public Law 110-252) subject to the terms, conditions, and representations provided in this agreement and applicable VA regulations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IHL agrees to provide contributions to eligible individuals who apply for such program at the institution (in a manner prescribed by the institution) on a first-come-first-served basis, regardless of the rate at which the individual is pursuing training (i.e., full-time versus less than full-time), during the academic year.</li> <li>The IHL agrees to provide contributions on behalf of a participating individual during the current academic year and all subsequent academic years in which the IHL participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program, provided that the individual maintains satisfactory progress, conduct, and attendance according to the regularly prescribed standards of the institution.</li> <li>The IHL agrees to limit contributions made on behalf of a participant to funds under the unrestricted control of the IHL (e.g., a scholarship sent directly to an IHL on behalf of an individual or specific group of individuals from a third party may not be included in Yellow Ribbon Program contributions). Funds received directly or indirectly from Federal sources may not be counted towards contributions.</li> <li>The IHL agrees to provide the maximum amount of contributions payable toward the unmet established charges to each participating individual during each term, quarter, or semester the individual is enrolled if the IHL's total contribution toward the individual's unmet established charges for the term, quarter, or semester do not exceed the maximum dollar amount payable during the academic year as specified in paragraph 7 of this agreement.</li> <li>The IHL agrees to provide contributions for each Yellow Ribbon Program participant using the following:  <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> <li>The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to up to _____ eligible individuals during the academic year.  <i>(numbers)</i></li> <li>The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions for each participant during the academic year up to the following amounts (as specified in <u>one</u> of the following subparagraphs):           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$ _____ for each student, or</li> <li>\$ _____ for each undergraduate student,                \$ _____ for each graduate student, and                \$ _____ for each doctoral student, or</li> <li>\$ _____ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school _____                \$ _____ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school _____                \$ _____ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school _____                \$ _____ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school _____                \$ _____ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school _____                \$ _____ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school _____</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>(Attach additional listings if necessary)</p>			



# Yellow Ribbon Program

Institutions entering into a Yellow Ribbon Program Agreement with VA are agreeing to:

- Provide contributions to eligible individuals on a first-come, first-served basis for the current academic year
- Provide contributions to eligible individuals for the current academic year and all subsequent years the individual is enrolled if the:
  - Institution continues to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program
  - Student maintains satisfactory progress



# Yellow Ribbon Program

- Limit contributions to funds under the unrestricted control of the institution and specify the manner in which contributions will be granted which may include:
  - Direct grant
  - Scholarship
- The following cannot be used as the institution's contribution toward the Yellow Ribbon Program:
  - Third party funds
  - Title IV funds



# Yellow Ribbon Program

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NAME OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING (IHL)	FACILITY CODE <input type="checkbox"/> - <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public IHL <input type="checkbox"/> Private IHL <small>(Check one)</small>	
ADDRESS OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING	Date Received (For VA use only)		

The above named institution of higher learning (IHL) agrees to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (authorized under title V of Public Law 110-252) subject to the terms, conditions, and representations provided in this agreement and applicable VA regulations.

- The IHL agrees to provide contributions to eligible individuals who apply for such program at the institution (in a manner prescribed by the institution) on a first-come-first-served basis, regardless of the rate at which the individual is pursuing training (i.e., full-time versus less than full-time), during the academic year.
- The IHL agrees to provide contributions on behalf of a participating individual during subsequent academic years in which the IHL participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program maintains satisfactory progress, conduct, and attendance according to the regularly prescribed standards of the institution.
- The IHL agrees to limit contributions made on behalf of a participant to funds under (e.g., a scholarship sent directly to an IHL on behalf of an individual or specific group) may not be included in Yellow Ribbon Program contributions. Funds received from Federal sources may not be counted towards contributions.
- The IHL agrees to provide the maximum amount of contributions payable toward the each participating individual during each term, quarter, or semester the individual is contributing toward the individual's unmet established charges for the term, quarter, maximum dollar amount payable during the academic year as specified in paragraph 6.
- The IHL agrees to provide contributions for each Yellow Ribbon Program participant:  
 Direct Grant  Scholarship  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to up to \_\_\_\_\_ (number) eligible individuals during the academic year.
- The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions for each participant during the academic year up to the following amounts (as specified in one of the following subparagraphs):
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student; *or*
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each undergraduate student,  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each graduate student, and  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each doctoral student; *or*
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Attach additional listings if necessary)

State the maximum number of individuals to whom Yellow Ribbon Program contributions will be provided in item 6



6. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to up to \_\_\_\_\_ eligible individuals during the academic year.  
*(number)*

7. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions for each participant during the academic year up to the following amounts (as specified in one of the following subparagraphs):

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student; *or*
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each undergraduate student,  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each graduate student, and  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each doctoral student; *or*
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Attach additional listings if necessary)



# Yellow Ribbon Program

State the maximum annual dollar amount that will be contributed per individual in item 7

OMB Control No. 2900-0718  
Respondent Burden: 10 minutes

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NAME OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING (IHL)		FACILITY CODE <input type="checkbox"/> - <input type="checkbox"/>	
ADDRESS OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING		(Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Public IHL <input type="checkbox"/> Private IHL	
		Date Received (For VA use only)	

The above named institution of higher learning (IHL) agrees to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (authorized under title V of Public Law 110-252) subject to the terms, conditions, and representations provided in this agreement and applicable VA regulations.

