

How do I know what I am eligible for?

A good place to start is to take the interactive quiz at www.TexasVeteransCommission.org which will provide a customized benefits list for you. It's important to know that benefit eligibility requirements are general and there may be additional factors that affect eligibility. Also, each case is unique and fortunately there are exceptions for every rule. Finally, completing forms completely and correctly will affect the outcome of your request.

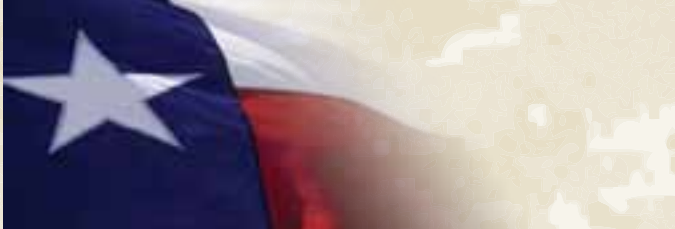
Texas Veterans Commission claims counselors are experts who can review your specific situation, help determine your eligibility, and assist you in completing any paperwork to get the best results possible. All services are free.

How do I get started?

Go to www.TexasVeteransCommission.org to learn more about your benefits and find the claims office closest to you. Our offices are located in VA facilities. Ask to talk to the Texas Veterans Commission counselor.



**TEXAS VETERANS
COMMISSION**



FEDERAL BENEFITS

The Texas Veterans Commission is a State agency created to serve Texas Veterans, their dependents or survivors in all matters pertaining to veterans benefits and rights.

Over 250 skilled counselors in 75 cities provide one-on-one guidance to Veterans and their families to ensure they get the maximum benefits they have earned.

Assistance is provided to Veterans in obtaining state and federal benefits such as disability compensation, pension, employment, education and training.

For information about how the Texas Veterans Commission can help you and your family go to www.TexasVeteransCommission.org.

Contact Information

State Headquarters

PO Box 12277
Austin, Texas 78711-2277
(512) 463-5538
info@tvc.state.tx.us

Claims Representation & Counseling

(512) 463-6564
info@tvc.state.tx.us

Veterans Employment Services

(512) 463-5538
VetJobs@tvc.state.tx.us

Veterans Education Program

Toll Free: 877-898-3833
Local: (512) 463-3168
VetsEd@tvc.state.tx.us

Fund for Veterans' Assistance

(512) 463-6564
grants@tvc.state.tx.us



**TEXAS VETERANS
COMMISSION**

***Benefits & Services
for Veterans,
Dependents & Survivors***

Federal Service-Connected Disability Benefits

As the State of Texas agency designated to represent its Veterans before the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Texas Veterans Commission is nationally recognized for its expertise in helping Veterans get the most benefits they are entitled to.

We are not the VA. However, we have more than 75 claims counselors across the state located in VA facilities that provide one-on-one assistance to Veterans and their families during every aspect of the VA claims process. This includes the initial filing of a claim; compiling additional evidence or documentation required by VA; appealing a VA decision; and if necessary, providing representation at a VA hearing.

Overview

- Many Veterans do not realize that they may qualify for monthly payments from \$123 to \$2,673 because of current health conditions that can be traced back to their military service. The VA calls these health conditions Service-Connected Disabilities.
- Combat experience is not required for a service-connected disability rating or compensation.
- Service-connected disabilities are rated from 0% to 100%. Compensation amounts are based on the rating and number of Veteran’s dependents.
- VA compensation is not subject to Federal or State taxes.
- VA will consider all disabilities diagnosed and treated during military service when such disabilities are included within the claim.
- If service-connected disabilities rated at 60%-90% cause unemployability, the Veteran may be paid at the 100% rate by VA.
- Filing a claim and establishing service-connected disabilities provides certain advantages in obtaining medical care at VA expense.
- Texas and many other states have special programs and benefits for Veterans with service-connected disabilities.

- Most claim payments start to accrue within a month from the day you file, no matter how long it takes to get the claim settled. Start the process today.

2009 VA Disability Compensation Rates	
Rating	Monthly Rate Paid
10 percent*	\$123
20 percent*	\$243
30 percent*	\$376
40 percent*	\$541
50 percent*	\$770
60 percent*	\$974
70 percent*	\$1,228
80 percent*	\$1,427
90 percent*	\$1,604
100 percent*	\$2,673
* Additional compensation may be available based on rating and number of Veteran’s dependents.	

- ## What Benefits are available?
- Eligibility for treatment of nonservice-connected disabilities on a space-available basis at VA hospitals and clinics. (A co-payment may be required).
 - Treatment of all nonservice-connected disabilities without charge if rated 50% or more for service-connected disabilities except for dental.
 - VA may pay for emergency hospitalization in private facilities for service-connected disabilities if VA facilities are not available. The VA medical facility that has jurisdiction must be notified within 72 hours of admission to the private facility.
 - If the Veteran resides in an area that is a long distance from a VA medical facility, VA may pay for outpatient medical treatment from private doctors for any service-connected disability and for all disabilities except dental if the Veteran is rated 50% or more for service-connected disabilities.
 - VA furnishes, free of charge, most medicines required for treatment of service-connected disabilities and for all disabilities if the Veteran is rated 50% or more for service-connected disabilities.
 - Prosthetic appliances and services are available at VA expense for eligible Veterans.
 - If a Veteran is hospitalized in excess of 21 days or convalescent for one month or more for service-connected disabilities, he/she is entitled to a temporary 100% rating during that period.
 - VA pays an annual clothing allowance to Veterans whose prosthetic devices for service-connected disabilities tend to wear or tear their clothing. Also the allowance is available to any Veteran whose service-connected skin condition requires prescribed medication that irreparably damages the Veteran's outer garments.
 - A service-connected disability rating provides preference points for Federal employment under certain conditions.
 - Educational benefits are available to the spouse and other dependents of permanent 100% service-connected Veterans, of Veterans who die from service-connected disabilities and of members whose active duty deaths are incurred in line of duty.
 - Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) may be awarded to dependents (to include financially dependent parents) of a Veteran who dies as the result of a service-connected disability, regardless of the rating percentage.
 - DIC may be payable, regardless of the cause of the Veteran’s death, to eligible survivors of Veterans rated totally disabled from service-connected disabilities depending on the length of time the Veteran was service-connected preceding death.
 - A Veteran with a service-connected disability may be eligible for a maximum of \$30,000 of National Service Life Insurance (RH).
 - Premiums for most government insurance (NSLI) may be waived by VA Insurance Center if the Veteran is considered rated 100% service-connected and this condition has existed six months or more prior to the Veteran’s 65th birthday.
 - Veterans rated 10% or more service-connected and in need of training may apply for Vocational Rehabilitation Training (Chapter 31).
 - Outpatient dental care is authorized for Veterans rated 100% service-connected, including those rated 100% due to unemployability.
 - Veterans with a permanent 100% service-connected rating and their dependents are eligible for Military ID cards (Commissary and Exchange privileges). Dependents may also be eligible for CHAMPVA insurance as well.
 - Payment of burial benefits are available if the Veteran was entitled to VA compensation or pension at the time of death or dies in a VA hospital.
 - VA Home Loan fee amount is waived for Veterans rated 10% or more for service-connected disabilities.