

Veteran Resources



- VA Homemaker & Home Health Aid (H/HHA) Program
- VA Aid & Attendance
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation Respite Program
- Veterans Home
- **Veteran Support Officer's (VSO's) in community**

VA Homemaker & Home Health Aid (H/HHA) Program



- Unique extended care services via non-VA providers in the community (public and private home care agencies).
- Usually between 12-28 hours of homecare per week.
- No co-payments / no cost to veteran
- Since the VA does not directly provide homemaker or home health aide services, veterans seeking these services qualify for community care automatically.
- **TriWest is VA's service provider in W. Washington**
- H/HHA Program result of VA Mission Act of 2018 and part of the Community Care Network Program

How to Qualify for H/HHA



- Must be eligible for VA benefits.
- Must be receiving medical care through the VA.
- If not signed up for VA healthcare but are eligible can contact (877) 222-8387 or apply online at:
<https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10EZ-fillable.pdf>
- Must have DD214 and VA Disability Letter to complete.

Clinical Eligibility for H/HHCA



- Demonstrate a clinical need for H/HHA services.
- VA primary care provider or a geriatrics care team conducts a comprehensive assessment to evaluate level of dependence in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs).

Meeting H/HHA Eligibility



- A veteran meets clinical eligibility criteria for the VA H/HHA Program if their assessment identifies:
 - Dependencies in three or more ADLs; or
 - Significant cognitive impairment; or
 - Dependencies in two ADLs and the veteran meets any two of the following conditions:
 - Has dependencies in three or more IADLs;
 - Is 75 years old or older;
 - Has been diagnosed with clinical depression;
 - Lives alone in the community;
 - Has been recently discharged from a nursing facility, or has an upcoming nursing home discharge plan contingent on receipt of home and community-based care services;
 - Has demonstrated high use of medical services defined as three or more hospitalizations in the past year or has utilized outpatient clinics or emergency evaluation units twelve or more times in the past year.

VA Aid and Attendance



- Veterans receiving a VA pension may be eligible for additional monthly payment above normal pension amount.
- Can qualify if not receiving VA pension.
- Approval process can take up to 9 months (or more).
- Veterans 90 yrs. or older receive expedited processing.
- Surviving spouse benefits are available.

Who Qualifies for Aid & Attendance



Must meet one of these requirements:

- Require the aid of another person in order to perform some tasks of everyday living. A few examples include:
 - assistance with bathing, feeding, preparing meals, taking medications, dressing, using the restroom, adjusting prosthetic devices and/or providing daily oversight to help ensure safety.
- Bedridden, apart from any prescribed course of treatment or therapy.
- A patient in a nursing home, due to a mental or physical incapacity.
 - **Mental incapacities include Alzheimer's disease or dementia.**
- Eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity OR less in both eyes OR concentric contraction of the visual field to five degrees or less.

Where Can You Use Aid & Attendance Benefits



- In-Home Care
- Assisted Living / Independent Living
- Memory Care
- Adult Family Homes
- Nursing Homes
- Adult Day Services.

Financial Eligibility



- Net worth not more than \$130,000.
- Does not include:
 - Home (primary residence)
 - Personal effects including appliances
 - Automobile
 - Not more than \$2000 in bank account
- Similar to Medicaid financial eligibility requirements.

