

Eligibility for Veterans Wartime 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.

In order to qualify, the following must be true:

- You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, **and**
- Your yearly **household** income and **net worth** fall below certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth includes all personal property you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), as well as all income for the current year. Your net worth also includes the net worth of your spouse, if married. For **2025**, the total net worth threshold for a Veteran [with or without dependent(s)] is \$159,240.00. **And**
- A Veteran and/or dependent(s) must also fall below a separate **annual countable income threshold**, which varies based on the Veteran's dependents and their need for Aid & Attendance or Housebound status.

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 (outside of active duty training) with at least 1 day during wartime, **or**
- You 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**
- You 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

Under current law, the VA recognizes the following wartime periods to decide eligibility for VA pension benefits:

- Mexican Border period (May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or in adjacent waters)
- World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918)
- World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
- Korean conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
- Vietnam War era (August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975)
- Gulf War (August 2, 1990, to September 10, 2001)
- War on Terror (September 11, 2001 – open)

Finally, at least one of these must be true:

- You're at least 65 years old, **or**
- You have a permanent and total disability, **or**
- You're a patient in a nursing home for long-term care because of a disability, **or**
- You're getting Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income

Reference: <https://www.va.gov/pension/eligibility>

VA 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, you may qualify.

You may be eligible for this benefit if you **get a VA pension** and you meet at least one of these requirements.

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 degrees or less)

Housebound benefits 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).

Note: You can't get Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time.

Please be aware that a Veteran MUST meet the qualifications for pension in order to apply for the additional benefit of Aid and Attendance (for the Veteran or their spouse).

To verify a Veteran's eligibility, to file a claim or make an appointment, or for any questions, please contact the Anderson County VA office at 864-260-4036, or the VA office located in the county in which you live.

Please know that all income and net worth thresholds adjust and change each year based on cost of living adjustments. All VA Forms are updated on a regular basis, as well and the most updated version of all forms can be found on va.gov.

Reference: <https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/>

In order to properly complete the application paperwork for a Veterans pension (with Aid & Attendance), below is a general list of documents and information we need. PLEASE contact the VA office before gathering the information below, as every Veteran and claimant is different.

To Verify Personal Information:

- Veteran's (and spouse, if married) SSN, DOB, mailing address, and contact phone number
- Veteran's DD-214 (discharge from active duty)
- Marriage Certificate (if the Veteran is married)
- Prior marriage information (if Veteran and/or spouse of the Veteran were previously married, we need to know who they were married to, the place and date of when they married and place and date of when that marriage ended, by divorce or death)
- If applicable, the Power of Attorney for any relative or individual who is assisting the Veteran with the VA pension process
- Voided check for the bank account any VA benefit can be deposited to
- Medicare Card and any other health insurance cards

To Verify Income:

- **2025** Social Security Income Verification Letter for the Veteran (and spouse, if married) if in receipt of SSA income or SSI – this letter is typically mailed out at the end or beginning of the year (or can be obtained from the Social Security office) and lists the monthly benefit the individual will receive for the year
- A bank statement or proof of any other regular, monthly income for **2025** that the Veteran and/or spouse receives (i.e. pensions, income from rental property, income from employment, interest or dividends, etc.)
- A statement or proof of any discontinued income (if any) from the last calendar year (any income received in **2024** that they are no longer receiving),
- Proof of any major transfer of assets within the last three calendar years (i.e. sale of a home, purchasing an annuity, or using assets to establish a trust)

To Verify Assets:

- **FULL** bank statements for **ONE** month (most recent month) for every cash asset account (i.e. checking account, savings account, stocks or bonds, CD or IRA, Money Market, etc.)
- Proof of the value of land or property that is either: 1) land over 2 acres that can be sold separately from the Veteran's primary residence, or 2) rental property, a second home or vacation home, etc.

Note: If the Veteran is married, all income and assets for both the Veteran and the spouse must be provided and reported. The VA bases eligibility and monthly pension benefits on household income and assets.

To Verify Need for Aid & Attendance:

- **VA Form 21-2680 “Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance”** – this medical VA form is to be filled out and signed by the Veteran’s physician or physician at a living facility (if applicable) – if the Veteran and their spouse both meet the qualifications for Aid & Attendance, the VA Form 21-2680 will need to be completed for **both** individuals separately.
- If the Veteran and/or spouse is in a nursing home, assisted living facility, or similar facility, the following VA Forms should be completed by the facility:
 - **VA Form 21-0779 “Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid & Attendance”** – to be completed if the facility is providing skilled nursing home care or intermediate nursing care to the Veteran and/or spouse, and/or
 - **VA Worksheet for a Residential Care, Adult Daycare, or Similar Facility** - to be completed by a licensed facility, providing assistance with daily living activities
- If the Veteran and/or spouse is receiving in-home care, the following VA Form should be completed by the caregiver or in-home care company:
 - **VA Worksheet for In-Home Attendant Expenses**