

VA**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
Veterans Benefits Administration

VA Veteran Pension

What is Veteran Pension?

Pension is a needs-based benefit program for wartime Veterans, who are age 65 or older or have a permanent and total non-service-connected disability, and who have limited income and net worth. To learn more about VA Pension benefits, please visit <https://www.va.gov/pension/>. Veterans who are more seriously disabled may qualify for pension at the increased housebound or aid and attendance rates. To learn more about aid and attendance and housebound benefits, please visit <https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/>.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible if you meet the following criteria:

- You were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- You served 90 days of active duty with at least one day during wartime, *AND
- Your countable income is below the maximum annual pension rate (MAPR), AND
- You meet net worth limitations AND
- You meet one of the following criteria:
 - You are age 65 or older.
 - You have a permanent and total nonservice-connected disability.
 - You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity.
 - You are receiving Social Security disability benefits.

*Veterans who entered active duty after September 7, 1980, must serve at least 24 months of active-duty service. If the length of service is less than 24 months, the Veteran must have completed their entire tour of active duty.

For the current net worth limit and MAPR, see the Veterans Pension Rate Table at http://www.benefits.va.gov/PENSION/current_rates_veteran_pen.asp.

How much does VA pay?

1. VA determines the Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) for your situation. This amount is set by Congress.
2. Next, VA determines your countable income. This is done by subtracting exclusions provided by law from your total annual income.
3. VA then subtracts your countable income from the MAPR. This difference is your yearly pension entitlement.
4. VA divides this amount by 12 and rounds to the nearest dollar. This is the approximate amount of your monthly pension payment.

VA deducts certain expenses you pay, such as unreimbursed medical expenses, from your annual household income. This will decrease your countable income and increase your monthly pension payment. Find a complete list of eligible expenses in the Code of Federal Regulations, located at [eCFR :: 38 CFR 3.278 -- Deductible medical expenses.](#)

How can you apply?

You can apply for Veteran Pension benefit by filling out VA Form 21P-527EZ, "Application for Pension," located at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-527EZ-ARE.pdf>.

Documents may be submitted by mail, in person at a VA regional office or electronically. However, VA recommends submitting correspondence electronically as this is the fastest method of receipt at www.va.gov/pension/application/527EZ/.

VA provides several tools to assist in electronic submission. To learn more about how to submit documents and claims electronically, visit www.va.gov/disability/upload-supporting-evidence. You can also go directly to access.va.gov to digitally upload any correspondence using Direct Upload.

By visiting www.va.gov you can also check your claim status and learn about other VA benefits. If you need assistance, you can find a local, accredited representative at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/>.

Bring your application to a VA regional office near you. Find a VA regional office near you at [Find VA Locations | Veterans Affairs](#)

If you prefer to mail your correspondence, please use the related mailing address below:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Pension Intake Center
P.O. Box 5365
Janesville, WI 53547-5365

For information on VA Pension, visit the web pages listed above or call 1-800-827-1000.