

VA Program



Qualifying For Aid and Attendance

Applying for and qualifying for Aid and Attendance, a pension program from the Department of Veterans Affairs, (VA) can be confusing and time-consuming. Another consideration is remaining in VA compliance to maintain the benefit.

- We help you determine if you qualify for the VA Aid & Attendance Pension Benefit.
- We assist you to identify and obtain documents needed for the application.
- We help you complete and submit the application to the VA.
- We provide your home care right away.
- We furnish an interest-free loan so you can pay for your home care while the VA processes your application.
- We monitor your application's progress, and assist with responses to VA requests for additional information until your pension is approved.

What is the Aid and Attendance Pension?

The Veterans Benefit Administration, a branch of the VA, offers tax-free, monthly monetary payments to certain wartime veterans with financial need, and their survivors. The Pension is a benefit for veterans who do not have a service-connected disability resulting from their military service.

Aid and Attendance is an additional monetary amount that can be added to the VA's Pension. The enhanced Aid and Attendance amount is available for those who need the "aid and attendance" of another person for their routine daily living activities on a permanent basis.

Simplifying VA Aid and Attendance Pension Eligibility

A simple way to determine if you are eligible, is to start with the three main qualifications or "must-haves" for the VA pension with Aid and Attendance:

1. Military
2. Medical and
3. Money



Do You Meet the “3-Ms” to Qualify?

To qualify, a veteran or surviving spouse will need to meet the following criteria:

- 1) Military:** Are you a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran who served at least 90 days on active duty, at least one day during wartime, with an honorable discharge? (Persian Gulf War veterans must have two years of active duty or the full period for which they were called for active duty.)
- 2) Medical:** Do you have a non-service connected medical condition causing you to need assistance with activities of daily living?
- 3) Money:** Do you have limited income and assets? (Your home and car are exempt.)

Did you serve during one of the VA Defined War Periods?

- **World War II:** December 7, 1941- December 31, 1946
- **Korean Conflict:** June 27, 1950- January 31, 1955
- **Vietnam Era:** August 5, 1964-May 7, 1975 Veterans who served February 28, 1961-August 5, 1964, must have served “in country” (Vietnam).
- **Persian Gulf War:** August 2, 1990- date to be prescribed by Presidential Proclamation or law. Must have served active duty for two years or the full period of which the veteran was called for active duty.



What is the Survivors Pension with Aid and Attendance?

The Survivors Pension is a tax-free monetary benefit from the VA. If you're a surviving spouse of a deceased veteran with wartime service, and your income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress, you may be able to get this benefit. If you need help with your daily activities, you may qualify for additional Aid and Attendance funds.

The maximum Survivors Pension with additional Aid and Attendance funds is up to **\$1,209 per month**.

Many women are overlooked when it comes to VA Benefits

It's unfortunate but we often overlook the fact that wartime veterans are eligible for VA benefits even though they were not injured during service. Many don't realize that you didn't have to serve in combat or overseas to qualify for what is called the Aid and Attendance benefit. You can imagine if veterans themselves are unaware of the Aid and Attendance benefit, how many widows of qualifying veterans are also unaware that they qualify?

Aid and Attendance” Surviving Spouse Eligibility

Surviving spouses must meet a set of requirements in order to qualify for VA pension benefits:

- You must have been married to a veteran for at least one year.
- You must have been married to a veteran at the time of his death.
- You must present your veteran spouse’s death certificate.

Remarriage does not affect your surviving spouse eligibility for “Aid and Attendance” if you meet all the following requirements:

- You were married to your veteran spouse at the time of his death.
- Your remarriage began after January 1, 1971.
- Your remarriage ended before November 11, 1990.

Remarriage outside the specified dates will disqualify you from VA pension benefits.

Veterans Who Do Not Qualify for VA Compensation May Qualify for the Aid and Attendance Pension Program

It’s widely known that the **Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA)** offers **Disability Compensation** (tax-free funds) to veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service.

However, there is also a little-known **VA Pension** program that helps veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income. One day of service during wartime is necessary for the Pension program, but the veteran does not need to have served in combat or overseas. Unlike the VA’s Compensation program, veterans do not need to have a disability connected to their military service to be eligible for the VA Pension with Aid and Attendance.

More veterans are aware of the VA’s Compensation program, which is based on service-connected disabilities than the VA’s Pension program. Veterans who were discharged without suffering any injuries or sickness due to their military service often do not realize they may be eligible for a pension from the VBA. When the veteran needs the “aid and attendance” of another for activities of daily living, the Pension or Compensation payment is increased with an additional “**Aid and Attendance**” amount.

What are Activities of Daily Living?

Activities of daily living (ADLs) are routine self-care activities that people tend to do every day without needing assistance. There are six basic ADLs: eating, bathing, dressing, continence (using the toilet), mobility (transferring, walking), and grooming. Elite Senior Home Care provides aides who can assist those who need help with activities of daily living.

About a Veterans Pension with the Aid and Attendance Benefit

In 1952 Congress passed Title 38 of the United States Code authorizing certain benefits for veterans. One of these benefits is the Non-Service Connected Pension, with “Aid and Attendance.” It is also known as simply “Aid and Attendance” or “Veterans Aid and Attendance benefit” or “Aid and Attendance Pension” or “Improved Pension with Aid and Attendance.”

In March 1989, during President George H. W. Bush’s presidency, the Veterans Administration (VA) was elevated to a cabinet-level executive department. The Veterans Administration was then renamed the Department of Veterans Affairs, and continued to be known as VA. Today the VA is comprised of three basic branches: the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Veterans Benefits Administration and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

For more information about our *Veterans Assistance Program*, or for a no obligation free care consultation, please call 561-853-7856