VA Aid & Attendance Guide

A monthly pension add-on for wartime veterans and surviving spouses who need help with daily activities. Medical criteria below are from VA.gov.

VETERAN'S NAME	SERVICE DATES & BRANCH
COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER	CVSO PHONE
INTENT TO FILE DATE	CLAIM NUMBER

VA medical criteria (any one)

Source: VA.gov

- [ ] Needs another person to help with daily activities, like bathing, feeding and dressing
- [ ] Has to stay in bed, or spend a large part of the day in bed, because of illness
- [ ] Is a patient in a nursing home due to loss of mental or physical abilities
- [ ] Has limited eyesight (as defined by VA)

Eligibility requirements

- [ ] Did the veteran serve at least 90 days active duty, with one day during a wartime period?
- [ ] Was the discharge other than dishonorable?
- [ ] Does the veteran or spouse need help with daily activities, or live in assisted living/nursing care?
- [ ] Do income and net worth fall under the VA's current limits?

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» Check current rates and net worth limits on VA.gov; they update each December.

» Ask about the VA's look-back rule on asset transfers.

Application process

- [ ] File VA Form 21-2680 (doctor's exam) and 21-527EZ or 21-534EZ.
- [ ] Submit an Intent to File to lock in your start date.
- [ ] Expect several months for a decision.

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» Get free help from a County Veterans Service Office or accredited service officer.

» Beware of anyone charging fees just to file; accredited help is free.

Required documents

- [ ] DD-214 discharge papers
- [ ] Marriage certificate (for spouses)
- [ ] Income and asset statements
- [ ] Medical expense records, including care costs

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» Unreimbursed care costs can lower countable income; keep every receipt.

» Request a missing DD-214 from the National Archives.

Official sources

VA: Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits
https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/

Notes