



## **VETERANS AID AND ATTENDANCE PROGRAM**

### **What is it?**

A financial assistance program to assist Veterans and surviving spouses help pay for Home Care Services. These services would be provided by Family First Home Companions.

### **What kind of services does the program help pay for?**

The financial assistance is available to help pay for non-medical services such as light housekeeping, meal preparation, transportation services (to doctor's appointments, etc.), grocery shopping, and assistance with pets, medication reminders, and many more activities of daily living. It also will help pay for adult day care programs, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.

### **How does a Veteran or a surviving spouse obtain the pension benefit?**

The first step is to apply. The information in the application is sent to the VA to be reviewed for qualification. Eligibility is based on service during a declared period of war, income limitations, liquid assets and diagnosis by a physician that assistance and care is needed.

### **What are the declared periods of war?**

WWI	April 16, 1917 through November 11, 1918
WWII	December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946
Korea	June 27, 1951 through January 31, 1955
Vietnam	August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975
Gulf War	August 2, 1990 through a date to be set by law

### **Is there a cost to apply for this benefit?**

No, there is no cost whatsoever to apply. That is what makes this program worth the while.

### **What is needed to apply?**

- A copy of the Veteran's Military discharge papers. If discharge papers are unavailable, a copy of VA form 180 completed and signed.
- A voided check or blank deposit ticket.
- Financial information including gross monthly income received from Social Security, pension, IRA or Annuity, Investment interest. Liquid asset information including total bank balances, stock and bond balances, and mutual fund balances.
- All un-reimbursed monthly medical expenses such as medical insurance premiums, long term care premiums, diabetic/incontinence supply, and any other medical related expenses.
- A signed release form giving consent to release and disclose health information.

### **Can a Veteran or surviving spouse apply on his or her own?**

Yes, however, many veterans and their surviving spouses have experienced the frustration and lack of quick response from the Veterans Administration. This happens because the application is incomplete, does not qualify as submitted, lacks critical documentation, or has confusing and contradictory information to support a positive determination. The application may then sit for extended periods while waiting for the required or corrected items. *Or, it is just simply denied.*

### **[Helpful services with applying for the Aid and Attendance Program:](#)**

[www.veteranaid.org](http://www.veteranaid.org) – Can download the application and read helpful tips for completing it.

Long Island Senior Education Council – located in Brightwaters, NY the Long Island Senior Education Council offers free assistance with applying for the veterans aide and attendance program. You can contact them at 631-665-7057 or visit their website [www.lisenioreducation.org](http://www.lisenioreducation.org).