



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Veterans Benefits Administration

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## **Survivors Pension Benefit**

### **What is Survivors Pension?**

Survivors Pension, which was formerly referred to as Death Pension, is a tax-free benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

### **Who is eligible?**

You may be eligible if:

- The deceased Veteran was discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- He or she served 90 days or more of active duty, with at least one day during a time of war\*, AND
- Your income is below the amount listed in the Survivors Pension Rate Table, AND
- Your net worth meets the limits set for the Community Spouse Resource Allowance (CSRA) established by Congress for Medicaid. , AND
- You are one of the following:
  - The unmarried surviving spouse (or you were previously married and the marriage ended before Nov. 1, 1990).
  - The unmarried child of the deceased Veteran who is under 18, became permanently disabled before 18, or is between 18 and 23 years old and enrolled in an approved educational institution.

\* If the deceased Veteran entered active duty after Sept. 7, 1980, he or she must have served at least 24 months of active-duty service. If the length of service is less than 24 months, the Veteran must have completed their entire tour of active duty.

See the Survivors Pension Rate Table at

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/current\\_rates\\_survivor\\_pen.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/current_rates_survivor_pen.asp) for the current net worth limit and maximum annual pension rate.

## **How much does VA pay?**

VA takes the following steps to determine your monthly pension payment:

1. VA determines the [Maximum Annual Pension Rate](#) (MAPR) for your situation. This amount is set by Congress.
2. Next, VA determines your countable income. This is done by subtracting exclusions provided by law from your total annual income.
3. VA then subtracts your countable income from the MAPR. This difference is your yearly pension entitlement.
4. VA divides this amount by 12 and rounds to the nearest dollar. This is the approximate amount of your monthly pension payment.

VA deducts certain expenses you pay, such as unreimbursed medical expenses, from your annual household income. This will decrease your countable income and increase your monthly pension payment. Find a complete list of eligible expenses in the Code of Federal Regulations, sections 3.261 and 3.262 of Title 38, located at

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=60a4d32d8dc1ba66fef8e80bb5903c04&node=pt38.1.3&rgn=div5>.

## **How can you apply?**

You can apply for Survivors Pension by filling out VA Form 21P-534EZ, “Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits” located at

<http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf>. Mail or fax the form and Veteran’s death certificate to the Pension Management Center that covers your area.

Regional Office	Service Area
<p><b>Philadelphia VA Regional Office</b>            Department of Veterans Affairs            Claims Intake Center            Attention: Philadelphia Pension Center            P. O. Box 5206            Janesville, WI 53547-5206            Fax: 1-844-655-1604</p>	<p>Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and all other foreign countries not listed below under the St. Paul VA Regional Office</p>
<p><b>Milwaukee VA Pension Center</b>            Department of Veterans Affairs            Claims Intake Center            Attention: Milwaukee Pension Center            Janesville, WI 53547-5192            P. O. Box 5192            Fax: 1-844-655-1604</p>	<p>Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin</p>
<p><b>St. Paul VA Regional Office</b>            Department of Veterans Affairs            Claims Intake Center            Attention: St. Paul Pension Center            PO BOX 5365            Janesville, WI 53547-5365            Fax: 1-844-655-1604</p>	<p>Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean</p>

For more information on VA Pensions visit the web pages listed above, or call 1-800-827-1000.