

Forbearance Timeframe Extension for Borrowers Affected by COVID-19

1. Background and Purpose. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) remains committed to assisting VA-guaranteed loan borrowers who experience financial hardship due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. Through this Circular, VA is providing an update to the timeframe borrowers can request a COVID-related forbearance from their mortgage servicer. This guidance is necessary given the April 10, 2023, end date of the COVID-19 Presidentially Declared National Emergency.

2. Timeframe to Request Forbearance. For borrowers who have not received a COVID-related forbearance as of the date of this Circular, servicers should allow such borrowers to receive a COVID-related forbearance if the borrower makes the request on or before May 31, 2023. VA is providing additional time for borrowers to request a COVID-related forbearance beyond the April 10, 2023, end date of the National Emergency.

a. VA expects that all COVID-related forbearances, initial or extended, will end no later than December 31, 2023.

3. Rescission: This Circular is rescinded December 31, 2023.

By Direction of the Under Secretary for Benefits

John E. Bell, III
Executive Director
Loan Guaranty Service

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