



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

Disability Compensation

Disability compensation is a benefit paid to Veterans because of injuries or disease that happened during active duty. In some cases, an existing disease or injury was worsened due to active military service. This benefit is also paid to certain Veterans disabled from VA health care. The benefits are tax-free.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible for disability compensation if:

- You have a service-related disability or illness.
- Your discharge was not dishonorable.

How much does VA pay?

The amount of benefit pay varies depending on your disability. You may be paid additional amounts if:

- You have very severe disability(ies) or loss of limb(s).
- You have a spouse, child(ren) or dependent parent(s).
- You have a seriously disabled spouse.

How can you apply?

Fill out VA Form 21-526, "Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension," located at <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf>. You may also use VA Form 21-526EZ, "Fully Developed Claim (Compensation)," located [at https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526EZ-ARE.pdf](https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526EZ-ARE.pdf).

If you have any of the following documents, please attach them to your application:

- Discharge or separation papers (DD214 or equivalent)

- Dependency records (marriage license and children's birth certificates)
- Medical evidence (doctor or hospital reports and records)

You can also apply online using eBenefits at

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/about/feature?feature=disability-compensation>.

Related Benefits

- Priority medical care: <https://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/apply/index.asp>
- Vocational rehabilitation: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/index.asp>
- Clothing allowance: https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/claims-special-clothing_allowance.asp
- Grants for Specially Adapted Housing: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp>
- Automobile Grant and Adaptive Equipment: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/claims-special-auto-allowance.asp>
- Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/s-dvi.asp>
- Federal Employment Preference: https://www.va.gov/JOBS/hiring_programs.asp
- State/local Veterans benefits: <https://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>
- Military exchange and community privileges: <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/>