

Veterans Aid & Attendance



FACT SHEETS ARE A JOINT PROJECT OF IONA AND THE DC DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND COMMUNITY LIVING

Veterans Aid & Attendance is run by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It is often called an "Improved Pension." The program pays for home care by adding money to your VA Basic Pension. In some cases, Veterans who don't receive a VA Basic Pension can still receive help. The program is also open to surviving spouses.

QUALIFYING FOR SUPPORT

For Veterans who already receive a VA Basic Pension, you qualify for additional assistance if you need help with two Activities of Daily Living. These tasks include walking, standing, sitting, bathing, getting dressed, eating, or using the bathroom.

Even if you don't currently receive a VA Basic Pension, you might still qualify for Aid & Assistance. Like those who do receive VA Basic Pension, to qualify, you need help with at least two Activities of Daily Living. Additionally, you must:

- Meet strict income and asset limits
- Have served at least 90 days of active duty during the following periods:

World War II: 12/7/41 – 12/31/46

Korean Conflict: 6/27/50-1/31/55

Vietnam War: 2/28/61-5/7/75 for veterans who served in Vietnam; or 8/5/64-5/7/75 for veterans who served elsewhere during the War.

- Be age 65 or older, or Receive Social Security Disability Income; Receive Supplemental Security Income; Be totally and permanently disabled. The disability does not need to be service-related.

Finally, the veteran must have been honorably discharged.

► INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS FOR 2018

A single veteran or surviving spouse cannot earn more than \$1,830/month. A married veteran cannot earn more than \$2,169/month. Your assets cannot exceed \$80,000 (not including home and one car).

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL YOU RECEIVE?

The amount of money you receive depends on your income and medical costs. Every year, Aid & Attendance also sets income limits that affect your eligibility.

For example, consider John. John is a single veteran. John receives \$1,330 per month in income. This is \$500 less than the 2018 Aid & Attendance income limit of \$1,830. John also spends \$300 per month on home care, and \$200 per month on health insurance. Aid & Attendance would pay John \$1,000 per month:

- \$500 per month for the amount that John's income is below the program's income limit;
- \$300 per month for the amount John spends on home care, and \$200 per month for the amount John pays for health insurance.

TURN OVER FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION AND HELP ►

HOW TO APPLY

You must already receive a Basic Pension to apply. If you don't currently receive a Basic Pension, you must first apply for one. Instructions for application are below.

▶ IN-PERSON APPLICATION

National Capital Regional Benefit Office
1722 I St., NW
Washington, DC 20421
202-530-9162

▶ MAIL OR FAX APPLICATION

Mail documents to the Philadelphia VA Regional Office's Pension Management Center

Department of Veterans Affairs
Claims Intake Center
Attention: Philadelphia Pension Center
P. O. Box 5206
Janesville, WI 53547
Fax: 1-844-655-1604

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

▶ VETERANS WHO RECEIVE BASIC PENSIONS

- DD214 form (discharge papers) or equivalent.
- VA form 21-2680 (Examination for Housebound Status Or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance) completed by a physician; or equivalent.
- VA form 10-5345 (Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records Or Health Information).
- VA Power of Attorney Form.
- Medical records from the veteran's doctor(s).

- Document showing costs of any current home-care
- Proof of income and assets.

▶ SURVIVING SPOUSES WHO RECEIVE BASIC PENSIONS

All of the documents listed above plus a Marriage Certificate and Veteran's Death Certificate.

▶ VETERANS WHO DON'T RECEIVE BASIC PENSION

Online Application

explore.va.gov/pension.

In-person Application

National Capital Regional Benefit Office
1722 I St., NW
Washington, DC 20421
202-530-9162

You must provide:

- VA form 21-527EZ (Notice to Veteran of Evidence Necessary to Substantiate a Claim for Veterans Non Service-Connected Pension Benefits).
- Social Security or VA File number.
- Military history.
- Proof of income and assets, and financial information of any dependents.
- Work history.
- Medical records.
- Direct deposit information for one's bank account.

▶ SURVIVING SPOUSES WHO DON'T RECEIVE BASIC PENSION

There is no online application. Apply in-person at the National

Capital Regional Benefit Office
1722 I St., NW
Washington, DC 20421

You must provide:

- VA form 21-534EZ, Notice to Survivor of Evidence Necessary to Substantiate a Claim for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits.
- All documents required for a Veteran's application.
- Marriage certificate.
- Veteran's Death certificate.

GETTING HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION

Applications typically take up to six months to process. The following organizations can provide support.

▶ AMERICAN LEGION

2121 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Suite 68
Washington, DC 20007
410-230-4420 | legion.org

▶ PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

801 18th Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20006
1- 800-555-9140 | pva.org

▶ DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

1722 I St., NW Room 210
Washington, DC 20421
202-530-9260 | dav.org

▶ VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

1722 I Street, NW Room 207
Washington, DC 20421
202- 530-9385 | vfw.org