

VA Disability Compensation

Disability compensation is a benefit paid to a veteran because of injuries or diseases that happened **while on active duty**, or were **made worse** by active military service. A disability can apply to **physical conditions**, such as a chronic knee condition, as well as a **mental health conditions**, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). It is also paid to certain veterans disabled from VA health care. The benefits are tax-free.

Who Is Eligible?

- Service on active duty
 - OR**
- Active duty for training (reservists or national guard)
 - OR**
- Inactive duty training (reserve drills)
 - AND**
- Discharged under “other than dishonorable” conditions
 - AND**
- At least 10% disabled by an injury or disease incurred during one of the above

How Much Does VA Pay?

The amount of basic benefit paid ranges, depending on how disabled you are.

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/rates-index.asp>

Presumed Disability

- Former prisoners of war
- Veterans who have certain chronic or tropical diseases that become evident within a specific period of time after discharge from service
- Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation, mustard gas, or Lewisite while in service
- Veterans who were exposed to certain herbicides, such as by serving in Vietnam
- Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War

Example 1 During a weekend drill, an Army Reservist injures her knee while participating in a physical training class. She is eligible for compensation for residuals of the knee injury.

Example 2 An individual enlisted in the U.S. Navy on June 10, 1988, and served for a period of 3 years. He was honorably discharged on June 9, 1991. During his active duty, he fell from a bunk and injured his back. Based on his active service, he is entitled to service-connected benefits for the residuals of his back injury.

VA Disability Compensation Rates for Veterans

Veteran's Disability Rating	Monthly Rate Paid to Veterans
10 percent	\$123
20 percent	\$243
30 percent*	\$376
40 percent*	\$541
50 percent*	\$770
60 percent*	\$974
70 percent*	\$1,228
80 percent*	\$1,427
90 percent*	\$1,604
100 percent*	\$2,673

Note: These rates are subject to change annually based upon current congressional authorization.

Who Qualifies for veterans Compensation?

Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange and Other Herbicides

14 illnesses are presumed by VA to be service-connected

Al amyloidosis

Chloracne or other acne form disease similar to chloracne

Porphyria cutanea tarda

Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma)

Hodgkin's disease

Multiple myeloma

Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea)

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

Prostate cancer

Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy

Diabetes mellitus (Type 2)

All chronic B-cell leukemias (including, but not limited to, hairy-cell leukemia and chronic lymphocytic leukemia)

Parkinson's disease

Ischemic heart disease.

Veterans Exposed to Radiation

Gulf War Veterans with Chronic Disabilities

Examples of symptoms of an undiagnosed illness and medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illness defined by a cluster of signs and symptoms include:

chronic fatigue syndrome

fibromyalgia

irritable bowel syndrome

fatigue

signs or symptoms involving the skin

skin disorders

headache

muscle pain

joint pain

neurological signs or symptoms

neuropsychological signs or symptoms

signs or symptoms involving the respiratory system (upper or lower)

sleep disturbances

gastrointestinal signs or symptoms

cardiovascular signs or symptoms

abnormal weight loss

menstrual disorders