



## Financial Benefit for Veterans & Surviving Spouses to Pay for Eldercare (VA Aid & Attendance Benefit)



### What is VA Aid & Attendance Benefit?

The benefit is intended to provide financial assistance for Veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in bathing, dressing, meal preparation, medication monitoring or other various activities of daily living. This benefit is available to individuals who reside in their own home, a residential care home, assisted living community and nursing homes.

### How Much is the Benefit?

The VA determines how much you qualify for based on your care level. The amount may be adjusted yearly (in December of each year). The current 2018 maximum amounts are:

| <u>Status</u>   | <u>Maximum Monthly Benefit Amount</u> |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Two Married Veterans  | \$2,903                               |
| Married Veteran   | \$2,169                               |
| Single Veteran  | \$1,830                               |
| Surviving Spouse <i>(not eligible if you divorced the Veteran or remarried)</i> | \$1,176                               |

*Benefits are received tax free*

### Who is Eligible?

Any War Veteran with 90 days of active duty with at least one day during active war time is eligible for the benefit. A surviving spouse of a War Veteran may be eligible if married at the time of death of the Veteran. Applicants must qualify both medically and financially. We can help determine if you qualify. Veteran service dates include:

| <u>Period of War</u> | <u>Beginning and Ending Dates</u>  |
|----------------------|--|
| World War II         | December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946. If the Veteran was in service on December 31, 1946, continuous service before July 26, 1947, is considered WWII service. |
| Korean Conflict      | June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955.  |
| Vietnam Conflict     | August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975; February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975 if Veteran served in Republic of Vietnam.  |
| Gulf War             | August 2, 1990 through a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation.   |
| Merchant Marine      | December 2, 1941 through August 15, 1945   |
| National Guard       | Does not count as military service unless under Title 32   |

### Financial Eligibility

There is a maximum amount of assets and income you may have in order to receive the benefit. Assets such as your house, vehicle and household furnishings are excluded assets. Currently there is no penalty period for a transfer of assets. Note that transferring assets may have negative consequences for those who later seeks Medicaid benefits for long-term care. ***On Jan. 26, 2015, the V.A. introduced a proposal to establish a 3-year look-back period for asset transfers. If the proposal becomes law, many of the transfer, asset and income rules will change.***

### How Quickly Would I Receive the Benefit?

The timeframe is determined by the accuracy of the initial application. On average, the process can take 4-6 months but may be expedited in certain circumstances. The benefit is payable to you retroactive to the date of the application.

### When is There a Fee for Assistance?

Professionals may charge a planning or assessment fee, however, no one, not even an attorney, can charge you to assist with the preparation of your claim. Life Resources Group provides you with options of working with a funding advisor or a referral to an appropriate resource. We have professionals who specialize in more than just this benefit and we often uncover other means of funding your eldercare. Call us, email, or visit our website for details.