

Pension Claim FAQ

1. *What is Veterans Pension?*

- The veterans' pension program provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or disability requirements, and who have income and net worth within certain limits. Find out if you're eligible for this benefit.

2. *Who is eligible for Veterans Pension?*

- You may be eligible if you meet the requirements listed below:
 - **Both** of these must be true:
 - You did not receive a dishonorable discharge, **and**
 - Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth includes all personal property you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishing), minus any debt you owe. Your net worth includes the net worth of your spouse.
 - And, at least one of these must be true about your service. **You:**
 - Started on active duty before September 8, 1980, and you served at least 90 days on active duty with at least 1 day during wartime, or
 - Started on active duty as an enlisted person after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions) with at least 1 day during wartime, or
 - Were an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and you hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months
 - And at least one of these must be true. **You:**
 - Are at least 65 years old, **or**
 - Have a permanent and total disability, **or**
 - Are a patient in a nursing home for long-term care because of a disability, **or**
 - Are getting Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income

3. *What is countable income for a veteran pension eligibility purpose?*

- Most income received by the veteran and his or her dependents affects pension eligibility, including earnings, social security, disability, and retirement payments, interest and dividends, and net income from farming or business. The income limits are adjusted periodically.
- If you would like to see Computation of Income list then click, [here](#).

4. *Are there expenses that may reduce your countable income?*

- Yes. Some expenses like non-reimbursable medical expenses (medical expense not covered by your insurance provider), may reduce your countable income.
- If you would like to see Exclusion from Income list then click, [here](#).

5. *What is the net worth limit to qualify for veterans' pension?*
 - USDVA recently changed the way it assess net worth to make the pension entitlement rules more clear. Net worth is a total of your or your beneficiary's assets and annual income. Your net worth also includes the net worth of your spouse. You should report all your net worth. The net worth limit to qualify for a veteran's pension as of December 1, 2020 is \$130,773.
6. *What is the maximum amount of pension payable (MAPR)?*
 - Your MAPR is based on how many dependents you have, if you're married to another veteran who qualifies for a pension, and if your disabilities qualify you for Housebound or Aid and Attendance benefits. MAPRs are adjusted each year for cost-of-living increases.
 - Example: You're a qualified Veteran with a dependent, non-Veteran spouse and no children. You also qualify for Aid and Attendance benefits based on your disabilities. You and your spouse have a combined yearly income of \$10,000.
 - Your MAPR amount = \$27,549
 - Your Yearly Income = \$10,000
 - Your VA Pension = \$17,549 for the year (or \$1,462 paid each month)
 - Note: For MAPR Table please click, [here](#).
7. *What is the 3-Year look back period for asset transfers?*
 - When the VA receives a pension claim, VA reviews the terms and conditions of any assets the veteran may have transferred in the 3 years before filing the claim. If you transfer assets for less than fair market value during the look-back period, and those assets would have pushed your net worth above the limit for VA Pension, you may be subject to a penalty period of up to 5 years. You won't be eligible for pension benefits during this time. (This new policy took effect October 18, 2018. If you filed your claim before this date, the look-back period doesn't apply.) (A look-back period never includes a date before October 18, 2018.)
8. *What is a penalty period?*
 - A penalty period is a length of time when a veteran isn't eligible for pension benefits because they transferred asset for less than fair market value during the look-back period.
9. *How do I apply?*
 - You can apply by Mail. Fill out application for pension [VA Form 21P-527EZ](#). Mail your application to: Department of Veterans Affairs, Pension Intake Center, PO Box 5365, Janesville, WI 53547-5365.
 - In Person. Bring your application to a VA Regional Benefits Office near you. To locate nearest VA Regional Office click, [here](#).
 - With the help of Veterans Claim Representative and Veteran Service Officer. To locate nearest VSO click, [here](#). County of Sacramento Veteran Service Office; 3970 Research Dr, Sacramento, CA 95838. PH: 916-874-6811, FAX: 916-854-8900, Email: DHA-VET@SacCounty.net, Hours of Operations: Mon-Thur 8:00AM-4:00PM Fri 8:00AM-2:00PM Sat-Sun Closed.
10. *For more information about VA Pension, please follow link below.*
 - [VA Pension](#)

Aid and Attendance Benefits and Housebound Allowance FAQ

1. What is Aid and Attendance Benefits and Housebound Allowance?
 - VA Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits provide monthly payments added to the amount of a monthly VA pension for qualified Veterans and survivors. If you need help with daily activities, or you're housebound, find out if you qualify.
 - You can't get Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time
2. Am I eligible for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits as a Veteran?
 - You may be eligible for this benefit if you get a **VA Pension** and you meet at least **one** of the requirements listed below.
 - At least one of these must be true:
 - You need another person to help you perform daily activities, like bathing, feeding, and dressing, or
 - You have to stay in bed-or spend a large portion of the day in bed-because of illness, or
 - You are a patient in a nursing home due to the loss of mental or physical abilities related to a disability, or
 - Your eyesight is limited (even with glasses or contact lenses you have only 5/200 or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degree or less).
 - **Housebound Benefit Eligibility**
 - You may be eligible for this benefit if you get a VA pension and you spend most of your time in your home because of a permanent disability (a disability that doesn't go away).
3. How to Apply?
 - Veteran can apply by submitting completed VA Form 21-2680, along with all necessary evidence and reports from an attending physician.
 - The veteran may apply by visiting their local VSO office. County of Sacramento Veteran Service Office; 3970 Research Dr, Sacramento, CA 95838. PH: 916-874-6811, FAX: 916-854-8900, Email: DHA-VET@SacCounty.net, Hours of Operations: Mon-Thur 8:00AM-4:00PM Fri 8:00AM-2:00PM Sat-Sun Closed.
<https://ha.saccounty.net/benefits/VeteransServices/Pages/default.aspx>
4. *For more information about Aid and Attendance and Housebound, please follow the link below.*
 - [VA Pension Aid and Attendance and Housebound](#)