



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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DID YOU OR YOUR SPOUSE SERVE IN THE MILITARY?

The New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs thanks you for your military service. You may have earned certain State and/or Federal benefits as a result of your service. The information provided here briefly describes some of these benefits. Please contact a State Veterans' Benefits Counselor at 1-888-838-7697 for free advice and assistance.

Veterans Nursing Homes. New York State operates five skilled nursing facilities for Veterans and their family members. Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of at least 70% receive skilled nursing care in Veterans Homes for free. Other honorably discharged Veterans with at least 30 days active service, as well as their spouses, may obtain assistance (subject to bed availability) at Veterans Homes at a cost far below the average price of a private facility.

Federal Veterans Pension. Pensions are need-based benefits for wartime Veterans. To qualify, the Veteran's annual "countable" family income must fall below the yearly limit set by federal law. Veterans must have least 90 days of active duty, including one day during a wartime period. If the active duty occurred after September 7, 1980, you must have served at least 24 months or the full period that you were called up (with some exceptions) to be eligible for tax-free monetary benefits from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). Combat zone duty is not required. Unreimbursed medical expenses, such as nursing home expenses and Medicare premiums, can reduce the Veteran's "countable income" for pension eligibility purposes. The VA calculates the pension amount by subtracting the qualifying Veteran's annual "countable household income" from the Congressional income threshold.

Aid & Attendance "Special Pension". Veterans, or their surviving spouses, with disabilities requiring regular assistance in one or more activities of daily living (such as dressing, bathing, cooking, cleaning, medication monitoring, or other everyday tasks) may qualify for a higher level of tax-free pension benefits. The Veteran's disability does not need to be related to service. The Veteran or surviving spouse must first meet the requirements of a VA Pension (described above) to be eligible for Aid & Attendance.

Blind Annuity Program. Legally blind wartime Veterans and un-remarried surviving spouses of legally blind wartime Veterans are eligible for more than \$100 monthly payments from New York State.

Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids, And Medications. The VA may provide eyeglasses and hearing aids to Veterans whose vision or hearing impairment interferes with basic activities of daily living. The VA also provides hearing aid-related supplies, such as batteries, to Veterans qualifying for the hearing aid benefit.

Honorably discharged Veterans who served on active duty may be eligible to enroll in the VA's healthcare system, allowing them to receive free or low-cost health care benefits from the VA. Certain Veterans — including Veterans receiving VA pensions, Veterans eligible for Medicaid benefits, Veterans discharged from military service because of a disability, Veterans who received the Purple Heart, and Veterans with service-connected disabilities — may have co-payments waived for medical services.

For Veterans enrolled in the VA healthcare system, covered prescription drugs may be available at a reduced cost for each prescription. The VA maintains a National Formulary list describing these covered products. Veterans and their family members are encouraged to contact State Veterans' Benefits Counselors to assist in determining eligibility for this benefit.