

**VA****U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Veterans Benefits Administration

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## Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

### What is Parents' DIC?

#### [DIC for spouses, dependent, and parents](#)

Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a need-based benefit paid to the parents of a military Servicemember or Veteran who died from one of the following:

- A disease or injury acquired or worsened while on active duty or active duty for training.
- An injury acquired or worsened in the line of duty, or certain diseases acquired while on inactive duty for training.
- A service-connected disability.

The Veteran must have received an "other than dishonorable" discharge. Parents do not need to be financially dependent on the Veteran or Servicemember to be eligible for this benefit.

### Who are eligible parents?

The term "parent" includes biological, adoptive, and foster parents.

### How much does VA pay?

#### The Parents' DIC rate charts

([http://www.benefits.va.gov/Pension/current\\_rates\\_Parents\\_DIC\\_pen.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/Pension/current_rates_Parents_DIC_pen.asp)) provide current and past rates. You can also learn how to determine the monthly payment on the webpage.

VA rates for recipients of Parents' DIC are based on countable incomes. When a parent's countable income is more than the legal limit, VA pays no benefit. Eligible parents must report all sources of income to VA. This includes wages, retirement payments, insurance proceeds or annuity payment, interest and dividends.

VA deducts certain expenses you pay from your household income. This decreases your countable income and increases your monthly Parents' DIC payment. Find a complete list of eligible expenses in the Code of Federal Regulations, sections 3.261 and 3.262 of Title 38, located at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=60a4d32d8dc1ba66fef8e80bb5903c04&node=pt38.1.3&rgn=div5>.

### **How can you apply?**

Apply for Parents' DIC at <https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/> by completing [VA Form 21P-535](#), "Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s)" located at [www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-535-ARE.pdf](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-535-ARE.pdf).

Documents may be submitted by mail, in person at a VA regional office or electronically. However, VA recommends submitting correspondence electronically as this is the fastest method of receipt.

VA provides several tools to assist in electronic submission. To learn more about how to submit documents and claims electronically, visit [www.va.gov/disability/upload-supporting-evidence](http://www.va.gov/disability/upload-supporting-evidence). You can also go directly to [access.va.gov](http://access.va.gov) to digitally upload any correspondence using Direct Upload.

By visiting [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) you can also check your claim status and learn about other VA benefits. If you need assistance, you can find a local, accredited representative at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/>

Bring your application to a VA regional office near you. Find a VA regional office near you at [Find VA Locations | Veterans Affairs](#)

If you prefer to mail your correspondence, please use the related mailing address below:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Pension Intake Center  
P.O. Box 5365  
Janesville, WI 53547-5365

For survivor benefits information visit the web pages listed above or call 1-800-827-1000.