



A Plan For Senior Care's Guide For VA Aid and Attendance Benefit

The VA Aid and Attendance Benefit is a benefit offered to veterans of war and their widowed spouses. The benefit is available to the veteran or surviving spouse if they require daily care for their activities of daily living due to illness or injury. The veteran or spouse must be living in a skilled nursing, residential care home, assisted living or are receiving in-home care. The VA Aid and Attendance benefit will help pay for the cost of care.

- **A Veteran may be eligible to receive up to \$1,788.00 a month**
- **A Surviving Spouse may be eligible to receive up to \$1,149.00 per month**
- **A Married Veteran may be eligible to receive up to \$ 2,120.00 per month**
- **A Married Veteran Couple may be eligible to receive up to \$2,837.00 per month**

Who is Eligible?

- You were discharged from service under conditions other than dishonorable, **AND**
- You served at least 90 days of active military service and at least 1 day was during a war time period. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty and at least 1 day was during a war time period. (There are exceptions to this rule), **AND**
- Your income for VA purposes is below the maximum annual pension rate **AND**
- You are age 65 or older, **OR**, you are permanently and totally disabled, not due to your own willful misconduct, **OR**, you are a patient in a nursing home, **OR**, you are receiving Social Security disability benefits.

What Are The Periods of War Time?

- **World War I.** April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, inclusive. If the veteran served with the United States military forces in Russia, the ending date is April 1, 1920. Service after November 11, 1918, and before July 2, 1921, is considered World War I service if the veteran served in the active military, naval, or air service after April 5, 1917, and before November 12, 1918.
- **World War II.** December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946, inclusive. If the veteran was in service on December 31, 1946, continuous service before July 26, 1947, is considered World War II service.
- **Korean Conflict.** June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955, inclusive.
- **Vietnam Era.** The period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on May 7, 1975, inclusive, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. The period beginning on August 5, 1964, and ending on May 7, 1975, inclusive, in all other cases.
- **Mexican Border Period.** May 9, 1916, through April 5, 1917, in the case of a veteran who during such period served in Mexico, on the borders thereof, or in the waters adjacent to it.
- **Persian Gulf War.** August 2, 1990, through a date to be prescribed by Presidential proclamation or law.

Where Do I Apply for the Benefit & Learn More?

- You may apply for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits at your regional VA Office 1(800)827-1000 You should include copies of any evidence, preferably a report from an attending physician validating the need for Aid and Attendance or Housebound type care.
- Go online <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/pension/vetpen.htm> or www.va.gov
- Private consulting companies, elder law attorneys, senior centers, and senior housing communities offer assistance with the benefit.