

## What Is VA Pension?

Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans with limited income, and who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older.

## Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible if:

- you were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- you served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time\*, **AND**
- your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law, **AND**
- you are permanently and totally disabled, **OR**
- you are age 65 or older.

**\*Note:** Anyone who enlists after September 7, 1980, generally must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. Service from August 2, 1990 to present is considered to be a period of war (Gulf War) in addition to other periods of war such as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

FAMILY INCOME LIMITS (EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2011)	
If you are a...	Your yearly income must be less than...
Veteran with no dependents	\$12,256
Veteran with a spouse or a child	\$16,051
(Veterans with additional children: add \$2,093 to the limit for EACH child)	
Housebound veteran with no dependents	\$14,978
Housebound veteran with one dependent	\$18,773
Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has no dependents	\$20,447
Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has one dependent	\$24,239
<b>Note:</b> Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example, welfare benefits, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income.)	

## How Much Does VA Pay?

VA pays you the difference between your countable family income and the yearly income limit that describes your situation (see chart above). This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar. Call the toll-free number below for details.

**Note:** Certain expenses (i.e., medical expenses, education expenses, or expenses related to the last illness or burial of a dependent) paid by you are taken into consideration when arriving at your countable family income.

## How Can You Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-526, *Veteran's Application for Compensation and/or Pension*. If available, attach copies of dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates) and current medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports). You can also apply online through our web site at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>.

## Related Benefits

Vocational Rehabilitation Program  
Medical Care

**For More Information, Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000  
or Visit Our Web Site at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).**



## What Is Death Pension?

Death pension is a benefit paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime veterans.

## Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible if:

- the deceased veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- he or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war\*, **AND**
- you are the surviving spouse or unmarried child of the deceased veteran, **AND**
- your countable income is below a yearly income limit set by law.

**\*Note:** Anyone who enlists after September 7, 1980, generally must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. Service from August 2, 1990 to present is considered to be a period of war (Gulf War) in addition to other periods of war such as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

INCOME LIMITS ( EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2008)	
If you are a...	Your yearly income must be less than...
Surviving spouse with no dependent children	\$ 8,219
Surviving spouse with one dependent child	\$ 10,759
(Add \$2,020 to the limit for EACH additional child)	
Housebound surviving spouse with no dependents	\$10,046
Housebound surviving spouse with one dependent	\$12,252
Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with no dependents	\$13,138
Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with one dependent	\$15,673
Surviving child (no eligible parent)	\$ 2,093

**Note:** Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example, welfare benefits, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income)

## How Much Does VA Pay?

VA pays you the difference between your countable income and the yearly income limit which describes your situation (see chart above). This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar. Call the toll-free number below for details.

**Note:** Certain expenses (i.e., medical expenses, education expenses, or expenses related to the last illness or burial of the veteran or a dependent) paid by you are taken into consideration when arriving at your countable income.

## How Can You Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-534, *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by Surviving Spouse or Child*. If available, attach copies of dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates).

**For More Information, Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000  
or Visit Our Web Site at <http://www.va.gov>.**



### **What Is VA Disability Compensation?**

Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a veteran for disabilities that are a result of or made worse by injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. Disability compensation is also paid to certain veterans disabled from VA health care.

### **Who Is Eligible?**

You may be eligible for disability compensation if you have a service-related disability and you were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

### **How Much Does VA Pay?**

The amount of basic benefit paid ranges from \$127 to \$3,017 per month, depending on how disabled you are (Veteran without dependents).

**Note:** *You may be paid additional amounts, in certain instances, if:*

- you have very severe disabilities or loss of limb(s)
- you have a spouse, child(ren), or dependent parent(s)
- you have a seriously disabled spouse

### **How Can You Apply?**

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-526, *Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension*. ***If you have any of the following material, please attach it to your application:***

- Discharge or separation papers (DD214 or equivalent)
- Dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates)
- Medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports)

*You can also apply online through our web site at [www.ebenfits.va.gov](http://www.ebenfits.va.gov)*

### **Related Benefits**

Priority Medical Care  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
Clothing Allowance  
Grants for Specially Adapted Housing  
Automobile Grant & Adaptive Equipment  
Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance  
Federal Employment Preference  
State/Local Veterans Benefits  
Military Exchange & Commissary Privileges

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## ***Disability Compensation for Sexual or Personal Trauma***

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A number of women and men suffered sexual or other personal trauma while serving in the military. These veterans may still struggle with fear, anxiety, embarrassment, or profound anger as a result of these experiences. We cannot undo the past; however, if a veteran suffers from the effects of trauma in military service, VA may be able to help them.

### **How Does VA Define Sexual or Personal Trauma?**

Sexual or personal trauma are events of human design that threaten or inflict harm. Trauma is defined as any lingering physical, emotional, or psychological symptoms. Examples of trauma are:

- Rape,
- Physical assault,
- Domestic battering, and
- Stalking.

### **Can You Receive Compensation for Your Disabilities?**

Yes. If it is determined that your disabilities are a result of or have been made worse by injuries or diseases incurred during military service, you may receive compensation. You must have been separated under *other than dishonorable* conditions to be eligible, and must currently suffer from a disabling condition to receive compensation. A common disability resulting from a sexual or personal trauma is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

### **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Secondary to Sexual or Personal Trauma**

***PTSD is a recurrent emotional reaction to a terrifying, uncontrollable, or life-threatening event.*** The symptoms may develop immediately after the event or may be delayed for years. They include:

- Sleep disturbances and nightmares,
- Emotional instability,
- Feelings of fear and anxiety,
- Impaired concentration,
- Flash-backs, and
- Problems in intimate and other interpersonal relations.

### **How Can You Apply?**

You can apply for disability compensation by filling out VA Form 21-526, *Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension*. VA counselors and Women Veterans Coordinators are available for assistance.

You can also apply online through our web site at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>.

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