

Who is eligible for veterans benefits?

Veterans with low incomes may be eligible for monetary support if they 90 days or more of active duty, with at least one day of which was during a period of war.

Payments are made to qualified veterans to bring their income, including other retirement, including Social Security income, to a level set by congress. Unreimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income.

Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service.

Nursing care in VA or private nursing homes may be provided for veterans who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care. VA will provide nursing-home care to veterans whose service-connected disability requires such care and to veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 70% or more who need this type of care.

If a veteran has been receiving a pension to help with his nursing home expenses and the remainder of the expenses were paid from the veteran's savings. Once the veteran can no longer pay the total amount to stay private pay he applies for Medicaid at that time. His VA pension at that time will drop to \$90 a month, which he can use for his personal uses.

VA does not pay pensions to offset the veteran's care once the veteran is on Medicaid.

Veterans Health Benefits:

Veterans do not have to be wartime veterans' to receive health care however all veterans must be enrolled with the VA to be eligible. They may enroll at any time and they will be enrolled to the extent congressional appropriations allow. However if appropriations are limited enrollment will occur based on priorities.

Income Limits:

Income limits are \$80,000 for a VA pension not counting the home and automobile. Pension amounts can vary depending in the medical expenses.

How long can a veteran receive benefits?

Length of time a veteran can receive benefits depends on the type he is receiving. Medical there is no time limit, pensions again depends on income and compensation is permanent entitlement.

Iowa Veterans Home



Date: February 21, 2003
To/Office: Jennifer Vermeer, LFB
From/Office: Diana Steiner, Budget Analyst, IVH
Subject: HHS Subcommittee Agenda – Veterans/Medicaid Long-term Care

1. What types of benefits do the residents of the Iowa Veterans Home receive?

There are a variety of revenue sources that the residents receive directly:

- Service-connected disability compensation from the VA
- VA pension
- VA Aid & Attendance
- Social Security
- Retired Military pension from the Dept. of Defense
- Civil Service Annuity
- IPERS
- Railroad Retirement
- Numerous other annuities or pensions

2. What is the VA per diem reimbursement?

The Department of Veterans Affairs allows State Veterans Homes to bill a daily per diem rate for each day of care provided to our veteran population. The current VA daily per diem rate is \$24.40 for Domiciliary care and \$53.17 for Nursing home care. If a veteran is on Medicaid, this VA per diem is deducted prior to billing Medicaid, because it is considered "client participation."

3. How many of the residents also receive the veterans' benefit payments discussed above?

For the month of January 2003:

- 57 veterans and widowed spouses received \$88,318 for VA service-connected disability (\$1,549 average).
- 374 veterans and widowed spouses received \$280,640 for VA pension (a single veteran receives a maximum of \$807 and a widow a maximum of \$541).
- 358 veterans and widowed spouses received \$183,231 for VA Aid & Attendance (a veteran receives a maximum of \$540 and a widowed spouse a maximum of \$324).

4. Other information

IVH billed the VA for 2,322 days for Domiciliary care and 16,491 days for Nursing home care. IVH had 607 veterans and 79 widows/spouses for a total of 686 residents the last day of January 2003.

The Iowa Veterans Home also bills the VA for medications dispensed to veterans that receive Aid & Attendance. In January 2003, the Iowa Veterans Home billed the VA \$92,225.