

Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

What Is Parents' DIC?

Parents' DIC is an income-based monthly benefit for the parent(s) of a military service member or veteran (hereafter referred to as "veteran") who died from

- a disease or injury incurred or aggravated while on active duty or active duty for training, OR
- an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty, or certain diseases while on inactive duty training, OR
- a service-connected disability.

Who Are Eligible Parents?

The term "parent" includes biological, adoptive, and foster parents. A foster parent is a person who stood in the relationship of a parent to the veteran for at least one year before the veteran's last entry into active service.

How Much Does VA Pay?

The following are the *maximum* annual rates paid. Rates are reduced based on the countable income of the parent or parents:

Sole Surviving Parent Living or Not Living With a Spouse	\$6,828
<i>with Aid & Attendance Allowance (A&A)</i>	\$10,524
One of Two Parents Not Living With a Spouse	\$4,944
<i>with A&A</i>	\$8,640
One of Two Parents Living With a Spouse or Other Parent	\$4,644
<i>with A&A</i>	\$8,340

Note: Benefit rates are effective December 1, 2008. Rates change annually.

Why Is Parents' DIC an "Income Based" Benefit?

Eligibility to Parents' DIC is based on need. When countable income exceeds the limit set by law, no benefit is payable. Eligible parents must report all sources of income to VA; for example, gross wages, retirement annuity, insurance proceeds or annuity, interest, and dividends. The spouse's income must also be included if living with a spouse. A spouse may be the other parent of the deceased veteran, or from remarriage. The following are the current income limits:

Sole Surviving Parent, or One of Two Parents Not Living With a Spouse	\$13,456
Sole Surviving Parent Living with a Spouse, or One of Two Parents Living With a Spouse	\$18,087

Note: Income limits are effective December 1, 2008. Limits change annually.

Can Parents' Countable Income Be Reduced?

Yes. Unusual medical expenses may be used to reduce countable income. They are amounts actually paid by parents during the calendar year for medical expenses for themselves and for relatives they are under an obligation to support, for which they are not reimbursed by insurance. In computing the parents' income, VA will deduct the amount the parents paid for medical expenses, if found qualified, by use of a formula provided by law.

How Can You Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-535 *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s)*. Call the toll-free number below for information about supporting materials that VA may need to process your claim.

**For More Information, Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000
or Visit Our Web Site at www.va.gov.**