



# Veteran Survivor Benefits: A Guide for Surviving Spouses

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[Presented by VAST Solutions](#)

## Overview

This guide outlines benefits available to surviving spouses of veterans, including financial support, healthcare, education, and more. Each section includes a brief explanation and a link to learn more or apply. A full Survivors Benefits Handbook is available from the VA's Office of Survivors Assistance - <https://www.va.gov/survivors/>

## 1. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

- **What It Is:** A tax-free monthly benefit for surviving spouses of veterans who died due to a service-connected condition or while on active duty.

- **Eligibility:** Must have been married to the veteran at the time of their death and meet specific criteria.

**Learn More:** VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) - <https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation>

## 2. Survivors Pension

- **What It Is:** A needs-based benefit for low-income surviving spouses of wartime veterans.

- **Eligibility:** Must meet income and asset requirements and remain unmarried after the veteran's death.

**Learn More:** VA Survivors Pension - <https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension>

## 3. Education Benefits

- **Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA):** Offers up to 36 months of education benefits for college, training, or certification programs. Learn More: <https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance>

## 4. Home Loan Benefits

- **What It Is:** VA-backed home loans with no down payment and competitive interest rates.

- **Eligibility:** Available to surviving spouses receiving DIC or whose veteran spouse died from a service-connected disability.

**Learn More:** VA Home Loan Benefits for Surviving Spouses - <https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/surviving-spouse>

## 5. Healthcare Benefits (CHAMPVA)

- **What It Is:** Health insurance coverage for surviving spouses who are not eligible for TRICARE.

**Learn More:** VA CHAMPVA Program - <https://www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/champva>

## 6. Burial and Memorial Benefits

- **What It Is:** Includes burial in a VA national cemetery, a headstone or marker, and a burial allowance for funeral costs.

**Learn More:** VA Burial and Memorial Benefits - <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials>

## 7. Commissary and Exchange Privileges

- **What It Is:** Access to military base shopping facilities for unremarried surviving spouses.

**Learn More:** Commissary and Exchange Privileges Eligibility - <https://www.va.gov/resources/commissary-and-exchange-privileges>

## 8. Social Security Survivor Benefits

- **What It Is:** Monthly benefits for surviving spouses, based on the veteran's work history.

**Learn More:** Social Security Survivor Benefits - <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors>

## How to Apply

Visit VA.gov or contact your local VA office for help with applications and eligibility verification. You can also reach out to Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) like the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, or American Legion for guidance.

## Questions?

For further assistance, feel free to reach out to VAST Solutions: [contact@VastSolutions.VET](mailto:contact@VastSolutions.VET)

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