

What Is VA Pension? Pension is a benefit paid to wartime **VETERANS** with limited income, and who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older. You may be eligible if:

- you were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- you served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time*, **AND**
- your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law, **AND**
- you are permanently and totally disabled, **OR**
- you are age 65 or older.

What is VA Death Pension? Death Pension is a benefit paid to **ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS** of **deceased** wartime veterans. You may be eligible if:

- the deceased veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- he or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war*, **AND**
- you are the surviving spouse or unmarried child of the deceased veteran, **AND**
- your countable income is below a yearly income limit set by law.

***Note:** Anyone who enlists after September 7, 1980, generally must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. Service from August 2, 1990 to present is considered to be a period of war (Gulf War) in addition to other periods of war such as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

FAMILY INCOME LIMITS FOR PENSION		
If you are a...	Yearly income must be less than...	Monthly
Veteran with no dependents	\$12,652	\$1,054.33
Veteran with a spouse or a child	\$16,569	\$1,380.75
(Veterans with additional children: add \$2,161 to the limit for EACH child)		
Housebound veteran with no dependents	\$15,462	\$1,288.50
Housebound veteran with one dependent	\$19,380	\$1,615
Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has no dependents	\$21,107	\$1,758.92
Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has one dependent	\$25,022	\$2,085.17
INCOME LIMITS FOR DEATH PENSION		
If you are a...	Yearly income must be less than...	Monthly
Surviving spouse with no dependent children	\$ 8,485	\$707.08
Surviving spouse with one dependent child	\$ 11,107	\$925.58
(Add \$2,161 to the limit for EACH additional child)		
Housebound surviving spouse with no dependents	\$10,371	\$864.25
Housebound surviving spouse with one dependent	\$12,988	\$1,082.33
Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with no dependents	\$13,563	\$1,130.25
Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with one dependent	\$16,180	\$1,348.33
Surviving child (no eligible parent)	\$ 2,161	\$180.08

Note: Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example, welfare benefits, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income.)

How Much Does VA Pay? VA pays you the difference between your countable family income and the yearly income limit that describes your situation (see chart above). This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar. **Note:** Certain expenses (i.e., medical expenses, education expenses, or expenses related to the last illness or burial of a dependent) paid by you are taken into consideration when arriving at your countable family income.

What is Aid and Attendance? Aid and attendance is an additional amount available to eligible veterans and dependents who are entitled to Pension or Death Pension.

Who is eligible for aid and attendance? A veteran, dependent spouse, or surviving spouse who is a patient in a licensed nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity or otherwise determined to be in need of the regular aid and attendance of another person, may be entitled to higher income limitations or additional benefits, depending on the type of benefit received.

What is housebound allowance? Housebound allowance is an additional amount available to eligible veterans and dependents who are entitled to Pension or Death Pension.

Who is eligible for the housebound allowance? A veteran, dependent spouse, or surviving spouse who because of their physical limitations, is unable to walk or travel beyond their home. This allowance may be granted for those that do not meet the requirements of the greater aid and attendance allowance. If their disabilities are severe enough to confine them to their immediate premises for the foreseeable future they may be entitled to higher income limitations or additional benefits, depending on the type of benefit received.

The Aid and Attendance and Housebound Benefits cannot be paid without first establishing eligibility for Pension or Death Pension.

Note: The amount of pension that can be paid to Veterans or Survivors with no dependents who are in a Medi-Cal/Medicaid approved nursing facility, at government expense, is \$90. The law prohibits any part of the \$90 from being applied to reduce the amount of Medi-Cal/Medicaid paid to the nursing facility. The \$90 is for their personal use only.

For More Information, call the VA Toll-Free at 1-800-827-1000 or, Visit the Web Site www.va.gov.

Local Services and Free Assistance is Available at:

County of Ventura, Veteran Services Office

855 Partridge Drive
Ventura, CA 93003

Website: www.vchsa.org or www.vchsa.org/veterans

Information Line: (805) 477-5155