



Community Services Department  
Community Assistance Division

Veterans' Services Office  
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Seminole County

# Veterans' Services Office

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# Department of Veterans Affairs

“The State of Florida has the fastest growing elderly veteran population in the country.”

Congresswoman Corrine Brown, December 27, 2010

# Overview

- Estimated 38,717 Veterans in Seminole County
- 3,282 military retirees in Seminole County
- \$121,879,000 (million) per year in VA benefits for Seminole County residents
- 40% of veterans enrolled in VA Health Care in Florida are **age 65 or older**
- VA Regional Office in Florida received 70,000 claims last fiscal year with an expected 17% increase for this year
- We are averaging over 1300 client contacts a month
- We have two (2) counselors!

# Specific VA Benefits

- Disability Benefits
- Medical Benefits
- Burial

# Disability Benefits

- Service Connected Compensation
- Non-Service Connection Pension
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation  
(DIC)
- No Benefits for Ex-spouses (Divorcees)

# Service Connection

## Not Income-based

- Disability Due to Military Service
  - Direct
    - Incurred as a result of active duty military service
    - Presumptives

# Non-service Connected Pension Income-based

- 3 ways to use
- Veterans-Widows-Widowers
- Basic Pension – no disability requirement if over age 65
- Served During War-time Era
- Minimum military service
- Other Than Dishonorable Discharge
- Used one of three ways
- No Benefits for Ex-spouses (Divorcees)



# Non-service Connected Pension Income-based

	Veteran, Single	Veteran, Married	Serving Spouse
Annual Income Must Be Less Than . . .			
Basic Pension	\$11,830	\$15,493	\$7,933
With Housebound	\$14,457	\$18,120	\$9,696
With Aid & Attendance	\$19,736	\$23,396	\$12,681
Unreimbursed medical expenses paid by the claimant may be used to reduce countable income.			

# Non-service Connected Pension Income-based

## Net Worth

- ***All income must be reported***
- Bank accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities, trusts and any property other than the claimant's residence and a reasonable lot area
- Must disclose the transfer of assets, even if the transaction occurred prior to applying

# Non-service Connected Pension Income-based

## Net Worth

- No set limit to income, but net worth cannot be excessive
- Excessive net worth is determined on the facts of each individual case
- Not intended to protect substantial assets or build up an estate for the benefit of heirs
- Hiding income can result in a HUGE overpayment

# Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

- Not Income-based
- Benefit for Spouses and Children of Deceased  
Veteran

# Medical Care

- For veterans only (dependents ineligible except those eligible for CHAMPVA health insurance)
- Not Health Insurance
- Medical and/or Prescription Co-pays may apply
- Eye Glasses/Hearing Aids
- Medical Equipment
- Skilled Nursing Facility
- See Handout for Eligibility Guidelines

# Burial Benefits

- Burial in a National Cemetery
- Headstone/Marker
- United States Flag
- Burial Allowance
- Presidential Memorial Certificate

# Department of Veterans' Affairs

## Processing Centers

Pension and DIC Claims	Service Connected Claims	
<p>Department of Veterans' Affairs            Pension Management Center            Post Office Box 42000            Philadelphia, PA 19101-2000            1-877-294-6380            Fax: (215) 381-3777</p>	<p>Department of Veterans' Affairs            Post Office Box 1437            St. Petersburg, FL 33731-1437            1-800-827-1000            Fax: (727) 319-7752</p>	<p>Department of Veterans' Affairs            Orlando Mini Service Center            1000 Legion Place            Suite 1550            Orlando, FL 32801-1058            (407) 835-5550            Fax: (407) 835-5560</p>

# Final Two Thoughts

- Medicaid vs Pension
- Veterans



# Medicaid vs Pension

- Differences
- Can they be used together
- Medicaid is paid through the State
- VA is paid with Federal dollars

# SCVSO Mantra

- If you know a Veteran, shake their hand and thank them for their service
- If you are a Veteran, we as individuals and as a country owe you a debt of gratitude