- The IHL agrees to provide contributions to eligible individuals who apply for such program at the institution (in a manner prescribed by the institution) on a first-come-first-served basis, regardless of the rate at which the individual is pursuing training (i.e., full-time versus less than full-time), during the academic year.
- The IHL agrees to provide contributions on behalf of a participating individual during the current academic year and all subsequent academic years in which the IHL participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program, provided that the individual maintains satisfactory progress, conduct, and attendance according to the regularly prescribed standards of the institution.

6. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to up to \_\_\_\_\_ eligible individuals during the academic year. \_\_\_\_\_ (number)

7. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions for each participant during the academic year up to the following amounts (as specified in one of the following subparagraphs):

a. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student; *or*

b. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each undergraduate student,  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each graduate student, and  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each doctoral student; *or*

c. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_  
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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach additional listings if necessary)



# Yellow Ribbon Program

Item 7a – Institution agrees to contribute up to the same maximum annual dollar amount for all individuals

6. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to up to \_\_\_\_\_ eligible individuals during the academic year. \_\_\_\_\_  
(number)

7. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions for each participant during the academic year up to the following amounts (as specified in one of the following subparagraphs):

a. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student; or

b. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each undergraduate student,  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each graduate student, and  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each doctoral student; or

c. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Attach additional listings if necessary)



# Yellow Ribbon Program

## Item 7b

Institutions may limit contribution amounts and totals by education level and may offer to contribute:

- To individuals at any or all education levels
- Different maximum annual amounts at any or all education levels
- Different maximum number of individuals at any or all education levels



# Yellow Ribbon Program

Example:

Gulf Shores University intends to offer Yellow Ribbon Program benefits to graduate and doctoral students.

They intend to contribute Yellow Ribbon Program benefits to up to 500 students as follows:

Up to \$2,000 per year for each graduate student

Up to \$4,000 per year for each doctoral student

How should they complete their Yellow Ribbon Program Agreement?



# Yellow Ribbon Program

To offer Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to all graduate and doctoral students on a first come, first served basis, they should report:

- 500 in item 6
- 0 or blank for each undergraduate student
- \$2,000 for each graduate student
- \$4,000 for each doctoral student

6. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to up to \_\_\_\_\_ eligible individuals during the academic year.  
(number)

7. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions for each participant during the academic year up to the following amounts (as specified in one of the following subparagraphs):

a. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student; *or*

b. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each undergraduate student,  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each graduate student, and  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each doctoral student; *or*

c. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_  
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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach additional listings if necessary)



# Yellow Ribbon Program

To offer Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to 400 graduate and 100 doctoral students on a first come, first served basis, they should report:

- 500 in item 6
- 0 or blank for each undergraduate student
- \$2,000 for each graduate student and 400 in the blank area next to graduate student
- \$4,000 for each doctoral student and 100 in the blank area next to each doctoral student

6. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to up to \_\_\_\_\_ eligible individuals during the academic year. *(number)*

7. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions for each participant during the academic year up to the following amounts (as specified in one of the following subparagraphs):

a. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student; *or*

b. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each undergraduate student,  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each graduate student, and  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each doctoral student; *or*

c. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_  
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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach additional listings if necessary)





# Yellow Ribbon Program

Item 7c

Institutions may limit contribution amounts and totals to specific colleges and/or professional schools.



# Yellow Ribbon Program

Example:

Pensacola College intends to offer Yellow Ribbon Program benefits to all students enrolled in the School of Law and the School of Pharmacy.

They intend to contribute Yellow Ribbon Program benefits to up to 100 students as follows:

Up to \$7,000 per year for each Law student

Up to \$15,000 per year for Pharmacy student

How should they complete their Yellow Ribbon Program Agreement?



