

What Is Death Pension?

Death pension is a benefit paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime veterans.

Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible if:

- the deceased veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- he or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war*, **AND**
- you are the surviving spouse or unmarried child of the deceased veteran, **AND**
- your countable income is below a yearly income limit set by law.

***Note:** Anyone who enlists after September 7, 1980, generally must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. Service from August 2, 1990 to present is considered to be a period of war (Gulf War) in addition to other periods of war such as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

| INCOME LIMITS (EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2011) | |
|--|--|
| <i>If you are a...</i> | <i>Your yearly income must be less than...</i> |
| Surviving spouse with no dependent children | \$ 8,219 |
| Surviving spouse with one dependent child | \$ 10,759 |
| (Add \$2,093 to the limit for EACH additional child) | |
| Housebound surviving spouse with no dependents | \$10,046 |
| Housebound surviving spouse with one dependent | \$12,582 |
| Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with no dependents | \$13,138 |
| Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with one dependent | \$15,673 |
| Surviving child (no eligible parent) | \$ 2,093 |

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

How Much Does VA Pay?

VA pays you the difference between your countable income and the yearly income limit which describes your situation (see chart above). This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar. Call the toll-free number below for details.

Note: Certain expenses (i.e., medical expenses, education expenses, or expenses related to the last illness or burial of the veteran or a dependent) paid by you are taken into consideration when arriving at your countable income.

How Can You Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-534, *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by Surviving Spouse or Child*. If available, attach copies of dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates).

**For More Information, Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000
or Visit Our Web Site at <http://www.va.gov>.**