VA Aid and Attendance Award Chart



BASIC PENSION FOR VETERANS	MAXIMUM ANNUAL PENSION RATE (MAPR)	MONTHLY RATE
Single veteran	\$13,166	\$1,098
Veteran with spouse or one dependent	\$17,241	\$1,437
Two veterans married to each other	\$17,241	\$1,437
BASIC PENSION FOR VETERANS PLUS AID & ATTENDANCE	MAXIMUM ANNUAL PENSION RATE (MAPR)	MONTHLY RATE
Aid & Attendance without dependents	\$21,962	\$1,831
Aid & Attendance with spouse or one dependent	\$26,036	\$2,170
Two veterans married to each other (both qualify for A&A)	\$34,837	\$2,904
BASIC PENSION FOR VETERANS PLUS HOUSEBOUND	MAXIMUM ANNUAL PENSION RATE (MAPR)	MONTHLY RATE
Housebound without dependents	\$16,089	\$1,341
Housebound with spouse or one dependent	\$20,166	\$1,681
IF QUALIFIED ADD TO ANY RATES ABOVE:	ADDITIONAL ANNUAL BENEFIT	MONTHLY RATE
Early war veterans add (Mexican War Border or WWI)	\$2,991	\$250
Each additional dependent	\$2,250	\$188
SURVIVING SPOUSE RATES	MAXIMUM ANNUAL PENSION RATE (MAPR)	MONTHLY RATE
Widow, no dependents	\$8,830	\$736
Widow, no dependents with Aid & Attendance	\$14,113	\$1,177
Widow, no dependents with housebound	\$10,792	\$900
For each dependent add:	\$2,250	\$188

Elizabeth Dole Foundation



Respite relief for family caregivers.

- Give the family caregiver a break.
- It gives you help with everyday chores
- Can get up to 35 hrs. / week for no cost respite care services.

Who is this for?

- Created for Military and Veteran caregivers.
- Respite care designed to give caregiver a break.
- Age does not matter (can be for 65+ or under 65)
- Opportunity to bring professional caregiver into home.
- Your limits? Cannot be a solo caregiver forever. Part of a team.
- Respite service cover all aspects of home care.
- Respite care for every veteran who is aging or disabled.
- Application is at hiddenheroes.org/respite (takes a few minutes)

Elizabeth Dole Foundation



What's Included?

- Meals
- Transportation
- Companionship
- Medication Reminders
- Bathing
- Housekeeping
- Exercise
- Mobility
- Toileting
- Grooming

Veterans Home



What's a Veterans Home:

- WA state has 4 Veterans Home (Soldier's Homes).
 - Port Orchard and Orting are closest to us.
- Date back to the post-Civil War era when many states created them to provide shelter to homeless and disabled Veterans.
- State Veterans Homes are facilities that provide nursing home, domiciliary, or adult day care.
 - Owned, operated and managed by state governments.
- To be a State Veterans Home the VA must formally recognize and certify a facility as a State Veterans Home.
- VA surveys all facilities each year to make sure they continue to meet VA standards.
- VA does not manage State Veterans Homes.

Veterans Home



Eligibility:

- All Washington State Veterans Homes are Medicare and Medicaid certified facilities.
- To be eligible for admission, applicants must meet the following criteria:
 - Served at any time, in any branch of the United States Armed Forces including the National Guard;
 - Received an honorable discharge;
 - Reside in Washington State;
 - Be the spouse of a resident or widow of an eligible veteran;
 - Or be a Gold Star Parent who lost a child while serving in the armed forces.
- Veterans rated 70%-100% Service Connected Disabled, or whose service connected disability is the reason nursing care is needed, may have their nursing home care paid by the Federal VA.
- Veteran's Homes also accept Medicare, Medicaid, 3rd Party Insurance and Private Pay.

Veteran Service Officers (VSO's)



- Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) who work at VA regional offices can offer guidance.
- VSO's can answer questions about the benefits.
- VSOs volunteer throughout the U.S., frequently at hubs for veterans like
 - American Legion
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
 - AMVET's
 - DAV – Disabled American Veterans.
- Veterans' organizations like the VFW, American Legion and DAV can provide information about benefit as well as free assistance to prepare an application.
- (www.vets.gov/pension/ is a good place to start.)

Final Thoughts



- VA H/HHA Program – must be getting care from VA
- VA Aid & Attendance – long time to qualify
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation – New option, just getting started. Well funded.
- **Veteran's Home** – 4 in WA. Take time to qualify.
- **VSO's** – use them! **Do not pay attorney's, private parties, etc. until you have worked with VSO's.**
- Medicare and Medicare Advantage new options

Veteran Resources



Questions
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More Information for Veteran Services



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