

WASECA COUNTY

Veterans Services

Ph: (507) 835-0680 Fax: (507) 835-0548



SURVIVOR'S PENSION BENEFIT FACT SHEET

Widows, children, and permanently handicapped adult children of War Time Veterans may be eligible to receive this benefit which is commonly known as WIDOWS DEATH PENSION.

The benefit has three rate plans:

1. Basic Rate: \$719 per month. Those eligible usually live alone, are able to go out and about, and can care for themselves. These people also have very low monthly income, or very high medical expenses.
2. House-Bound Rate: \$879 per month. Those eligible are substantially confined to their home or immediate premises because of a disability. These people may have lower monthly income, and medical expenses that are higher than those eligible for the basic rate. A physician's statement (on VA Form 21-2680) of limitations is required. Paid receipts of rent and services are also required.
3. Aid & Attendance Rate: \$1,150 per month. Those eligible are in a state of helplessness or are so nearly helpless as to require the regular aid and attendance of another person. These people are generally living at Assisted Living Centers with nursing services, or live in Nursing Homes with skilled nursing care. Physician's statement (on VA Form 21-2680) of limitations is required. Paid receipts of rent and services are also required.

Assets of the applicant cannot exceed \$80,000. This does not include the home, but would include rental houses, a second property such as a lake home, or farm land. An exception to the asset limit is available if an Irrevocable Trust has been established in which the applicant's assets have been placed and the applicant cannot liquidate those assets. These documents must be furnished to the VA.

Please bring the following documents that we may better understand your possible eligibility for this little-known benefit:

Amount and source of all income, statements for all financial accounts, stocks, bonds, and interest or farm rent received or expected to receive. Your Irrevocable Trust papers. Proof of medical expenses: health insurance, long term care insurance, doctor's bills, assisted living or nursing home payments, etc. We also need your bank account number and routing number for the application. Bring your marriage certificate, and birth certificate for any minor children, or birth certificate and guardianship papers for your adult handicapped child.