[note: The live version of this page for context is at: https://www.va.gov/pension/eligibility/. The Word doc is the content source of truth for translation.] 519 word count

[Meta description]: **Eligibility page:** The Veterans Pension program provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans based on need. Review VA pension eligibility requirements to find out if you qualify based on your age or a permanent and total non-service-connected disability, as well as your income and net worth.

## H2: Am I eligible for Veterans Pension benefits?

You may be eligible for the Veterans Pension program if you meet these requirements.

**Both of these must be true:**

* You didn’t receive a dishonorable discharge, **and**
* Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth includes all personal property you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe. Your net worth includes the net worth of your spouse.  
  [Find out about Veterans Pension rates](https://www.va.gov/pension/veterans-pension-rates/) (in English)

**And at least one of these must be true about your service:**

* You started on active duty before September 8, 1980, and you served at least 90 days on active duty with at least 1 day during wartime, **or**
* You started on active duty as an enlisted person after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions) with at least 1 day during wartime, **or**
* You were an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and you hadn’t previously served on active duty for at least 24 months

**And at least one of these must be true:**

* You’re at least 65 years old, **or**
* You have a permanent and total disability, **or**
* You’re a patient in a nursing home for long-term care because of a disability, **or**
* You’re getting Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income

## H2: How do I know if I served under an eligible wartime period?

Under current law, we recognize the following wartime periods to decide eligibility for VA pension benefits:

* Mexican Border period (May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or in adjacent waters)
* World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918)
* World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
* Korean conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
* Vietnam War era (November 1, 1955, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served outside the Republic of Vietnam.)
* Gulf War (August 2, 1990, through a future date to be set by law or presidential proclamation)

## H2: What should I do if I received an other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable discharge?

If you’ve received one of these discharge statuses, you may not be eligible for VA pension benefits.

**There are 2 ways you can try to qualify:**

[Find out how to apply for a discharge upgrade](https://www.va.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions/) (in English)  
[Learn about the VA Character of Discharge review process](https://www.va.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions/#other-options) (in English)

## H2: How do I apply?

You can apply online right now.

[Action link]:[**Apply for Veterans Pension benefits**](https://www.va.gov/pension/application/527EZ/introduction) (in English)

[Learn more about how to apply](https://www.va.gov/pension/how-to-apply)

## H2: Other VA pension benefits

### [VA Survivors Pension](https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension)

Find out if you’re eligible and how to apply for VA pension benefits as a surviving spouse or child of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

### [Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound allowance](https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound) (in English)

If you need help with daily activities or you’re housebound, find out how to apply for extra VA pension benefits.

[note: The live version of this page for context is at: https://www.va.gov/pension/how-to-apply/.The Word doc is the content source of truth for translation.] Word count is 504.

[Meta description]: **How to apply page:** Find out how to apply for a VA pension online, by mail, in person, or with the help of a trained professional. If you're not ready to apply now, learn how to submit an intent to file form (VA Form 21-0966) to set the effective date of your claim (the day you can start getting benefits).

**H2: How to apply for a VA pension as a Veteran**

Find out how to apply for tax-free VA pension benefits as a Veteran

## How do I prepare before starting my application?

* [Find out if you’re eligible for VA pension benefits](https://www.va.gov/pension/eligibility/) (in English)
* Gather the information listed that you’ll need to fill out your pension application.

### H3: You’ll need this information

* Social Security number or VA file number (required)
* Military history (required)
* Your financial information and the financial information of your dependents (required)
* Work history
* Bank account direct deposit information
* Medical information

**Note:** In 1973, a fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis destroyed records held for Veterans who were discharged from the Army and Air Force during certain periods of time. If your records were destroyed in this fire, you can get help reconstructing them.  
[Find out how to reconstruct your records](https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/reconstruct-records) (in English)

[Learn about the evidence you’ll need to support your claim](https://www.va.gov/resources/evidence-to-support-va-pension-dic-or-accrued-benefits-claims) (in English)

## H2: How do I apply?

You can apply online right now.

[**Apply for Veterans Pension benefits**](https://www.va.gov/pension/application/527EZ/)[Action link]: (in English)

### H3: You can also apply:

#### H4: By mail

Fill out an Application for Pension (VA Form 21P-527EZ).  
[Get VA Form 21P-527EZ to download](https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-21p-527ez) (in English)

Mail the completed form to the pension management center (PMC):

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Pension Intake Center  
PO Box 5365  
Janesville, WI 53547-5365

#### H4: In person

Bring your application to a VA regional office near you.  
[Find your nearest VA regional office](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/?facilityType=benefits) (in English)

#### H4: With the help of a trained professional

You can work with a trained professional called an accredited representative to get help applying for VA pension benefits.  
[Get help filing your claim](https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/) (in English)

[Find out how to apply for a Survivors Pension](https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension/) (in English)

## H2: Should I submit an intent to file form?

You may want to submit an intent to file form before you apply for pension benefits. This can give you the time you need to gather your evidence while avoiding a later potential start date (also called an effective date). When you notify us of your intent to file, you may be able to get retroactive payments (payments that start at a point in the past).

