

# War Veterans Allowance



Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) provides monthly financial assistance through the War Veterans Allowance (WVA) to qualified low-income Veterans or civilians to help meet their basic needs. The amount of the WVA provided is based on income, marital status, and if the Veteran has any dependants.

## Who qualifies for the War Veterans Allowance?

You may qualify for the WVA if you live in Canada, your income is below the level established for this program, and you are:

- a Veteran of the Second World War or the Korean War; or
- an eligible **civilian** who served during the Second World War or the Korean War.

**Allied Veterans** must also meet residency requirements to receive the WVA. In order to qualify as an Allied Veteran, you must have lived in Canada prior to your enlistment **or** you must have lived in Canada for a total of 10 years (does not have to be consecutive) since your service with an Allied Force.

## How to apply

The staff at any VAC office can assist you. To find the office nearest you or to learn more about this and other benefits, visit us online at [veterans.gc.ca](http://veterans.gc.ca) or call us at **1-866-522-2122**.

## Important information

- The WVA is an **income-tested benefit**, and most regular income must be considered, including a VAC disability pension and Old Age Security. Income is assessed using the same standard as the one used for the Guaranteed Income Supplement.
- **Annual income exemptions** are available for some casual earnings and interest, and will be considered at the time of your assessment.
- The benefit is adjusted quarterly in accordance with the consumer price index to protect you against the effects of inflation.
- If you qualify for the WVA, you may also be eligible for other VAC services, including health care benefits, long term care, and the Veterans Independence Program.
- Surviving spouses, common-law partners and dependent children can continue to receive the WVA after the qualified Veteran has passed away.

## Key terms

**Civilian** refers to individuals who served in support of the military during wartime, such as civilian air crew members, fire fighters, overseas welfare workers, etc.

For more information:

**[veterans.gc.ca](http://veterans.gc.ca)**

**1 866 522-2122**

This is one in a series of program fact sheets available through the Publications Hub on the VAC Website.



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