

Application Checklist

To file a Survivor's Pension claim, the following items and information will be needed:

- Certified copy of DD Form 214 or equivalent with proof of wartime service.
- Copy of Veteran's death certificate.
- Copy of marriage certificate.
- A listing of all current income and net worth information, such as Social Security benefits, retirement income, dividends, and investments.
- List of recurring medical expenses such as: insurance premiums, in-home care, and facility costs.
- Direct deposit information, account number, and bank routing number.

If a Veteran or spouse have previously been married, a complete history of previous marriages is needed; such as date and location of marriage (city and state), person they were married to, reason marriage ended (death or divorce), date marriage ended and location (city and state).

Our Mission:

To provide responsive, timely, accurate, and compassionate assistance to Veterans, their dependents, and survivors in applying for federal, state, and local benefits.

Veterans Service Office of



Email: vso@co.washington.mn.us
[www.co.washington.mn.us/
veteranservices](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/veteranservices)

Veteran Services locations:

Government Center
14949 62nd St. N., P.O. Box 30
Stillwater, MN 55082-0030

Headwaters Service Center
19955 Forest Rd. N.
Forest Lake, MN 55025

Cottage Grove Service Center
13000 Ravine Parkway S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

To schedule an appointment, call:
651-430-6895

17600-6 (6-21)

Department of Veterans Affairs

Survivor's Pension Program

Veterans Service Office of



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The Survivor's Pension is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse or children of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

Qualifying Service

The deceased Veteran must have met the following service requirements:

- For service ON OR BEFORE 1980, the Veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, with at least one day during a wartime period.
- For duty AFTER 1980, he or she must have served 24 months or the full period for which called to active duty with at least one day during a wartime period.
- Was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions.

Eligible Wartime Periods

- *World War II*
(December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946)
- *Korean Conflict*
(June 27, 1950 - January 31, 1955)
- *Vietnam Era*
(November 1, 1955 - May 7, 1975
[service in Vietnam] otherwise
August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975)
- *Gulf War*
(August 2, 1990 - through a future date)

Income & Net Worth

Countable income includes income from most sources as well as from any eligible dependents. It generally includes earnings, disability and retirement payments, interest and dividend payments from annuities, and net income from farming, rentals, or a business.

Some expenses, such as unreimbursed medical expenses, may reduce your countable income.

Net worth includes assets such as bank accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities, and any property other than your residence and a two acre lot area.

VA uses a 3 year "look-back" period for those who transfer assets to qualify for pension. If a veteran or spouse transfers assets to a trust where they do not have access to the funds, or sells them for less than fair market value, those assets would still be considered to be net worth for a period of 3 years.

An applicant's net worth and income may not exceed \$130,773.

2021 Maximum Pension Rates

	Annual Income
Basic Pension	\$9,344
Housebound	\$11,420
Aid & Attendance	\$14,934

Aid & Attendance (A&A)

The Aid & Attendance increased monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount if you meet one of the following conditions:

- You require the aid of another person to bathe, eat, dress, use the restroom, adjust prosthetic devices, to ambulate within the home, or to protect yourself from hazards of the environment.
- You are bedridden or your disability or disabilities require you to remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment.
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity.
- Your eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 or the visual field is 5 degrees or less.

Housebound

This increased monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount when you are substantially confined to your immediate premises because of permanent disability.

Pension Poaching Scams

Some dishonest financial advisors or attorneys may offer to move your assets around for you to qualify for VA pension. This type of scam is often directed toward Veterans and family members who do not actually qualify for VA pension. You could be required to repay these benefits to the government. We are here to help you file a Pension claim **free of charge**.