



Town of Sharon
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES
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DEAR VETERAN:

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Subject: VETERAN BENEFITS - PENSION

Low income veterans and surviving spouses may be eligible for assistance from the U.S. Department of Veteran Administration (VA). There is a maximum asset criteria. The State of Massachusetts has different entitlements and criteria.

VETERANS PENSION - U. S. Dept of Veteran Affairs pensions are not compensations for disability resulting from disease or disability considered service caused. Service connected disability is independent of a pension explained here.

Veterans with low incomes who are either permanently and totally disabled, or age 65 and older, may be eligible for monetary support if they have 90 days or more of active military service; at least one day of which was during a period of war. The 90-day active service requirement does not apply to veterans with a service-connected disability discharge from the military. (Veterans who entered active duty on or after Sept. 8, 1980, or officers who entered active duty on or after Oct. 16, 1981, may have to meet a longer minimum period of active duty). The veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable and the disability must be for reasons other than the veteran's own willful misconduct.

Pension payments are made to bring the veteran's total income, including other retirement or Social Security

income, to a level set by Congress. Un-reimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income for VA purposes to qualify.

Congress establishes the maximum annual improved Veterans pension rates. Payments are reduced by the amount countable income of the veteran, spouse and dependent children. When a veteran without a spouse or a child is furnished nursing home or domiciliary care by VA, the pension is reduced to an amount not to exceed \$90 per month after three calendar months of care. The reduction may be delayed if nursing-home care is being continued to provide the veteran with rehabilitation services.

VA Improved Pension Veterans Rates effective 12/1/18

Status of Veteran's Family Situation and Caretaking Needs	Maximum Annual Rate
Veteran without dependents	\$13,535.00
Veteran with one dependent	\$17,724.00
Veteran permanently housebound, no dependents	\$16,540.00
Veteran permanently housebound, one dependent	\$20,731.00
Veteran needing regular aid and attendance, no dependents	\$22,577.00
Veteran needing regular aid and attendance, one dependent	\$26,766.00
Two veterans married to one another	\$17,724.00

Above rates may change annually

SURVIVOR PENSION - VA provides pensions to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service.

Eligibility: To be eligible, spouses must not have remarried and children must be under age 18, or under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, or have become permanently incapable of self-support because of disability before age 18.

The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have had 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, or a service-connected disability requiring discharge. Longer periods of service may be required for veterans who entered active duty on or after Sept. 8, 1980, or Oct. 16, 1981, if an officer. If the veteran died in service but not in the line of duty, the death pension may be payable if the veteran completed at least two years of honorable service.

Children who become incapable of self-support because of a disability before age 18 may be eligible for the death pension as long as the condition exists, unless the child marries or the child's income exceeds the applicable limit.

A surviving spouse may be entitled to a higher income limit if living in a nursing home, in need of the aid and attendance of another person, or permanently housebound.

Payment: The death pension provides a monthly payment to bring an eligible person's income to a level established by law. The payment is reduced by the annual income from other sources such as Social Security. The payment may be increased if the recipient has unreimbursed medical expenses that can be deducted from countable income.

Survivor Pension Rates - Maximum Annual Rate effective 12/1/17

Surviving spouse	\$8,830.00
(With dependent child)	\$11,557.00
Permanently housebound	\$10,792.00
(With dependent child)	\$13,514.00
Needs regular aid & attendance	\$14,113.00
(With dependent child)	\$16,837.00

Above rates change annually

If you do not have all supporting documentation available but want to save the current date for a claim, this can be accomplished.

You will have one year from date of submission of VA Form 21-0966 with attached honorable discharge document. In addition VA Form 21-22 is requested to obtain delegation for MA. Dept. of Veteran Services to represent you. For a widow(er) death benefit claim, a copy of the marriage certificate must be included with the copy of honorable veteran discharge.

If you do not have all supporting documentation available

Additional information and applicable forms are available from Paul Bergeron, Sharon Veteran Agent. Telephone is 781-784-1500 ext 1180 .

Further use www.v.a.gov or call 1-800-827-1000