



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration

VA Pension

What is VA 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. Veterans who are more seriously disabled may qualify for pension at the increased [housebound or aid and attendance](#) rates.

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 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, sections 3.261 and 3.262 of Title 38, located at www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=60a4d32d8dc1ba66fef8e80bb5903c04&node=pt38.1.3&rgn=div5.

How can you apply?

You can apply for pension by filling out VA Form 21P-527EZ, "Application for Pension," located at www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-527EZ-ARE.pdf. Mail or fax the form and Veteran's death certificate to the Pension Management Center serving your state.

Philadelphia VA Regional Office

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

Service Area

Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and all other foreign countries not listed below under the St. Paul VA Regional Office

Milwaukee VA Pension Center

Department of Veterans Affairs
Claims Intake Center
Attention: Milwaukee Pension Center
Janesville, WI 53547-5192
P. O. Box 5192
Fax: 1-844-655-1604

Service Area

Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana,
Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan,
Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee,
Wisconsin

St. Paul VA Regional Office

Department of Veterans Affairs
Claims Intake Center
Attention: St. Paul Pension Center
PO BOX 5365
Janesville, WI 53547-5365
Fax: 1-844-655-1604

Service Area

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado,
Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas,
Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North
Dakota, New Mexico, Nevada,
Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota,
Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming,
Mexico, Central and South America,
and the Caribbean

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