

Net-Worth

Net worth means the net value of the assets of the veteran or surviving spouse and his or her dependents. This includes such assets as bank accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds and any property other than the veteran's residence and a reasonable lot area. Net worth cannot be excessive. The decision as to whether a claimant's net worth is excessive depends on the facts of each individual case. All net worth should be reported and VA will determine if a claimant's assets are sufficiently large that the claimant could live off these assets for a reasonable period of time. Normally, net-worth over \$80,000 would make the individual ineligible for VA pension. The threshold could be considerably less depending on the client's age and other out-of-pocket expenses. The VA's needs-based programs are not intended to protect substantial assets or build up an estate for the benefit of heirs. As you can see, there are a number of criteria that may affect your eligibility to pension benefits. If you are unsure if you meet all criteria, we encourage you to contact either the Veterans Administration or your local County Veteran Service Officer.

Personal Needs Allowance for Patient in a Nursing Home

Wartime service veterans or their surviving spouse who are in a nursing home under Medicaid may be entitled to a \$90 personal needs allowance from the Veterans Administration.

Maximum Allowable Rates

The VA will only reimburse up to a maximum annual amount, depending on whether the patient is housebound or requires aid and attendance. Those amounts are for example: *

	<u>Veteran</u>	
2012	Housebound	A&A
Single	\$14,457	\$19,736
Married	\$18,120	\$23,396

* (VA changes these numbers annually
These are not specific)

	<u>Surviving Spouse</u>	
	Housebound	A&A
	\$9,696	\$12,681

Wartime Service

World War I – April 6, 1917, through Nov 11, 1918

World War II – Dec 7, 1941, through Dec 31, 1946

Korean War – June 27, 1950, through Jan 31, 1955

Vietnam War – Aug 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975

Persian Gulf War – Aug 2, 1990, through a date to be set by law by Presidential Proclamation

For further information contact:
**Howard County
Veterans Service Office
220 N Main Street Room 101
Kokomo, IN 46901
Phone 765-456-2511**

**Ross Waltemath
HCVSO@co.howard.in.us**

Veterans Special Monthly Pension Benefit



If you are a wartime era veteran you may be entitled to a non-service connected pension up to a maximum of \$1,644 a month. With a dependent \$1,949.

If you are a surviving spouse of a wartime veteran you may be entitled to a widow's pension up to a maximum of \$1,056 a month.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers two different special pensions, called "Housebound" and "Aid and Attendance" (A&A)

For those who require assistance from another person in the performance of activities of daily living, such as eating, bathing or dressing, the VA offers two special monthly pension programs which may entitle you to additional income from the Veterans Administration. The two programs are referred to as "Aid & Attendance" and "Housebound".

Eligibility

To be eligible, the veteran must have served at least 90-days of active duty military service, at least one day of which was served during a period of war. A longer time in service requirement may be required if discharged after September, 1980. The veteran need not have actually served in a combat area. The veterans' military discharge must be other than dishonorable. Since pension benefits are based on need, the VA determines if net-worth is sufficient to meet the claimant's basic needs without assistance from the VA.

Aid & Attendance (A&A)

To qualify under the Aid and Attendance a veteran or surviving spouse must show one of the following;

Require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing , feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment, OR,

- **Are bedridden, in that your disability requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, OR,**
- **Are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, OR,**
- **Are blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, and concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.**

Housebound

To qualify under the VA's housebound category you need to show that due to your disability you are substantially confined to your dwelling and the immediate premises. Additionally, a VA 21-2680 exam form must be completed by a Doctor and certify that the veteran or the surviving spouse is either housebound or needs the aid and attendance of some other person in order to perform daily functions.

Countable Income

VA must consider income from all sources when reviewing the application. This includes Social Security income, income from investments (interest income), retirement pensions or 401K, income from rental property, etc. If the veteran is married the income from both is considered.

Some on-going medical expenses can be used to reduce countable income. This includes cost for Assisted Living care, in-home care, and medical supplemental insurances. (If you have been rated "Housebound" or in need of "Aid & Attendance", and you are paying for in-home care, the provider does not have to be a licensed health care provider to claim this deduction)