

# **Benefits Available through the Department of Veterans**

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**Disability Compensation benefits** are paid for disabilities that are service-connected, which means the injury or disease resulted in a disability linked to military service. VA rates disability from 0% to 100% using the Combined Ratings Table to determine a Veteran's disability rating.

Disability compensation is a tax free monetary benefit. Compensation may also be paid for post-service disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

**Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)** is a tax free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, or child of a veteran who died from their service-connected disabilities.

**VA pension** may provide income to make life more secure for veterans and their loved ones. Pension is a needs-based benefit for wartime a veterans or their surviving spouse with limited or no income who are age 65 or older or who have a permanent and total non-service-connected disability.

A wartime veteran, or surviving spouse of a wartime veteran, who meets certain age or disability requirements, and his or her income and net worth are within certain limits, may qualify for monthly payments through the Veterans Pension program.

Veterans and survivors who are eligible for a VA pension or disability compensation that may require the aid and attendance of another person, or are housebound, may be eligible for additional monetary payment. These benefits are paid in addition to monthly pension, and they are not paid without eligibility to Pension or Disability Compensation.

Since Aid and Attendance and Housebound allowances increase the pension and compensation amount, people who are not eligible for a basic pension due to excessive income may be eligible for pension at these increased rates. A Veteran or surviving spouse may not receive Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time.

The Aid & Attendance (A&A) increased monthly pension amount may be added to the monthly pension amount if the veteran or survivor meets one of the following conditions:

- Require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protection from the hazards of daily environment
- Are bedridden, in that the disability or disabilities requires that the veteran or survivor remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment

- Are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity
- Eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less

This increased monthly pension amount may be added to the monthly pension amount when the veteran or survivor are substantially confined to their immediate premises because of permanent disability.

Veterans and survivors should include copies of any evidence, preferably a report from an attending physician validating the need for Aid and Attendance or Housebound type care.

- The report should be in sufficient detail to determine whether there is disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable.
- Whether the claim is for Aid and Attendance or Housebound, the report should indicate how well the applicant gets around, where the applicant goes, and what he or she is able to do during a typical day. In addition, it is necessary to determine whether the claimant is confined to the home or immediate premises.