# Yellow Ribbon Program

To offer Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to all students in the School of Law and the School of Pharmacy on a first come, first served basis, they should report:

- 100 in item 6
- \$7,000 for each student enrolled in the School of Law
- \$15,000 for each student enrolled in the School of Pharmacy

6. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to up to \_\_\_\_\_ eligible individuals during the academic year.  
*(number)*

7. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions for each participant during the academic year up to the following amounts (as specified in one of the following subparagraphs):

a. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student; *or*

b. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each undergraduate student,  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each graduate student, and  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each doctoral student; *or*

c. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_  
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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach additional listings if necessary)





# Yellow Ribbon Program

To offer Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to 75 students in the School of Law and 25 students in the School of Pharmacy on a first come, first served basis, they should report:

- 100 in item 6
- \$7,000 for each student enrolled in the School of Law/75
- \$15,000 for each student enrolled in the School of Pharmacy/25

6. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions to up to \_\_\_\_\_ eligible individuals during the academic year. *(number)*

7. The IHL agrees to provide Yellow Ribbon Program contributions for each participant during the academic year up to the following amounts (as specified in one of the following subparagraphs):

a. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student; *or*

b. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each undergraduate student,

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each graduate student, and

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each doctoral student; *or*

c. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each student enrolled in the following college or professional school

(Attach additional listings if necessary)





# Yellow Ribbon Program

Items 7b and 7c

- Institutions may limit contribution amounts and totals by education level and may further limit to specific colleges and/or professional schools
- Institutions should use separate Yellow Ribbon Program Agreements to report this to VA



# Yellow Ribbon Program

Example:

Orlando Institute of Technology intends to offer Yellow Ribbon Program benefits to all undergraduate students and 250 graduate students in the School of Engineering.

They intend to contribute Yellow Ribbon Program benefits as follows:

Up to \$5,000 per year for each under graduate student

Up to \$1,000 per year for Engineering student

How should they complete their Yellow Ribbon Program Agreement?



# Yellow Ribbon Program

Example:

- They should submit separate Yellow Ribbon Program agreements to cover their graduate and undergraduate students
- They may denote all students by indicating “ALL” “UNLIMITED” or 99999



# Yellow Ribbon Program

When submitting Yellow Ribbon Program Agreements, institutions cannot:

- Report contributions per credit hour
- Limit contributions based on student status
  - Part-time
  - Traditional or non-traditional
  - Day or evening
- Limit contributions based on degree program/college major



# Yellow Ribbon Program

- Upon receipt of a valid agreement, VA will:
  - Document agreement information for posting on GI Bill website
  - Sign and return agreement to institution
- VA must receive signed agreements from interested institutions by **June 15, 2009**
- A preliminary list of Yellow Ribbon Program participating institutions will be available on the GI Bill website as of June 1, 2009
- Participating institutions should review to verify information reported on their Yellow Ribbon Program



# Yellow Ribbon Program

- VA-Once modifications will allow schools to certify Yellow Ribbon information on a VA Form 22-1999, Enrollment Certification
- Schools should report charged tuition, charged fees, and the amount the institution is contributing for the Yellow Ribbon Program
- VA will pay the lesser of:
  - The amount of Yellow Ribbon certified
  - The difference between the amount certified and the individual's unmet tuition and fee charges



# Yellow Ribbon

## Implementation Timeline

December 2008 – Sent Yellow Ribbon Program informational letter to IHLs

January 2009 – Sent Yellow Ribbon Program interest letter and survey to IHLs

March 2009 – Received more than 1,000 surveys from interested IHLs

April 2009 – Begin soliciting for Yellow Ribbon Program Agreements

June 1, 2009 – Post Yellow Ribbon participating institutions on GI Bill website

June 15, 2009 – Deadline for submitting Yellow Ribbon Program Agreements

July 6, 2009 – Schools may begin certifying Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollment certifications containing Yellow Ribbon Program information



# Enrollment Certifications

- VA-Once modifications will allow schools to report additional information for the Post-9/11 GI Bill
  - The number of credit hours taken via distance learning
  - Tuition
  - Fees
  - The amount the institution is contributing toward the Yellow Ribbon Program
- Tuition and fees are required fields for all education benefit programs
- Schools should also report the full-time measurement for all graduate level training in the “Remarks” section



# Enrollment Certifications

- VA Once and other software applications will be revised to accept Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollment certifications as of July 6, 2009
- Schools may begin certifying enrollments under the Post-9/11 GI Bill on July 6, 2009
- Enrollment certifications received before that date cannot be processed; schools will receive a letter notifying them to resubmit an amended certification on or after July 6, 2009, containing the pertinent Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollment information



# Enrollment Certifications

## VA Once Modifications

Edit Enrollment									Save	Cancel
Facility: 22222222	Trng Type: IHL_UNDERGRAD			Prgrm: AS RM			Prior Credit: 2			
FALL 09	08/10/2009	12/15/2009	12				12000.00	150.00		
Term Name	Begin Date*	End Date*	Credit	Dist*	R/D	Clock	Tuition*	Fees*		
<input type="checkbox"/> Advance Pay	<input type="checkbox"/> Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only)									
	LDA/EFF Date									
Remarks								<a href="#">Modify Remarks List</a>		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div>										



# Enrollment Certifications

Other certification issues:

- Submit VA Form 22-1999b, Notice of Change in Student Status, to report changes involving no training time change
- Yellow Ribbon Program amounts certified should be the maximum amount the institution is willing contribute; institutions will track annual amounts
- Graduate training should include actual credit hours or the equivalent



United States

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

# Questions

AS INTRANET

