



VA Aid and Attendance Benefit

The VA Aid and Attendance benefit is designed to help elderly or disabled veterans pay for in-home care services or care in a state certified facility – **however few eligible veterans know about this program.** To be eligible a veteran must have served at least 90 days in a wartime period and been honorably discharged. **Veteran's spouses or widows may also be eligible.** Married veterans may receive as much as \$1842 a month, single veterans are eligible for up to \$1554 a month, and widows of veterans can receive up to \$998 monthly.

Disability Requirements

Veterans or surviving spouses qualify for Aid and Attendance if they are **bedridden, blind, or need assistance with at least two "activities of daily living"** (bathing, eating, dressing, remembering to take medication, etc). The veteran does not have to require total assistance with these tasks; reminders to take medications or cueing with dressing, for example, can be enough to be eligible. To qualify, the veteran must already be receiving the assistance and have a doctor's order.

Income Requirements

Demonstrated financial need is based on an **adjusted income** which includes earnings, disability and retirement payments, interest and dividends, and net income from business. Many of the veteran's expenses including insurance premiums and medications are deducted when the VA calculates the **adjusted income amount.** Social Security and certain forms of public assistance are not counted, nor are the veteran's home or personal belongings such as their vehicle and household items. The adjusted income determines the amount of the maximum benefit.

How a Care Manager Can Help

Applying for VA benefits can be a complicated and time consuming process. The assistance of a professional Care Manager can facilitate forms being completed accurately and help with appropriate follow up. If you have a client who would benefit from learning more about this program, please call **Sarah Gilbert** at 414.963.2600 to make an appointment with a **Care Manager.** To find a Care Manager in another part of the country, visit www.caremanager.org.

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