

VETERANS AID & ATTENDANCE AND HOUSEBOUND BENEFITS

Veterans Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits are significant additional benefits that may be paid to veterans and surviving spouses who are receiving VA Pension. Applicants who need ongoing assistance with activities of daily living (including bathing, feeding, dressing needs, etc.), or are housebound, may receive Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits. These benefits are paid in addition to the applicant's monthly pension (either Non-Service-Connected Pension or Survivor's Pension (aka "Death Pension"), and they are not paid without eligibility to pension. Additionally, a veteran or surviving spouse may not receive Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time.

Although this section focuses on Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits for VA pension recipients only, similar benefits are available to Service-Connected veterans via Special Monthly Compensation. For more information on Special Monthly Compensation see the section on Types of VA Compensation.

AID & ATTENDANCE (A&A)

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in addition to the basic monthly pension to applicants who need financial help for in-home care or to pay for an assisted living facility or a nursing home. If you are a veteran or a surviving spouse, you may be eligible for A&A benefits if you meet one of the following disability requirements:

- You require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment.
- You are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment.
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity.

- You are blind, or your eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

HOUSEBOUND

Housebound is a benefit paid in addition to the basic monthly pension to applicants who are housebound. If you are a veteran or a surviving spouse and you are substantially confined to your immediate premises because of permanent disability, you may be eligible for Housebound benefits.

EVIDENCE

To support your claim for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits, you should have your doctor or care facility staff complete the following forms:

- VA Form 21-2680 Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance
- VA Form 21-0779 Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance

In addition, your application should include evidence that supports your need for Aid and Attendance or Housebound care, such as medical records and physician statements or reports that detail the physical or mental health disabilities that cause your limitations, and the ways in which your functioning is limited (loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable).

For more information on Aid and Attendance and Housebound rates, see pension rate tables in the following links, including the A&A and Housebound rates:

Veterans pension: <https://benefits.va.gov/pension/>

Survivors pension: www.benefits.va.gov/pension/current_rates_survivor_pen.asp.

RESOURCES

FIND A VA FACILITY

Use the [facility locator](#) or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

CONTACT YOUR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

CalVet strongly recommends you work with the CVSO nearest you. Your CVSO can guide you through the benefits and services available as well as help connect you with other local resources.

The County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) are locally funded agencies established to assist veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services accrued through military service.

These County Veteran Service Offices promote the interest and welfare of veterans, their dependents, and their survivors by enhancing their quality of life through counseling, education, benefits assistance, and advocacy. They connect veterans to their benefits by assisting in their interactions with the VA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the [CalVet](#) website for more information, OR

Find the [CVSO](#) closest to you.

VA HOTLINES

[Veterans Crisis Line](#)

- 800-273-TALK (8255), or
- Text: 838255

[Combat Call Center](#)

- 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)

[Women Veterans Call Center](#)

- 855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)

SOURCES

https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp