



The Veterans Administration Building

Cleveland Ohio

What are Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits?

Aid and Attendance is a benefit paid in addition to a monthly VA pension. This benefit **may not** be paid without eligibility to a Veteran's or Widow's pension.

A veteran may be eligible for Aid and Attendance when:

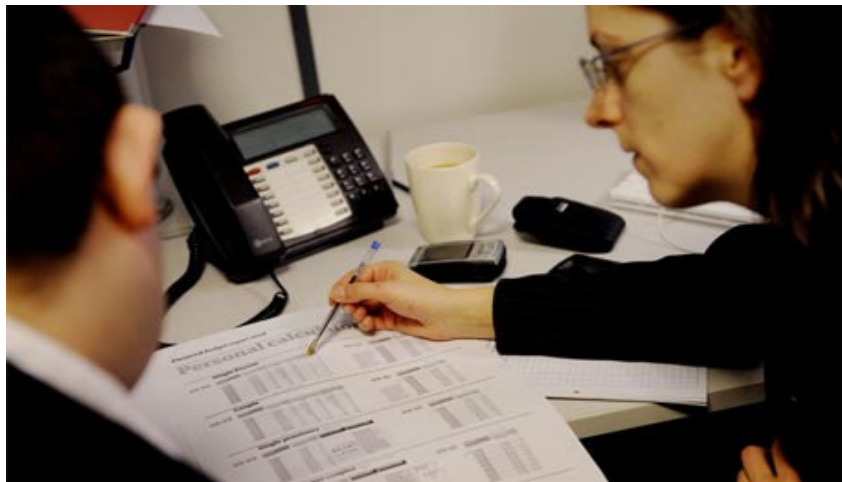
- The veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment, OR,
- The veteran is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, OR,
- The veteran is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, OR,
- The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.
- The **Aid and Attendance Pension Program** can provide up to **\$1,645** per month to a veteran, **\$1,057** per month to a surviving spouse, or **\$1,950** per month to a couple.



Housebound benefits are paid in addition to a monthly VA pension. Like Aid and Attendance, **Housebound benefits** may not be paid without eligibility to a Veteran's or Widow's pension.

A veteran may be eligible for Housebound benefits when:

- The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, OR,
- The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.
- A veteran cannot receive both Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits at the same time.
- The **Aid and Attendance Pension Program** can provide up to **\$1,205** per month to a veteran, **\$808** per month to a surviving spouse, or **\$1,510** per month to a couple.



How to Apply for Aid and Attendance and Housebound

You may apply for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits by file a claim with the Veterans Regional Office in your area. The forms are ([21-526 for Veterans](#) or a [21-534 for a Widow](#)).

You should include your attending physician validating the need for Aid and Attendance or Housebound type care. This report should be in sufficient detail to determine whether there is disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable.

In addition, it is necessary to determine whether the claimant is confined to the home or immediate their immediate premises.

Whether the claim is for Aid and Attendance or Housebound, the report should indicate how well the individual gets around, where the individual goes, and what he or she is able to do during a typical day.

What is considered countable income for Veterans Aid and Attendance and Housebound eligibility purposes? This includes income received by the veteran and his or her dependents, if any, from most sources. It includes earnings, disability and retirement payments, interest and dividends, and net income from farming or business. There is a presumption that all of a child's income is available to or for the veteran. VA may grant an exception in hardship cases.

What is considered Net Worth? Net worth means the net value of the assets of the veteran and his or her dependents. It includes such assets as bank accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds and any property other than the veteran's residence and a reasonable lot area. There is no set limit on how much net worth a veteran and his dependents can have, but net worth cannot be excessive. The decision as to whether a claimant's net worth is excessive depends on the facts of each individual case. All net worth should be reported and VA will determine if a claimant's assets are sufficiently large that the claimant could live off these assets for a reasonable period of time. VA's needs-based programs are not intended to protect substantial assets or build up an estate for the benefit of heirs.