

# 2026 VETERANS BENEFITS ROADMAP

Your Guide to Securing Home Care & Pension Benefits

This roadmap outlines the essential steps for Veterans and surviving spouses to access VA-funded home care services and financial assistance programs available in 2026.

## Major Benefit Pathways

### Aid & Attendance

A tax-free pension for those requiring help with "Activities of Daily Living" (ADLs). Best for Private Pay home care.

### Community Care (CCN)

VA-funded home health aide hours. Directed by your VA Primary Care Physician. No out-of-pocket cost for eligible vets.

### Homemaker Program

Case-managed support focusing on errands, meal prep, and light housekeeping to keep veterans independent at home.

## The 5-Step Application Process

1

### Confirm Service Eligibility

Ensure the Veteran served at least 90 days of active duty, with at least one day during a wartime period (as defined by the VA).

2

### Establish Medical Necessity

Obtain a physician's statement (VA Form 21-2680) documenting the need for assistance with ADLs (bathing, dressing, mobility).

3

## Gather Documentation

Collect DD-214 discharge papers, marriage certificates, and medical records. See the checklist below for details.

4

## Submit to the Pension Management Center

File your claim via the VA's Evidence-Based Direct Upload or through an accredited VSO (Veterans Service Officer).

5

## Select an Approved Provider

Partner with an agency registered in the VA Community Care Network to begin your home care services.

## Required Document Checklist

- Copy of DD-214 (Military Discharge Papers)
- VA Form 21-2680 (Examination for Housebound or Aid & Attendance)
- Documentation of recurring medical expenses
- Current Social Security award letter
- Marriage Certificate (if applying as a surviving spouse)
- Valid Photo ID (Driver's License or Passport)

**Need help navigating the red tape? Contact our Veterans Liaison for a free consultation.**