



Veterans Benefits



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General Qualifications for Non-Service Connected Pension Plus Aid and Attendance

Veteran, Widowed Spouse and Dependent or Disabled Child (Any may be a Claimant)

- Veterans must typically have served ninety consecutive days active duty with one day during wartime. (Those who enlisted after September 7, 1980 have a different time frame.)
- Veteran cannot have had a dishonorable discharge
- Claimant’s physician must declare him/her as in need of assistance from another individual or in need of a “Protective Environment” which may include services offered by a Care Facility
- Claimant should have limited household assets; excluding primary home, car and personal belongings. If assets are jointly owned by other than spouse, only the claimant’s share is generally countable. In the case of a married veteran, both his/her assets are countable. There is no longer a current asset cap, per se. **The VA now considers the claimant’s life expectancy in determining how much a claimant can have. In the case of assets over \$50k, it may be best to consult an Elder Law Attorney. One should never transfer assets or add a name to an account without the proper legal/professional advice.**
- Claimant’s household out-of-pocket annual medical expense must exceed or come close to his/her total annual household gross income (total annual cost of a care facility is typically considered a medical expense if the doctor states the need.)
- Surviving spouse must have been married to the veteran for at least one year OR have had a child by the veteran if married less than one year and never remarried (with possibly one exception)
- Surviving spouse must typically have been living with the veteran at the time of the veteran’s death; however, there have been exceptions.

2015 Maximum Monthly Pension Rates for Pension Plus Aid and Attendance

Single Veteran.....	\$1788 Per Month
Married Veteran.....	\$2120 Per Month
Healthy Veteran with Unhealthy Spouse.....	\$1404 Per Month
Surviving Spouse.....	\$1150 Per Month

- Benefits are available for Home Care, Assisted Living and Nursing Home

Once awarded Aid and Attendance or Housebound status, a veteran may obtain free medications, medical equipment, incontinence supplies, glasses and hearing aids from the VA Hospital/Clinic via home delivery. A separate application must be made through the VA Health Care System.

***Note: Each VA Claim is unique and the above criteria is generic in nature and may not be applicable to each claimant. There are never any guarantees that any claim or specific benefit amount will be awarded.**

****Base pension may be awarded to an independent claimant based solely on financial need.**

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