

## What Is VA Pension?

Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans with limited income, and who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older.

## Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible if:

- **You were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND**
- **You served 90 days of active duty with at least one day during wartime, \*AND**
- **Your countable income is below the maximum annual pension rate (MAPR), AND**
- **You meet net worth limitations (\$123,600) AND**
- **You meet one of the following criteria:**
  - You are age 65 or older.
  - You have a permanent and total nonservice-connected disability.
  - You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity.
  - You are receiving Social Security disability benefits.

\*Veterans who entered active duty after September 7, 1980, must serve at least 24 months of active-duty service. If the length of service is less than 24 months, the Veteran must have completed their entire tour of active duty.

### FAMILY INCOME LIMITS (EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2019)

<i>If you are a...</i>	<i>Your income must be less than... annual/monthly</i>	
<b>Veteran with no dependents</b>	<b>13,752</b>	<b>1,146</b>
Veteran with a spouse or a child	<b>18,008</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>(Veterans with additional children: add \$2,351 to the limit for EACH child)</b>		
<b>Housebound veteran with no dependents</b>	<b>16,805</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Housebound veteran with one dependent</b>	<b>21,063</b>	<b>1,755</b>
<b>Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has no dependents</b>	<b>22,939</b>	<b>1,911</b>
<b>Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has one dependent</b>	<b>27,195</b>	<b>2,266</b>

*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?

1. VA determines the Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) for your situation. This amount is set by Congress.
2. Next, VA determines your countable income. This is done by subtracting exclusions provided by law from your total annual income.
3. VA then subtracts your countable income from the MAPR. This difference is your yearly pension entitlement.
4. VA divides this amount by 12 and rounds to the nearest dollar. This is the approximate amount of your monthly pension payment.

VA deducts certain expenses you pay, such as unreimbursed medical expenses, from your annual household income. This will decrease your countable income and increase your monthly pension payment.

**For More Information, contact San Luis Obispo County Veterans Service Office:**

**(805) 781-5766**