



## ENHANCED OR SPECIAL MONTHLY PENSION (AID AND ATTENDANCE OR HOUSEBOUND)

### WHAT IS ENHANCED OR SPECIAL MONTHLY PENSION?

**Aid and Attendance (A&A)** is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a Veteran or surviving spouse. You may be eligible if:

- You require the aid of another person in order to perform activities of daily living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment, **OR**,
- You are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, **OR**,
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR**,
- You have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

**Housebound** is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a claimant who is substantially confined to his or her home because of permanent disability. Additionally, if you are a Veteran, you may qualify for the increased housebound amount if:

- You have a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, due to such disability, you are permanently and substantially confined to your immediate premises, **OR**,
- You have single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60-percent or more disabling.

**You** may not receive enhanced or special monthly pension without first establishing eligibility for VA pension. However, because enhanced pension is based upon a higher income limit, a claimant ineligible for basic pension at the A&A and Housebound rate at the same time.

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



## HOW TO APPLY FOR AID AND ATTENDANCE AND HOUSEBOUND:

- You may apply for pension at the A&A or Housebound rate by writing to the VA regional office having jurisdiction over your claim. If you do not know which regional office has jurisdiction over your claim, you may submit your request to the VA regional office closest to your current residence. A directory of VA regional offices is available at [http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/division\\_flash.asp?dnum=3](http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/division_flash.asp?dnum=3).
- If you have previously submitted a VA Form 21-526, Veteran's Application for Compensation and/or Pension, or VA Form 21-534, *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child*, you should attach the completed form to your claim.
- You should **provide copies of any evidence that would help establish that you need A&A or are Housebound**. Such evidence would include a report from your physician validating the need for aid and attendance or demonstrating that you are housebound.
- If possible, the evidence should be in sufficient detail to enable VA to determine generally whether there is a disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment that renders you unable to perform the activities of daily living without assistance, or confined to your home or immediate premises.

## ENHANCED PENSION RATES FOR:

### VETERANS

#### INCOME LIMITS (EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2012)

If you are a...	Your yearly income must be less than...
Housebound veteran with no dependents	\$15,233
Housebound veteran with one dependent*	\$19,093
Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has no dependents	\$20,795
Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has one dependent*	\$24,652
*For each additional dependent, add	\$2,129

**Note:** *Some income is not counted toward the yearly limited (for example, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income.)*



## SURVIVING SPOUSES

### INCOME LIMITS (EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1,2012)

<i>If you are a...</i>	<i>Your yearly income must be less than...</i>
Housebound surviving spouse with no dependents	\$10,217
Housebound surviving spouse with one dependent*	\$12,796
Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with no dependents	\$13,362
Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with one dependent	\$15,940
*For each additional dependent, add	\$2,129

**Note:** *Some income is not counted toward the yearly limited (for example, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income.)*

