

Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) Demonstration Project.” The original waiver notice was published on September 27, 2010 (75 FR 59237–59238).

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* This two-year extension will be effective from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Michael Bouchard, Director, DoD/VA Program Coordination Office, Defense Health Agency, Telephone 703–275–6300.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Background**

For additional information on the TRICARE co-pay waiver demonstration at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) demonstration project, please see 75 FR 59237–59238. Under this demonstration, there would be no deductibles, cost shares, or co-pays for eligible beneficiaries seeking care at the FHCC, under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 1092(a)(1)(B). The original demonstration notice explained that the co-pay waiver demonstration would be used to determine if increased utilization at FHCC actually occurred as a result of eliminated co-payments, which would in turn influence decisions regarding financial integration at future Department of Defense (DoD)/ Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) models of this nature. A report on the demonstration project concluded that utilization increased at FHCC during the time of the co-pay waiver demonstration project. Admission and encounter utilization data from 2010 to 2014 shows that DoD utilization of FHCC increased by 10,295. This demonstration is integral to the success of the integration effort at FHCC; without it, FHCC would see a marked reduction in DoD beneficiaries.

**B. Description of Extension of Demonstration Project**

Under this demonstration, DoD has waived TRICARE co-payments for DoD beneficiaries seen at the FHCC. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year (FY) 2010 Section 1701 requires a report to Congress evaluating the exercise of authorities in that title at FHCC. That report was delivered on July 26, 2016, and recommends continuation of the FHCC demonstration project. If Congress agrees, it is likely Congress will clarify that access to care under section 1705 should apply to the entire joint facility and not be limited to the DoD assets within the facility. If so, that will negate the requirement for further

extensions to the TRICARE co-pay waiver demonstration project beyond FY17.

In order to allow seamless continuation of services to DoD beneficiaries at FHCC, the TRICARE co-pay waiver is extended through September 30, 2018. This waiver applies to all inpatient, outpatient, and ancillary services, and all outpatient prescription drugs provided at FHCC. This waiver is consistent with current policies and procedures followed at all military treatment facilities. According to an Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE), the estimated two-year impact for the co-pay waiver in FY2017 and FY2018 is \$246,499.

**C. Evaluation**

An independent evaluation was performed and determined that without this waiver, DoD beneficiary utilization of the FHCC in North Chicago would have significantly decreased. Since DoD and VA have recommended to Congress to continue the demonstration project, a permanent solution regarding DoD beneficiary co-pays is expected to be in place for FY18 and will ensure that DoD beneficiaries are not levied cost shares, as FHCC represents the former Naval Hospital Great Lakes.

Dated: September 28, 2016.

**Aaron Siegel,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Office of the Secretary**

**Charter Renewal of Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committees**

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense.

**ACTION:** Renewal of Federal Advisory Committee.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense (DoD) is publishing this notice to announce that it is renewing the charter for the Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee (“the Committee”).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Freeman, Advisory Committee Management Officer for the Department of Defense, 703–692–5952.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This committee’s charter is being renewed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended) and 41 CFR 102–3.50(d). The charter and contact information for the Committee’s Designated Federal Officer (DFO) can be

obtained at <http://www.facadatabase.gov/>. The Committee provides the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense independent advice and recommendations on the DoD program to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Committee shall be composed of no more than 20 members who represent Vietnam Veterans, their families, and the American public. Members who are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees are appointed as experts or consultants pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3109 to serve as special government employee members. Members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees are appointed pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.130(a) to serve as regular government employee members. Each member is appointed to provide advice on behalf of the Government on the basis of their best judgment without representing any particular point of view and in a manner that is free from conflict of interest. Except for reimbursement of official Committee-related travel and per diem, members serve without compensation. The DoD, as necessary and consistent with the Committee’s mission and DoD policies and procedures, may establish subcommittees, task forces, or working groups to support the Committee, and all subcommittees must operate under the provisions of FACA and the Government in the Sunshine Act. Subcommittees will not work independently of the Committee and must report all recommendations and advice solely to the Committee for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees, task forces, or working groups have no authority to make decisions and recommendations, verbally or in writing, on behalf of the Committee. No subcommittee or any of its members can update or report, verbally or in writing, directly to the DoD or any Federal officers or employees. The Committee’s DFO, pursuant to DoD policy, must be a full-time or permanent part-time DoD employee, and must be in attendance for the duration of each and every Committee/subcommittee meeting. The public or interested organizations may submit written statements to the Committee membership about the Committee’s mission and functions. Such statements may be submitted at any time or in response to the stated agenda of planned Committee meetings. All written statements must be submitted to the Committee’s DFO who will ensure the written statements are

provided to the membership for their consideration.

