



## Veterans Benefits Aid & Attendance General Qualifications

(Updated January 2023)

A “Claimant” for Aid and Attendance may be any of the following: ***Veteran, Widowed Spouse, and Dependent or Disabled Child***. **Minor or disabled adult children may qualify for limited benefits on their own.**

- The Veteran must have served at least ninety (90) days active duty, with one (1) day of the ninety (90) during a ***Qualified War Time Period*** (ninety days must generally be consecutive, with some exceptions).
- Veteran must have had an “other than Dishonorable Discharge”.
- Claimant’s physician must declare him/her as housebound and in need of assistance from another individual.
- As for assets, effective 10/18/2018, the VA established a new method to determine if a Claimant has excess assets. The calculation is complicated despite the new “Net-Worth Bright Line Asset Limit.” As of 1/1/23, the Net-Worth Bright Line Limit is \$150,538. Assets are not the only measurement needed. The calculation also includes projected income and projected unreimbursed medical expenses.
- In 2018, the VA also VA established a 36-month look-back period. This means that if a Claimant made gifts (or purchased certain types of annuities or utilized certain types of trusts), he or she may be disqualified from eligibility for Aid & Attendance. Interestingly, assets up to the “Net-Worth Bright Line Limit” may be transferred without penalty. If a penalty is imposed, then the penalty based on a monthly divisor (2023 - \$2,642). However, there is a 5-year cap for the transfer penalty.
- Claimant’s household, out-of-pocket, yearly medical expenses must exceed or come close to, his/her total yearly household gross income. The new rules expand the definition of unreimbursed medical expenses.
- One rule that remains intact is that family caregivers may be paid for their services.
- Widowed spouse must have been married to the Veteran for at least one (1) year or have had children by the Veteran if married less than one (1) year, and never remarried. A divorce typically eliminates the eligibility of a surviving widow from applying based on deceased spouse’s war time service. Widowed spouse must have been living with the Veteran at the time of the Veteran’s death unless the separation was due to medical or military reasons. (There may be some exceptions related to separations due to abuse.)

## 2023 Maximum Aid and Attendance Rates

Single Veteran	\$2,229 per month, or \$26,752 per year
Married Veteran	\$2,642 per month, or \$31,714 per year
Widowed Spouse	\$1,432 per month, or \$17,192 per year
Veteran Married to Veteran	\$3,536 per month, or \$42,433 per year

*(Both A & A)*

## Qualified War Time Periods

Once awarded Aid and Attendance or Housebound Status, a Veteran may obtain free medications, medical equipment, incontinence supplies, glasses, and hearing aids from the VA Hospital/Clinic via U.S. Mail without going to the VA Clinic or Hospital. A separate application must be made through the Health Care System.

World War I	April 6, 1917 through November 11, 1918
World War II	December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946
Korean Conflict	June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955

Vietnam Era	February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975
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Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; otherwise, August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975)

Gulf War	(August 2, 1990 through a future date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation)
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## Reminders

- Only one day of service is required during these wartime periods within the Veteran's 90-days of Active-Duty service requirement.
- The Veteran does NOT have to have been injured during wartime.
- The Veteran does NOT have to have served overseas.

Brightline Net Worth Limit \$150,538.

Penalty Divisor \$2,642.

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