



Compensation

A monthly payment made by the VA to a veteran because of a service-connected disability.

Three elements of Service Connection:

1. Current Disability (established by lay or medical evidence)
2. Event in Service (injury, exposure to toxic substance, noise, trauma)
3. Link between Current Disability and Event in Service, termed "Nexus"

The **PACT Act** is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) — a monthly tax-free benefit paid to a surviving spouse, including additional payments for dependent children. Parents' DIC is paid to surviving parents based on financial need.

You may be eligible for DIC benefits if you are a surviving spouse, dependent child, or parent of a:

- Servicemember who died while on active duty or training, OR
- Veteran who died as a result of a service-related disability, OR*
- Veteran who was receiving or entitled to receive VA compensation for a service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling: › for at least 10 years immediately preceding death, OR*
- 5 years since the Veteran's release from active duty.

Veteran Pension

Pension is a needs-based benefit program for wartime Veterans, who are age 65 or older or have a permanent and total non-service-connected disability, and who have limited income and net worth.

Survivors' Pension — a monthly income-based benefit payable to a surviving spouse and/or child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service

- Wartime service – served at least one day during a period of war
- Countable income
 - Minus unreimbursed medical expenses
- Net worth