

[Home](#)
>
[Learning center](#)
>
2020 VA special monthly compensation rates

☒ Search learning center
 ☐ Search VA.gov

2020 VA special monthly compensation rates

Topics
 [Burials and memorials](#)

Audience
 [Veterans](#)
[Family members](#)

Find the 2020 special monthly compensation (SMC) rates that may apply to you. VA special monthly compensation is a higher rate of compensation that we pay to Veterans as well as their spouses, surviving spouses, and parents with certain needs or disabilities.

2020 SMC rates are effective December 1, 2019. All rates are in \$ U.S. dollars.

Note: We're required by law to match the percentage of cost-of-living adjustments made to Social Security benefits. These adjustments help to make sure that the purchasing power of your benefits keeps up with inflation. You can get the latest cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) information on the [Social Security Administration's \(SSA\) website](#).

[Add or remove dependents](#)

On this page

- [SMC rates for Veterans without children](#)
- [SMC rates for Veterans with dependents, including children](#)
- [SMC rate payment variations for levels K and Q](#)
- [How to use the tables to find your monthly payment](#)

SMC rates for Veterans without children

Levels **L** through **O** cover specific disabilities and situations. **Level R** may apply if you need daily help from another person for basic needs (like dressing, eating, and bathing). **Level S** may apply if you can't leave the house because of your service-connected disabilities.

SMC-L through SMC-N rates					
Basic rates for SMC-L through SMC-N					
Dependent status	SMC-L	SMC-L 1/2	SMC-M	SMC-M 1/2	SMC-N
Veteran alone (no dependents)	3,864.90	4,064.70	4,265.31	4,558.37	4,852.09
With spouse (no parents or children)	4,038.08	4,237.88	4,438.49	4,731.55	5,025.27
With spouse and 1 parent (no children)	4,177.06	4,376.86	4,577.47	4,870.53	5,164.25
With spouse and 2 parents (no children)	4,316.04	4,515.84	4,716.45	5,009.51	5,303.23
With 1 parent (no spouse or children)	4,003.88	4,203.68	4,404.29	4,697.35	4,991.07
With 2 parents (no spouse or children)	4,142.86	4,342.66	4,543.27	4,836.33	5,130.05

Add this amount to your basic SMC payment.

If you have more than one child or your spouse receives [Aid and Attendance benefits](#), add these amounts to your basic payment amount from the Basic SMC rates table above.

Added amounts for SMC-L through SMC-N


Dependent status	SMC-L	SMC-L 1/2	SMC-M	SMC-M 1/2	SMC-N
Spouse receiving Aid and Attendance	158.82	158.82	158.82	158.82	158.82

SMC-N 1/2 through SMC-S
 

[Back to top](#)

SMC rates for Veterans with dependents, including children

Levels **L** through **O** cover specific disabilities and situations. **Level R** may apply if you need daily help from another person for basic needs (like dressing, eating, and bathing). **Level S** may apply if you can't leave the house because of your service-connected disabilities.

SMC-N 1/2 through SMC-S		
-------------------------	--	---

[↑ Back to top](#)

[Back to top](#)

SMC rate payment variations for levels K and Q

Levels **K** and **Q** are special rates called SMC rate payment variations. We may add level K to your basic SMC rate.

SMC-K and SMC-Q rates		
SMC rate payment variations for SMC-K and Q		
SMC letter designation	Monthly payment	How this payment variation works
SMC-K	110.31	If you qualify for SMC-K, we add this rate to your basic disability compensation rate for any disability rating from 0% to 100%. We also add this rate to all SMC basic rates except SMC-O, SMC-Q, and SMC-R. You may receive 1 to 3 SMC-K awards in addition to basic and SMC rates.
SMC-Q	67.00	This is a protected rate that we haven't awarded since August 19, 1968. If we awarded you an SMC-Q designation, we pay this rate in place of your basic disability compensation rate.

[Back to top](#)

How to use the tables to find your monthly payment

Find your basic rate

Go to the SMC rate that applies to you. On the Basic SMC rates table, find the amount for your disability rating and SMC letter designation. This is your monthly basic rate.

Example (Veteran with no children):

If you were a Veteran with a dependent spouse (no dependent parents or children), and you had an SMC-M designation, your monthly basic rate would be **\$4,438.49** each month.

Find your added amounts, if any apply

If your spouse receives Aid and Attendance benefits or you have more than one child, you may qualify for additional Aid and Attendance amounts as listed in the Added amounts table.

First, determine your basic rate.

Example (Veteran with children):

If you're a Veteran with an SMC-L designation, and you have 4 dependent children (1 child over age 18 in a qualifying school program and 3 children under age 18), and a dependent spouse, you would start with a basic SMC rate of **\$4,164.90** for a Veteran with one child and spouse (no parents).

Next, look at the Added amounts table. Find the amount for children under age 18 (**\$86.05**).

Since your basic rate already provides payment for 1 child, you would add the rate of \$86.05 for each additional child under age 18 (**so \$86.05 x 2**).

Then, look for the rate for each additional child over 18 in a qualifying school program (**\$277.96**).

If your spouse receives Aid and Attendance, you would also add **\$158.82** (which is the added amount for a spouse receiving Aid and Attendance, for a Veteran with a SMC-L designation).

Add these amounts to your basic rate to get your total monthly payment amount.

In our example of a Veteran with a SMC-L designation, your total monthly payment amount would be:

\$4,164.90 (basic rate (1 spouse, 1 child))
+ 86.05 (second child under 18)
+ 86.05 (third child under 18)
+ 277.96 (1 child over 18, in a qualifying school program)
+ 158.82 (spouse who receives Aid and Attendance)
Total \$4,773.78

[Back to top](#)

[Add or remove dependents](#)

Need more help?

VA benefits hotline: [800-827-1000](tel:800-827-1000)

eBenefits technical support: [800-983-0937](tel:800-983-0937)

Chat with us: [VA chatbot](#)

Was this page helpful?

☐ Yes
 ☐ No

Related information
How we assign SMC levels L through O > Find out how we assign SMC levels L through O.
View historic SMC rates > Find out how to apply for memorial items to honor a Veteran, Reservist, or family member. Eligible spouses and other family members eligible for burial in some cemeteries may also qualify for headstone markers, flags, niche covers, presidential certificates, and medallions.
How to add or remove a dependent > Find out how and when to add or remove a dependent spouse, child, or parent to your VA disability benefits.

Veteran Programs and Services

[Homeless Veterans](#)
[Women Veterans](#)
[Minority Veterans](#)
[PTSD](#)
[Mental Health](#)
[Adaptive Sports and Special Events](#)
[National Resource Directory](#)

More VA Resources

[Find a VA Form](#)
[Get VA Mobile Apps](#)
[Careers at VA](#)
[Doing Business with VA](#)
[Grants Management Services](#)
[VA Claims Accreditation](#)
[Find a VA Health Care Provider](#)
[Veterans Service Organizations \(VSO\)](#)
[State Veterans Affairs Offices](#)
[Print Your VA Welcome Kit](#)

Get VA Updates

[VAntage Point Blog](#)
[Email Updates](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Flickr](#)
[YouTube](#)
[All VA Social Media](#)

In Crisis? Get Help Now

[Veterans Crisis Line](#)
Contact Us
[Find a VA Location](#)
[Ask a Question](#)

Call MyVA311:
1-844-698-2311
 TTY: 711