



Survivors Pension Benefit

What is Survivors Pension?

Survivors Pension, which was formerly referred to as Death Pension, is a tax-free benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible if:

- The deceased Veteran was discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- He or she served 90 days or more of active duty, with at least one day during a time of war*, AND
- Your countable income for VA purposes is below the amount listed in the Survivors Pension Rate Table, AND
- Your net worth meets the limits set for the Community Spouse Resource Allowance (CSRA) established by Congress for Medicaid, AND
- You are one of the following:
 - The unmarried surviving spouse (or you were previously married and the marriage ended before Nov. 1, 1990).
 - The unmarried child of the deceased Veteran who is under 18, became permanently disabled before 18, or is between 18 and 23 years old and enrolled in an approved educational institution.

* If the deceased Veteran entered active duty after Sept. 7, 1980, he or she must have served 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.

See the Survivors Pension Rate Table:

VA Survivor Pension Rates 2025

*Net worth limit as of December 1, 2023 is **\$159,240***

Maximum Amount of Pension Payable = MAPR

MAPR minus Yearly Income = VA Pension for the year (divide by 12 to find monthly amount)

MAPR for Qualified Surviving Spouses with No Dependents

If you don't have dependents and...	MAPR Amount
You don't qualify for Housebound or Aid and Attendance benefits	\$11,380 (yearly)
You qualify for Housebound benefits	\$13,908 (yearly)
You qualify for Aid and Attendance benefits	\$18,187 (yearly)
You qualify for Aid and Attendance benefits and you're the surviving spouse of a Veteran who served in the Spanish-American War (SAW)	\$18,923 (yearly)

*The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Minimum Income Annuity (MIW) limitation is \$11,380

*If you have medical expenses, you may deduct only the amount that's above 5% of your MAPR amount (\$569 for a surviving spouse with no dependent child).

MAPR for Qualified Surviving Spouses with at least One Dependent

If you have one dependent child and...	MAPR Amount
You don't qualify for Housebound or Aid and Attendance benefits	\$14,893 (yearly)
You qualify for Housebound benefits	\$17,414 (yearly)
You qualify for Aid and Attendance benefits	\$21,696 (yearly) /
You qualify for Aid and Attendance benefits and you're the surviving spouse of a Veteran who served in the Spanish-American War (SAW)	\$22,353 (yearly)

*The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Minimum Income Annuity (MIW) limitation is \$11,380.

*If you have more than 1 child, add \$2,902 to your MAPR amount for each additional child.

*If you have a child who works, you may exclude their wages up to \$15,000.

*If you have medical expenses, you may deduct only the amount that's above 5% of your MAPR amount (\$744 for a surviving spouse with 1 dependent).

MAPR for Qualified Surviving Children

If you're a...	MAPR Amount
Qualified surviving child	\$2,902 (yearly)