

Help for Wartime Veterans

1. **Vietnam Veterans:** Veterans who have served in Vietnam may be eligible for free health care through the VA and due disability payments if they are having health complications linked to exposure to Agent Orange. Health conditions like leukemia, diabetes, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease have been linked to this herbicide.

More details are available at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures

2. **Non-Service Connected Pension:** Veterans who served during wartime may be eligible if:
 - a. He or she was discharged from service under conditions other than dishonorable, **AND**
 - b. He or she served at least 90 days of active military service 1 day of which was during a wartime period. If the person entered active duty after Sept 7, 1980, generally he/she must have served at least 24 months or the full period which called or ordered to active duty. *(There are exceptions to this rule.)* **AND**
 - c. The countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law. Currently it is \$985/month for single vets or \$1291 for married vets. **AND**
 - d. He or she is age 65 or older, **OR**, permanently and totally disabled, not due to own willful misconduct.

More details are available at: www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/pension/vetpen.htm

3. **Veteran's Death Benefit**
 - a. The deceased veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions **AND**
 - b. The deceased veteran served at least 90 days active military service **1 day** of which was during a war time period. If he or she entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally he or she must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. *(There are exceptions to this rule.)* **AND**
 - c. You are the surviving spouse or unmarried child of the deceased veteran, **AND**
 - d. The spouse or child has a countable income that is below the yearly limit set by law.

More details are available at: www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/pension/spousepen.htm - 4

4. Aid and Attendance: Veteran must meet eligibility and income requirements listed under Non-Service Connected Pension (# 2) and may be eligible for Aid and Attendance if:

- a. The veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment, **OR**,
- b. The veteran is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, **OR**,
- c. The veteran is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR**,
- d. The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less in both eyes.

More details are available at: www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/pension

5. Housebound Benefits: A veteran may be eligible for Housebound Benefits in addition to the Non-Service Connected Pension (# 2) if:

- a. The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling, **AND**,
- b. Due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, **BUT**,
- c. A veteran cannot receive both Aid and Attendance and Housebound Benefits at the same time.

For more information about VA benefits call the local county veterans counselor. Contact information can be found at: www.macvc.net/forum

OR

Contact the State U.P. Service Officers:

Pat Holcomb (906) 226-3576 extension 318 or
Shirley Rentschler (906) 774-3300 extension 34442

*The information listed may change at any time.
Please check with your local veterans benefit counselor for more details.*

U.P. Diabetes Outreach Network
Strengthening Diabetes Care & Prevention In Upper Michigan
Since 1985
(906) 228-9203
www.diabetesinmichigan.org

