

Medical Assistance (MA) [Chapter 600 Income Eligibility](#) >> [606 Types of Income](#) >> RRR Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits

## Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits

Policy
Definitions
Proof
Programs and Legal Authorities

### Policy

The Veterans Administration (VA) has numerous programs providing payments to veterans and their dependents. The most common types of VA payments are detailed in this section, but this list does not include all possible VA benefit types.

- E VA benefits are not the same as military retirement pay. See [MA606.TT](#) for military retirement pay.

For MAGI programs, VA benefits are excluded as income.

For the non-MAGI programs, how VA benefits are counted depends on the type of payment. See the table below for details:

If...	Then the treatment is...
VA Compensation	Counted as unearned income.
NOTE	Compensation payments made to a veteran, or the veteran's spouse or child are not based on need. Compensation payments made to the parents of a veteran based on a service-connected death are based on need.
Increase for dependents	Excluded as income to the veteran.  Counted as unearned income to the dependent when paid:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly to the veteran for a dependent who resides in the home with the veteran; or</li> <li>• By a separate check to the dependent (an apportionment)</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: When the customer is the dependent, the customer must ask that the VA pay the benefit directly to him or her..</p> <p>SEE <b>HOW TO CALCULATE A VA INCREASE FOR DEPENDENTS AND UNUSUAL MEDICAL EXPENSES</b> FOR INSTRUCTIONS.</p>
Increase for unusual medical expenses	Excluded  SEE <b>HOW TO CALCULATE A VA INCREASE FOR DEPENDENTS AND UNUSUAL MEDICAL EXPENSES</b> FOR INSTRUCTIONS.
VA Pension	Counted as unearned income.  NOTE: Most VA pension payments are based on need. However, VA pension payments paid due to a Medal of Honor or a special act of congress are not based on need.
VA Reduced Pension (\$90)	Excluded
Aid and Attendance and Housebound allowances	Excluded
VA Clothing allowance	Excluded

**Definitions**

Term	Definition
VA Aid and Attendance and Housebound Allowance	An allowance paid to veterans, spouses of disabled veterans and surviving spouses who are in regular need of the aid and attendance of another person or who are housebound. Increases in VA benefits for aid and attendance or housebound allowances are included in the pension or compensation payment.

VA Pension	Payments made on the basis of a combination of service and an age of 65 or over, a non service-connected disability or death.
VA Reduced Pension	<p>The Veteran's Administration may reduce the VA benefit to a maximum of \$90.00 per month for veterans or surviving spouses of veterans who meet all three of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resides in a certified nursing facility other than the Arizona State Veteran Home;</li> <li>• Is receiving ALTCS; and</li> <li>• Has no spouse or dependents.</li> </ul>
VA Clothing Allowance	A lump sum allowance is paid in August of each year to a veteran with a service-connected disability who uses a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance, including a wheelchair. The clothing allowance is intended to help pay the increased cost of clothing due to the wear and tear caused by the appliances.
VA Increase for Dependents	<p>A VA payment to a veteran or a veteran's surviving spouse that is increased because of a dependent. Pensions, compensation, and educational benefits can all be increased for dependents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An augmented benefit, which includes a portion for the dependent, is issued as part of the veteran's or surviving spouse's payment.</li> <li>• Payment of the dependent's portion by a separate check directly to the dependent is an apportionment.</li> </ul>
VA Increases for Unusual Medical Expenses	<p>The VA considers unusual medical expenses when determining some needs-based pension and compensation payments.</p> <p>Unusual medical expenses may result in a lump sum payment, an increase in the ongoing VA pension or compensation payment, or both.</p>

## Proof

Income is first obtained through the Federal and State Data Services Hubs. If needed, other proof includes:

Benefit pay stub benefit explanation if it lists the types of benefits included in the gross payment;

Letter form the VA;

A Request for Verification of VA Information (DE-210) form completed by the Veteran's Administration.

## Programs and Legal Authorities

This requirement applies to the following programs:

Program	Legal Authorities
ALTCS	42 USC 1382a(2)(B)
SSI-MAO	20 CFR 416.1103(b)(1)
Medicare Savings Program	20 CFR 416.1121(a)
Adult	41 CFR 435.603
Caretaker Relative	41 CFR 457.10, 300, 301 and 315
Pregnant Woman	
Child	
KidsCare	

