|  |
| --- |
| Eligibility and Application |
| **Basic Principles:**   * 1. **No** requirement of service connection   2. Payments are made to bring the veteran’s total income, including other retirement or Social Security Income, to a level set by Congress.   3. Income over a certain amount will render the veteran not eligible, but in some circumstances income may be reduced by countable medical expenses.   4. Veterans **cannot** be substantially gainfully employed   **Basic Eligibility:**   1. Minimum Service Requirement: Depends on the era that the veteran served: 2. *Entered active duty prior to September 8, 1980:* Served 90 days of active duty with 1 day during a period of war 3. *Entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980:* Completed a minimum period of service, either 24 months of continuous active duty or the “full period for which called or ordered to active duty of war”   **AND** The veteran must also have active service that includes a total of 90 days during one or more periods of war; **or** 90 or more consecutive days, one day of which is during a period of war; **or** at least one day of wartime service that results in a discharge for a service-connected disability.   1. Permanently and totally disabled (not due to the willful misconduct of the veteran) or age 65 and older. 2. Limited income and net worth (program counts all the income of the veteran and the veteran’s spouse and dependents) 3. Discharged under conditions other than dishonorable   **What to Submit: VA Form 21P-527EZ, Veteran’s DD214 and relevant medical expense receipts**  **Eligible for homelessness expedited processing but must request\*** |

**VA Improved Pension a/k/a Non-Service Connected Disability Pension Benefit**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Periods of War for Pension Eligibility | | |
| **War** | **Start** | **End** |
| World War II | December 7, 1941 | December 31, 1946 |
| Korean Conflict | June27, 1950 | January 31, 1955 |
| Peacetime | February 1, 1955 | February 7, 1961 |
| Vietnam Era  In country | August5, 1964  February 8, 1961 | May 7, 1975  May 7, 1975 |
| Persian Gulf Wars | August2, 1990 | Present |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2018 VA Pension Rates | | |
| Status of Veteran’s Family Situation and Caretaking Needs | Monthly Maximum Income | Annual Maximum Income |
| Veteran without dependents | $1,097 | $13,166 |
| Veteran with one dependent | $1,436 | $17,241 |
| Veteran permanently housebound, no dependents | $1,340 | $16,089 |
| Veteran permanently housebound, one dependent | $1,680 | $20,166 |
| Veteran needing regular aid and attendance, no dependents | $1,830 | $21,962 |
| Veteran needing regular aid and attendance, one dependent | $2,169 | $26,036 |
| Two Veterans married to one another | $1,436 | $17,241 |
| **Add** for each additional dependent child to any category above | $187 | $2,250 |