

VA Pension Benefits

VA Pension Benefits are meant as assistance for eligible Veterans, surviving spouses and children who demonstrate financial need. Veteran's Pension is a benefit paid to veterans who have limited or no income, and who are 65 or older, or, if under 65, who are permanently and totally disabled. Veterans who are more seriously disabled may qualify for "Aid and Attendance" or "Housebound" benefits. These are benefits that are paid in addition to the basic pension rate.

To be eligible, the Veteran must be discharged from military service under conditions other than dishonorable, and must have served at least 90 days of active military service, 1 day of which was during a war time period. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. Countable family income must be below a yearly limit set by Congress.

The Death Pension is a needs based benefit paid to an un-remarried surviving spouse, or an unmarried child of a deceased wartime veteran. The same eligibility rules apply as for the Veteran's Pension. Survivors who are more seriously disabled may also qualify for "Aid and Attendance" or "Housebound" benefits.

"Aid and Attendance" is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension when the claimant requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, or is bedridden, or is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, or is blind or nearly blind. "Housebound" is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension when the claimant is substantially confined to his/her immediate premises because of permanent disability.

Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call 582-3211, ext. 2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.