[Find out how to submit an intent to file form](https://www.va.gov/resources/your-intent-to-file-a-va-claim) (in English)

## H2: How long does it take VA to make a decision?

It depends. We process claims in the order we receive them, unless a claim requires priority processing.

## H2: Other pension benefits

### [**VA Survivors Pension**](https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension) (in English)

Find out if you’re eligible and how to apply for VA pension benefits as a surviving spouse or child of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

### [Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound allowance](https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound) (in English)

If you need help with daily activities or you're housebound, find out how to apply for extra VA pension benefits.

[note: The live version of this page for context is at: https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension/. The Word doc is the content source of truth for translation.] Word count is 836.

[Meta description]: A VA Survivors Pension (formerly called a “VA death pension” and sometimes called a “VA widows pension”) offers monthly payments to qualified survivors of wartime Veterans. Find out if you’re eligible and how to apply.

**H1: VA Survivors Pension**

A VA Survivors Pension offers monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits set by Congress. Find out if you qualify and how to apply.

**H2: Am I eligible for a VA Survivors Pension as a surviving spouse?**

You may be eligible for this benefit if you haven’t remarried after the Veteran’s death, and if the deceased Veteran didn’t receive a dishonorable discharge and their service meets at least one of these requirements.

**At least one of these must be true:**

* The Veteran entered active duty on or before September 7, 1980, and served at least 90 days on active military service, with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period, **or**
* The Veteran entered active duty after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period **or**
* The Veteran was an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and hadn’t previously served on active duty for at least 24 months

[Learn more about covered wartime periods](https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension/#what-wartime-periods-do-you-re) (in English)

**And this must be true for you:**

Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth equals the value of everything you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe.

## H2: Am I eligible for a VA Survivors Pension as the child of a deceased wartime Veteran?

You may be eligible for this benefit if you’re unmarried and you meet at least one of these requirements.

**At least one of these must be true:**

* You’re under age 18, **or**
* You’re under age 23 and attending a VA-approved school, **or**
* You’re unable to care for yourself due to a disability that happened before age 18

H2: **What wartime periods do you recognize for pension benefits?**

Under current law, we recognize these wartime periods to decide eligibility for pension benefits:

* Mexican Border period (May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or in adjacent waters)
* World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918)
* World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
* Korean conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
* Vietnam War era (November 1, 1955, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served outside of the Republic of Vietnam.)
* Gulf War (August 2, 1990, through a future date to be set by law or presidential proclamation)

## H2: How do I apply for a VA Survivors Pension?

You can apply in any of these ways:

### H3: With the help of a trained professional

You can work with a trained professional called an accredited representative to get help applying for VA survivors pension benefits.

[Get help filing your claim](https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/) (in English)

### H3: Online

Use the QuickSubmit tool through AccessVA to upload your form online.

[Go to AccessVA to use QuickSubmit](https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/?cspSelectFor=quicksubmit) (in English)

### H3: By mail

Fill out an Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits (VA Form 21P-534EZ).

[Get VA Form 21P-534EZ to download](https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-21p-534ez) (in English)

Mail your completed application to this address:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Pension Intake Center  
PO Box 5365  
Janesville, WI 53547-5365

### H3: In person

Bring your application to a VA regional office near you.

[Find a VA regional office near you](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/?facilityType=benefits) (in English)

[Learn about the evidence you’ll need to support your claim](https://www.va.gov/resources/evidence-to-support-va-pension-dic-or-accrued-benefits-claims) (in English)

H2: **Should I submit an intent to file form?**

You may want to submit an intent to file form before you apply for VA Survivors Pension benefits. This can give you the time you need to gather your evidence while avoiding a later potential start date (also called an effective date). When you notify us of your intent to file, you may be able to get retroactive payments (payments that start at a point in the past).

[Find out how to submit an intent to file form](https://www.va.gov/resources/your-intent-to-file-a-va-claim) (in English)

H2: **How long does it take VA to make a decision?**

It depends. We process VA Survivors Pension claims in the order we receive them, unless a claim requires priority processing.

## H2: More information for survivors

[VA Survivors Pension rates](https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension-rates) (in English)

Review pension rates for surviving spouses and children.

[VA dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC)](https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation)

Learn about getting VA disability benefits for a surviving spouse or a dependent child or parent.

[DIC benefit rates for surviving spouses and children](https://www.benefits.va.gov/Compensation/current_rates_dic.asp) (in English)

Learn the current DIC benefit rates for spouses and children.

[DIC benefits for surviving parents](https://www.benefits.va.gov/Pension/current_rates_Parents_DIC_pen.asp) (in English)

Learn the current DIC benefit rates for surviving parents.

[FCC tips on how to avoid fraud](https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams) (in English)

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has advice on how to recognize fraud and scams aimed at Veterans and survivors.

[FTC complaint assistant for reporting fraud](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/) (in English)

If you’ve been the victim of fraud, you can file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).