

Lunch & Learn

March 18, 2025
Aging Veteran Benefits
and Resources

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**Department of
Health and Human Services**
Disability, Aging and Veteran Services



Disability, Aging and Veteran Services (DAVS)

- Support for family caregivers, assistance with Medicare, access to benefits for those with low income, and support for seniors to navigate and access services.
- Veteran Service Officers (VSO) help veterans and their families apply for federal benefits related to their service.
- VSOs represent veterans and their families on VA claims and represent on appeals as needed.

How can
Washington
County
help?

The background of the slide features a series of thin, curved lines in shades of gray, creating a sense of motion and depth. These lines are more prominent on the left side and fade towards the right.

A glimpse of VA aging benefits

- Pension
 - Non-service-connected pension
 - Basic, Housebound and Aid and Attendance
 - Widow pension and Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Other VA aging benefits
 - Caregiver support
 - Burial benefits

What is a VA pension?

Pension

- Financial benefit for wartime veterans or their widow(er) who are low income or with substantial monthly medical expenses

Types of Pension

- Based on level of care needs and include:
 - Basic – the veteran, spouse or widow(er) does not need any help from someone else for their activities of daily living
 - Housebound – the veteran or spouse needs help from someone else to leave the home
 - Aid and Attendance – the veteran or spouse needs help from someone else with their care activities.

What are VA Pension Eligibility Requirements?

- Wartime service
- Permanently and totally disabled or 65 years old or more
- Meets the net worth requirement not including home (for 2025, this is \$159,240)
 - Under annual income limit, which is a complicated equation including gross income, eligible care expenses and the current income limit.

What about aging widow benefits?

- **DIC**

- A program where the widow(er) receives income from the VA regardless of their income, assets or medical care expenses when the VA determines the veteran's death is related to service

- **Burial Benefits**

- Cemetery services
- Burials
- Headstones markers and medallions
- Presidential Memorial Certificates
- Cemeteries
- Burial flags and allowance

VA Health Care & Caregiver Support

- **The VA offers geriatric and extended care to a veteran who is:**
 - Enrolled in VA health care.
 - Service-connected at any percentage (additional qualification apply)
 - <https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/>
- **Programs include:**
 - Homemaker and Home Health
 - Skilled Home Health Care
 - Veteran-Directed Care
 - Respite Care
 - [https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/pages/Home and Community Based Services.asp](https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/pages/Home_and_Community_Based_Services.asp)

VA Health Care & Caregiver Support

- **VA Caregiver Support Program**
 - Offers clinical services to caregivers of eligible and covered veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. The program's mission is to promote the health and well-being of family caregivers who care for our nation's veterans through education, resources, support and services.
 - Program General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS)
 - Program Comprehensive Assistance Family Caregivers (PCAFC)
 - <http://www.caregiver.va.gov>

Aging & Disability Resource Connection



- Information and referral to local services and programs that support older adults and people with disabilities
- Assistance is available online or by calling/visiting your local ADRC office
- www.adrcoforegon.org
- 1-855-673-2372 or 503-846-3060

Medicare
(SHIBA)

Application
Assistance

Options
Counseling

Family
Caregiver
Support

Additional
Aging Services

Oregon Project Independence

- In-home services program offered by the county
- Limited to 15-20 hours per month of caregiving
- Pay-in based on a sliding scale
- Requires a hands-on care need
- *Waitlist may apply*

- More comprehensive state program
- Hours allotted based on personal needs assessment
- Financial limits apply
- Requires a hands-on care need
- Can transition to facility-based care

Medicaid Long-Term Supports & Services

Hiring Caregivers

In-home care agencies

- www.retirementconnection.com

Independent homecare workers

- www.or-hcc.org

Consider backup plan, hourly rates, hiring/managing



**Department of
Health and Human Services**
Disability, Aging and Veteran Services

To connect with a Veteran Service Officer (VSO),
call 503-846-3060.

Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services
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