

## **Veterans' Benefit Programs—CBO's January 2019 Baseline**

### **Disability Compensation**

The Department of Veterans Affairs' disability compensation program pays monthly benefits to veterans who have a disability resulting from a medical condition or an injury incurred or aggravated while on active military duty. In some cases, the program also pays benefits to surviving spouses and dependents of totally disabled veterans. For compensable service-connected disabilities, which can consist of one or more physical and mental health conditions, disability payments typically continue until death. Benefit amounts are based on percentage ratings for cumulative disabilities. Compensation is not means-tested, but additional benefits may be available to veterans whose disabilities prevent them from working.

### **Pensions**

The Department of Veterans Affairs' pension program pays monthly benefits to certain low-income veterans and their surviving spouses and dependents. Eligibility for veterans under the age of 65 is based on wartime active-duty service (typically of at least 90 days' duration), total and permanent disability, and countable income below an established amount. Pension benefits are available to veterans over age 65, regardless of disability status, who meet the other requirements. The monthly benefit is based on a maximum annual benefit, which is reduced by a veteran's countable income. Veterans with service-connected disabilities may receive the greater of the pension benefit or the disability compensation benefit, but not both.

**Veterans' Benefit Programs—CBO's January 2019 Baseline**  
By Fiscal Year

January 28, 2019

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
<b><u>Disability Compensation</u></b>											
<b>Veterans</b>											
Number (Thousands)	4,895	5,007	5,092	5,165	5,236	5,305	5,372	5,438	5,502	5,564	5,625
Average Annual Benefit (Dollars)	17,364	17,904	18,133	20,141	19,117	17,947	19,989	20,454	20,926	23,196	20,131
Total Outlays for Veterans (Millions of dollars)	84,988	89,646	92,332	104,021	100,087	95,204	107,382	111,224	115,128	129,072	113,240
<b>Survivors</b>											
Number (Thousands)	434	445	456	468	480	492	504	517	530	544	558
Average Annual Benefit (Dollars)	16,783	17,281	17,712	19,692	18,706	17,562	19,540	19,994	20,454	22,675	19,699
Total Outlays for Survivors (Millions of dollars)	7,280	7,686	8,078	9,210	8,971	8,637	9,854	10,340	10,847	12,331	10,985
<b>Total Outlays for Disability Compensation</b>											
Total Outlays (Millions of dollars)	92,268	97,332	100,411	113,231	109,058	103,840	117,236	121,564	125,975	141,402	124,225
<b><u>Pensions</u></b>											
<b>Veterans</b>											
Number (Thousands)	252	243	235	228	220	213	206	200	193	187	181
Average Annual Benefit (Dollars)	13,417	13,201	13,530	15,037	14,222	13,351	14,926	15,273	15,625	17,315	16,628
Total Outlays for Veterans (Millions of dollars)	3,375	3,213	3,185	3,425	3,134	2,847	3,079	3,049	3,018	3,236	3,008
<b>Survivors</b>											
Number (Thousands)	190	187	185	182	180	178	175	173	171	169	167
Average Annual Benefit (Dollars)	8,844	9,855	10,101	11,227	10,634	9,983	11,142	11,400	11,662	12,926	12,547
Total Outlays for Survivors (Millions of dollars)	1,680	1,846	1,865	2,046	1,912	1,773	1,954	1,975	1,996	2,187	2,099
<b>Total Outlays for Veterans Pensions</b>											
Total Outlays (Millions of Dollars)	5,055	5,058	5,051	5,470	5,046	4,619	5,033	5,024	5,014	5,423	5,106

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.