



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

Special Monthly Compensation

Can a Veteran receive additional payments for serious disabilities?

VA can pay more compensation to a Veteran who lost, or lost the use of, specific organs or body parts due to military service.

What is considered loss or loss of use?

Loss, or loss of use, means amputation or no effective remaining function of an extremity or organ. VA considers the following disabilities for Special Monthly Compensation (SMC):

- Loss, or loss of use, of a hand or foot
- Immobility of a joint
- Paralysis
- Loss of sight of an eye (only seeing light)
- Loss, or loss of use, of a reproductive organ
- Complete loss, or loss of use, of both buttocks
- Deafness of both ears (no air and bone conduction)
- Inability to communicate by speech (complete organic aphonia)
- Loss of a percentage of tissue from a single breast, or both breasts, from mastectomy or radiation treatment

What if I have a combination of these disabilities?

The VA will pay higher rates, in specific monetary increments, if you have more than one of these disabilities. For example, if you have loss, or loss of use, of your feet, legs, hands and arms, you will receive more compensation based on your specific combination of disabilities. There are also higher payments for various combinations of severe deafness with blindness in both eyes.

You can receive more SMC if you are service-connected for paraplegia, with complete loss of bowel and bladder control.

If you have other service-connected disabilities that, when combined with any of the above, meet certain criteria, you may also receive a higher amount of SMC.

Can VA Pay SMC for being bedridden, housebound, or in need of the aid and attendance of another person?

If a Veteran is service-connected at the 100 percent rate, and meets one of the following criteria, additional SMC payment can be considered:

- Housebound
- Bedridden
- Requires the aid and attendance of another person

The amount of SMC varies depending on the level of disability.

How can you apply for SMC?

Contact your local VA regional benefit office for information about applying for SMC.

You can locate your nearest regional benefit office at

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>. The VA must review related medical evidence to determine eligibility and make a decision regarding the level of SMC.

We also encourage you to work with an accredited representative. To search and appoint an accredited representative, go to <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/manage/representative>.