Dated: September 28, 2016.

**Aaron Siegel,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Annual Notice of Variable Interest Rates of Federal Student Loans Made Under the Federal Family Education Loan Program Prior to July 1, 2010**

**AGENCY:** Federal Student Aid, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.032.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 427A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (HEA), 20 U.S.C. 1077a, the Chief Operating Officer for Federal Student Aid announces the variable interest rates for the period July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, for certain loans made under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. The Chief Operating Officer takes this action to give notice of FFEL Program loan variable interest rates to the public.

**DATES:** This notice is effective October 3, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rene Tiongquico, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street NE., 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 377-4270 or by email: [Rene.Tiongquico@ed.gov](mailto:Rene.Tiongquico@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotope, or compact disc) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 427A of the HEA, provides formulas for determining the interest rates charged to borrowers on loans made under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, including Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, and Federal Consolidation Loans.

The FFEL Program includes loans with variable interest rates and loans with fixed interest rates. Most loans made under the FFEL Program before July 1, 2006, have variable interest rates that change each year. In most cases, the variable interest rate formula that applies to a particular loan depends on the date of the first disbursement of the loan. The variable rates are determined annually and are effective for each 12-month period beginning July 1 of one year and ending June 30 of the following year.

Under section 427A(l) of the HEA, FFEL Program loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2006, and before July 1, 2010, have a fixed interest rate. The Chief Operating Officer is discontinuing providing the fixed interest rates for FFEL Program loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2006 and before July 1, 2010. Interest rates for these loans may be found in a **Federal Register** notice published on September 15, 2015 (80 FR 55342).

Federal Consolidation Loans made prior to November 13, 1997, and on or after October 1, 1998, have a fixed interest rate that is based on the weighted average of the loans that are consolidated.

Interest rates for Federal Consolidation Loans made between November 13, 1997 and September 30, 1998 are provided in Chart 3.

FFEL variable interest rates are based on formulas that use the bond equivalent rate of the 91-day Treasury bills auctioned at the final auction held before June 1 of each year plus a statutorily established add-on. These formulas apply to: All Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans first disbursed before October 1, 1992, that have been converted to variable rate loans; all Federal

Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 1992, and before July 1, 2006; Federal PLUS Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 1998, and before July 1, 2006; and Federal Consolidation Loans for which the Federal Consolidation Loan application was received on or after November 13, 1997, and before October 1, 1998. In each case, the calculated rate is capped by a maximum interest rate. The bond equivalent rate of the 91-day Treasury bills auctioned on May 31, 2016, which is used to calculate the interest rates on these loans, is 0.345 rounded up to 0.35 percent.

For Federal PLUS loans first disbursed before July 1, 1998, the interest rate is based on the weekly average of the one-year constant maturity Treasury yield, as published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on the last day of the calendar week ending on or before June 26 of each year, plus a statutory add-on percentage. The calculated rate is capped by a maximum interest rate. The weekly average of the one-year constant maturity Treasury yield published on June 27, 2016, which is used to calculate the interest rate on these loans, is 0.55 percent.

This notice includes three charts containing specific information on the calculation of variable interest rates for loans made under the FFEL Program:

Chart 1 contains information on the interest rates for Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans that were made as fixed-rate loans, but were subsequently converted to variable-rate loans.

Chart 2 contains information on the interest rates for variable-rate Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans.

Chart 3 contains information on the interest rates for variable-rate Federal PLUS Loans, certain Federal Consolidation Loans, and Consolidation Loans that include loans made by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under subpart I of part A of title VII of the Public Health Service Act.

**CHART 1—"CONVERTED" VARIABLE-RATE FEDERAL SUBSIDIZED AND UNSUBSIDIZED STAFFORD LOANS INTEREST RATES IN EFFECT FOR THE PERIOD 7/1/2016 THROUGH 6/30/2017**

Cohort		Original fixed interest rate	Max. rate (%)	91-Day T-bill rate (%)	Margin (%)	Total rate (%)
First disbursed on or after	First disbursed before					
7/1/1988 .....	7/23/1992	8.00%, increasing to 10.00% .....	10.00	0.35	3.25	3.60
7/23/1992 .....	10/1/1992	8.00%, increasing to 10.00% .....	10.00	0.35	3.25	3.60
7/23/1992 .....	7/1/1994	7.00% .....	7.00	0.35	3.10	3.45
7/23/1992 .....	7/1/1994	8.00% .....	8.00	0.35	3.10	3.45
7/23/1992 .....	7/1/1994	9.00% .....	9.00	0.35	3.10	3.45