

V.A. BENEFIT PROGRAM

The V.A. Benefit Program was established to assist qualified veterans and their surviving spouses with supplementing the cost of long-term care. The benefit is mandatory and is not subject to partisan spending or discretionary federal budget cuts. The additional allowance can be used as a supplement for the cost of Assisted Living and/or Residential Care Facilities.

How Do Veterans Qualify?

- At least 90 days of active duty military service with at least 1 day of service during a period of national conflict.
- A medical diagnosis that requires daily assistance with two or more Activities of Daily Living (ADL's).
- Insufficient monthly income to purchase the required care.
- Limited liquid assets less than \$80,000 (**excluding** home & vehicles).

What Forms Will You Need?

- Veteran's Discharge Papers (DD214 certified copy)
- Physician's Evaluation or RCFE Physician's Report (602A)
- Death Certificate for a Surviving Spouse
- Marriage Certificate (if currently married)
- Copy of Social Security Award Letter
- Net Worth Information (Bank Accounts, CD's, Trusts, Stocks, Bonds, etc.)
- Proof of all income from pensions, retirement and interest income.
- Proof of insurance premium, medications, medical bills or any other medical expenses that are not reimbursed by insurance; such as co-pays for doctors, incontinence supplies, durable medical equipment etc.
- List of all doctors and hospitals visited in the last year.

How long does the process take?

- The process can take from 3 months to 1 year or more after all paper work is submitted. Once approved the pension is retroactive from date of the application.

What is the Maximum Monthly Pension Amount Granted?

- Veteran with Spouse.....\$1949.00
- Single Veteran.....\$1644.00
- Vet & Vet Spouse.....\$2,608.00
- Surviving Spouse.....\$1056.00

An Example of determining the benefit of a War-Time Veteran

Total Monthly Income (I.e.: SSI, pensions, interest earnings)	\$4,000.00
Less Out Of Pocket Medical Expenses (I.e.: medications, required care, co-pays)	\$3,000.00
Total Monthly Net Income (Total monthly income minus out-of-pocket medical expenses)	\$ 900.00
V.A. Benefit Eligibility	\$1,470.00
Less Monthly Net Income	\$ 900.00
Total V.A. Benefit Pension	\$ 570.00

Who Do I Call To Get The Process Started?

Once you have all of this information gathered, you will need to obtain and complete VA Form 21-526 or VA Form 21-534. You can find these forms at your local VA office, or download them at www.veteranaid.org/apply.php

Information presented was obtained from www.vertranaid.org and www.va.gov

- Nationwide.....1-800-827-1000
- Placer County.....1-530-889-7968 (Rick Buckman)
- Sacramento County.....1-916-874-6811 (Jeff Pealer) or 874-6728 (Jan Wald)
- El Dorado County.....1-530-621-5892 (Rod Barton)
- Yolo County.....1-530-406-5840 (Ted Puntillo)

Compliments of HOME/Housing Options Made Easy for elders
5431 Auburn Blvd, Suite #385, Sacramento, CA 95841 **PHONE:** 916-977-0188