



Nadine Lord, EA CFP®
 Paul E Divan IV
 National Planning Corporation
 30021 Tomas Street, Suite 300
 Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
 Phone: 949.766.7808 Toll Free: 800.350.1299
 Fax: 949.766.7809
 Website: www.nadinelord.com

Veterans Pension Benefit

What if 33% of all seniors in this country could receive up to \$1,843 a month in additional income from the government to cover their long term care costs? They can!

Under the correct circumstances up to 1/3 of all US senior households could be eligible: that is how many war veterans and/or their surviving spouses there are in this country. However, because this program is so unknown, only 4.7% of eligible veteran households are actually receiving benefits. This program is known as "Veterans Pension".

What is the VA Aid & Attendance Benefit?

"Aid & Attendance" is a commonly used term for a little-known veterans' disability income. Its official title is "Pension".

The purpose of this benefit is to provide supplemental income to disabled and/or older veterans who have a low income or high medical costs. Pension is for war veterans who have disabilities that are *not* connected to their active-duty service.

Aid & Attendance Pension benefit can pay up to \$1,843 a month for qualifying long term care needs such as:

- Family Members to provide home care
- Professional home care providers to come into your home
- Assisted Living or Adult Day services
- Nursing Home long term care
- Home renovations for disability

How do you Qualify?

To receive a Veterans' Aid & Attendance Pension Benefit, a veteran must have served on active duty, at least 90 days, with at least one day during a period of war. There must have been an honorable discharge. Single surviving spouses of such veterans are also eligible. If younger than 65, the veteran must be totally disabled. If 65 or older, there is no requirement for disability. There is also no disability requirement for a single surviving spouse.

The veteran household cannot have income exceeding the Maximum Allowable Pension Rate or MAPR. If income exceeds MAPR, there is no benefit. However, a special provision for calculating Pension income allows annual household income to be reduced by annualized, recurring medical expenses including but not limited to: insurance premiums, Medicare premiums, the costs of home care, the cost of paying *any* person to provide care, and the cost of assisted living or nursing care.

This provision allows for high income veterans, with monthly incomes over the MAPR to qualify for Aid & Attendance.

There is also an asset test to qualify for Pension. Any assets that could be easily converted to income may disqualify the claimant. A residence, vehicle and/or difficult-to-sell property are generally excluded from the asset test. While there is no true limit to qualifying net worth, a recommended benchmark is \$80,000.

There are specific rules governing transfers of assets and what constitutes income from assets and it must be done correctly. For more information on VA Aid & Attendance Benefits contact Nadine M Lord at 800-350-1299 or visit the VA website:

www.veranaid.org/progrm.php.

"Only 4.7% of eligible veteran households are actually receiving the Pension benefit"

"High income veterans can also qualify for Aid & Attendance"
