



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Choose VA

Get started with VA Pension & Fiduciary Benefits

This guide will help you understand and identify benefits available to help wartime Veterans, surviving spouses, unmarried dependent children and parents.

What types of pension benefits are available?

Pension benefits are needs-based benefits paid to wartime Veterans with financial needs and their survivors. Pension eligible housebound Veterans and survivors may also receive additional monetary benefits. Benefits you may want to explore include:

- Veterans Pension
- VA Survivors Pension
- VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC)
- Burial and Plot-Interment Allowance

Who is eligible for a Veterans Pension?

You may be eligible if you meet the following requirements:

- Did not receive a dishonorable discharge
- Yearly family income and net worth does not exceed the limits set by Congress
- The Veteran served at least 90 days on active duty with at least one day during wartime
- Additionally, one of the following must be true:
 - The Veteran began on active duty before September 8, 1980, **or**
 - The Veteran began active duty as an enlisted Service member after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), **or**
 - The Veteran began active duty as an officer after October 16, 1981, and had not previously served on active duty for at least 24 months, and served at least 24 months or the full period called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions).
- Finally, one of the following must also hold true:
 - The Veteran is at least 65 years old, **or**
 - Has a non-service-connected permanent and total disability, **or**
 - Is a patient in a nursing home for long-term care due to a disability, **or**
 - Receives Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income

How can I apply for a Veterans Pension?

- Apply online at <https://www.va.gov/pension/application/527EZ/introduction>
- Complete and mail application—VA Form 21P-527EZ

WHAT QUALIFIES AS AN ELIGIBLE WARTIME PERIOD?

- *World War II*
12/7/1941 to 12/31/1946
- *Korean conflict*
6/27/1950 to 1/31/1955
- *Vietnam War era*
11/1/1955 to 5/7/1975 for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period.
8/5/1964 to 5/7/1975 for Veterans who served outside the Republic of Vietnam)
- *Gulf War*
8/2/1990 through a future date to be set by law or Presidential proclamation

WHERE IS MY NEAREST VA REGIONAL OFFICE?

<https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

WHERE CAN I MAIL MY APPLICATION FOR A PENSION?

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

What is VA Survivors Pension or the VA DIC Program?

- VA Survivors Pension offers monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth requirements set by Congress, **or**
- A surviving spouse, child or parent of a Service member who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a Veteran whose death was due to a service-related injury or illness may be able to receive the VA DIC tax-free monetary benefit.

What is the Burial and Plot Interment Allowance and how can I apply?

VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits that help cover eligible Veterans' burial and funeral costs. You can apply:

- Online at <https://www.va.gov/burials-and-memorials/application/530/claimant-information> **or**
- Complete and mail application – VA Form 21P-530EZ

What is the fiduciary program?

The fiduciary program provides oversight of VA's most vulnerable beneficiaries, who are unable to manage VA benefits on their own. This may be due to injury, disease, advanced age or youth. VA appoints fiduciaries who manage VA benefits for these beneficiaries. VA also conducts oversight of VA-appointed fiduciaries to ensure VA beneficiaries' needs are met.

Individuals interested in serving as a fiduciary can submit a request to the nearest VA Regional Office or by calling 800-827-1000. You will need to supply the beneficiary's name and VA file number, along with your name and contact information.

For more information, visit: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/FIDUCIARY>.

What are Aid and Attendance (A&A) or Housebound (HB) allowance benefits?

A&A and HB allowances add payments to the amount of your monthly VA pension. You may be eligible for benefits if you meet one of the following:

- You need another person to help you perform daily activities, like bathing, feeding and dressing **or**
- You must stay in bed or spend a large portion of the day in bed due to illness **or**
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to the loss of mental or physical abilities related to your disability **or**
- Your eyesight is limited (even with glasses or contact lenses, you only have 5/200 or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to five degrees or less)

You can apply for A&A and HB benefits in two ways:

- Fill out VA Form 21-2680 (Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance) and mail it to the Pension Management Center (PMC) for your state. You can have your doctor fill out the examination information section.
 - If you are in a nursing home, you'll also need to fill out VA Form 21-0779 (Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance).
- Apply in person at a VA Regional Office near you.

OTHER QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

What are the rates for the Veterans Pension, Survivors Pension, A&A and HB allowance?

Veteran Pension Benefit Rates

<https://www.va.gov/pension/veterans-pension-rates> or visit:

Survivors Pension Benefit Rates

<https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension-rates>

Who is eligible for the VA Survivors Pension Program?

A surviving spouse may be eligible for this benefit if:

- You haven't remarried after the Veteran's death, **and**
- The deceased Veteran didn't receive a dishonorable discharge

Children of a deceased wartime Veteran may also be eligible. Learn more at:

<https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension>

Can I get A&A and HB allowance benefits at the same time?

No, you can't receive A&A and HB allowance benefits at the same time.

Where can I get more information about the VA Survivors Pension or the VA DIC Program?

VA Survivors Pension: <https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension>

VA DIC: <https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation>

Can I get assistance with filing a claim for a benefit?

Yes, you can work with an accredited representative (attorney, claims agent, or a Veterans Service Organization) who can assist with applying for VA pension benefits. To find out more about accredited representatives and how they can help, go to:

<https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim>