



What Is VA Disability Pension?

Disability Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans with limited income who are no longer able to work.

Who Is Eligible?

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. However, 38 CFR 3.12a requires that anyone who enlists after 9/7/80 generally has to serve at least 24 months or the full period for which a person was called or ordered to active duty in order to receive any benefits based on that period of service. With the advent of the Gulf War on 8/2/90 (and still not ended by Congress to this day), veterans can now serve after 9/7/80 during a period of war time. When they do, they generally now must serve 24 months to be eligible for pension or any other benefit. But note the exclusions in 38 CFR 3.12(d), **AND**
- you are permanently and totally disabled, or are age 65 or older, **AND**
- your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law

FAMILY INCOME LIMITS (EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2008)

<i>If you are a...</i>	<i>Your yearly income must be less than...</i>
Veteran with no dependents	\$11,830
Veteran with a spouse or a child	\$15,493
(Veterans with additional children: add \$2,020 to the limit for each child)	
Housebound veteran with no dependents	\$14,457
Housebound veteran with one dependent	\$18,120
Veteran who needs Aid and Attendance and has no dependents	\$19,736
Veteran who needs Aid and Attendance and has one dependent	\$23,396
Two Veterans married to each other	\$15,493
<i>Note: Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example, welfare benefits, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income)</i>	
<i>Note: Medical expenses must exceed 5% of MAPR to be deducted</i>	
Without spouse or children \$592	
With spouse or child \$775	
Standard Medicare Deduction: \$96.40	

How Much Does VA Pay?

VA pays you the difference between your countable family income and the yearly income limit which describes your situation (see chart above). This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar.