

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

**Memorandum**

Date: January 3, 2023  
From: Deputy Chief Academic Affiliations Officer (14AA)  
Subj: Associated Health Education (AHE) Base Stipend Increase Notification  
To: VA National Optometry Program Office

1. Thank you for submitting your proposal demonstrating the need for an increased base stipend rate for optometry health professions trainees (HPTs) with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA).
2. In November 2022, AHE conducted a formal review of all the proposals submitted by National Program Offices. AHE recommendations were forwarded to OAA’s senior leadership team for final funding decisions.
3. OAA is pleased to inform you that your profession’s VA direct-paid HPTs **will** receive a base stipend increase to better align with community competitors.
4. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2024, Academic Year (AY) July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, all optometry HPTs will receive an average 24% increase to the current base salary, resulting in the following base salary rate:

Education Level	Percent Increase	Prior Annual Base Salary	New Annual Base Salary
Fellow Yr 1	0%	\$40,500	\$40,500
Fellow Yr 2	3%	\$42,120	\$43,335
Resident	25%	\$30,240	\$37,800

5. Locality-Based Stipends by VA medical facility for AY 2023-2024 can be found here: [Locality-Based Stipends for AHE and Nursing \(va.gov\)](#)
6. Beginning in AY 2024-2025, OAA will apply an automatic 1% adjustment each academic year for all VA direct-paid HPTs. Implementing annual increases will help maintain competitive stipend rates for VA HPTs.
7. Thank you for your effort and we congratulate you on your success in this stipend increase request. For questions about this award notification please email [Assoc.Health@va.gov](mailto:Assoc.Health@va.gov).

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Deputy Chief Academic Affiliations Officer