



**Sacramento County
Department of Human Assistance**



DHA VETERANS SERVICES - FACT SHEET

Veterans Service is responsible for providing benefit entitlement determinations, claim development, claim filing, advocacy, and case management services to the veterans' population of Sacramento County. This vital segment of our population encompasses an ever increasing aging veterans' population composed of WWII and Korean War veterans and their survivors (confined in some cases to skilled nursing facilities and their own homes), Vietnam veterans, Persian Gulf veterans, Enduring Freedom & Iraqi Freedom veterans, peacetime veterans, and another viable segment of our veterans' population, homeless veterans. Veterans Services is also responsible for the screening of all veterans, their dependents, and survivors (by means of the State Mandated Welfare Referral Program) who have applied for public assistance programs (i.e., CalWORKS, County Medically Indigent Services, Food Stamps, General Assistance, and Medi-Cal), with priority given to those program referrals that have a direct impact on county costs.

Available benefits are primarily from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and are not limited to the following:

- Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service or while serving in the reserves. Disability compensation varies with the degree of the disability rating and the number of dependents. A veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Disability pension is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are found to be permanently and totally disabled based on disabilities not the result of their active military service (veterans aged 65 and over are deemed to be permanently and totally disabled for the purposes of this benefit). A veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have served 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, or discharged due to a service connected disability. The veteran must meet specified income and net worth thresholds.
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a monetary benefit paid to unmarried surviving spouses, children under 18, or between 18 and 23 if attending a VA approved school, and low-income parents of deceased veterans. To be eligible, the veteran must have died from 1.) A disease or injury incurred or aggravated while on active duty or active duty for training, 2.) An injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty while on inactive duty for training, or 3.) A disability compensable by the VA.

Death pension is a monetary benefit paid to unmarried surviving spouses, children under 18, or between 18 and 23 if attending a VA approved school, of deceased veterans who died from causes not the result of active military service. The veteran's active duty requirements are the same as those listed under disability pension and surviving spouses and children must also meet specific income and net worth thresholds.

- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment is an employment-oriented program that assists veterans with service-connected disabilities by offering them services and assistance to help them prepare for, find, and keep suitable employment. A veteran must have a VA established service connected disability rating of a least 10% with a serious employment handicap or 20% with an employment handicap. VA pays the cost of the services provided and pays a living allowance to veterans who participate in a training program.
- Aid & Attendance is a benefit paid in addition to monthly disability and death pension benefits when:
 - ✓ The veteran/surviving spouse requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment.
 - ✓ The veteran/surviving spouse is bedridden, in that his/her disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment.
 - ✓ The veteran/surviving spouse is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.
 - ✓ The veteran/surviving spouse is a patient in a nursing facility due to mental or physical incapacity. NOTE: 38 CFR 3.551 (i) limits to \$90.00 per month the amount of disability/death pension that can be paid to a veteran/surviving spouse with no dependents who is in a Medi-Cal approved nursing facility and is covered by a Medi-Cal plan for services furnished by the nursing facility. This statute also provides that no part of the \$90.00 VA disability/death pension benefit may be used to reduce the amount of Medi-Cal paid to a nursing facility.

Veterans Services is also mandated by the State Department of Veterans Affairs to administer and determine benefit entitlement under the College Fee Waiver Program For Veterans' Dependents. This program is afforded to spouses, unmarried surviving spouses, and children of service connected disabled or service related deceased veterans. Entitlement under this program means that an eligible dependent is not required to pay "Mandatory System wide" tuition and fees while attending either a California community college, a campus of the California State University (Cal State) system, or a campus of the University of California (UC) system. This program not only provides eligible dependents of veterans with the incentive, but also the opportunity to pursue their respective educational goals.