

**THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REPORTING INFORMATION SYSTEM  
[PARIS]**



<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/paris/index.html>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services operates PARIS and provides the data file transfers and matching report free to all participating states. The system matches those individuals receiving state/public assistance to other state and federal databases using as a primary key the individuals Social Security numbers on a quarterly and annual basis to identify duplication of public assistance benefits (state to state) or notes new or updated information on available medical coverage. This guide is intended to assist states to effectively begin maximizing the file data provided by PARIS.

The three databases used are:

- I. Interstate match: identifies an individual concurrently collecting benefits in more than one state
- II. Federal (Department of Defense) match: identifies if the individual is a former federal or military employee collecting a retirement pension benefit or a current federal or military employee
- III. Veterans Administration match: identifies an individual as a veteran who may or may not be collecting VA benefits

**CHAMPVA** provides medical coverage for spouses and children of veterans rated totally and permanently disabled by VA;

- Surviving spouses and children of veterans rated totally and permanently disabled by VA;
- Surviving spouses and children of veterans killed in the line of duty.

**VA FILE**

VA OUTPUT RECORD FORMAT (Aug. 2007)

<i>Record Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Length</i>
Entitlement Code	299-300	2 ; First Position alpha, Second Position alpha <b>or</b> numeric
Gross Award Amount	365-379	15 numeric (\$\$\$\$ - no ¢¢)

Veterans receiving compensation at 100% disability rate (at least \$2471 / mo – 2007 rate);  
Widows receiving DIC (benefit type 7).

CHAMPVA eligible Medicaid recipients identified by match with case number of above veterans and widows.

## AID and ATTENDANCE

### VA OUTPUT RECORD FORMAT (Aug. 2007)

<i>Record Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Length</i>
VET AA CD	280-281	2 alpha
Spouse AA CD	282-283	2 alpha

Blank	Aid and attendance or housebound not a factor	
NN	Aid and attendance or housebound not payable	
AH	Entitled to aid and attendance, paying housebound while hospitalized	
AA	Entitled to aid and attendance	

Many veterans and survivors of veterans receive monthly payments from Veterans Affairs (VA). Some of these recipients who need the regular assistance of a caregiver receive an increased amount from VA. This additional amount, added to the regular payment amount, is known as an aid and attendance allowance. A person is considered to be in need of aid and attendance if the person “is (1) a patient in a nursing home or (2) helpless or blind, or so nearly helpless or blind as to need or require the regular aid and attendance of another person”. 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(E), 1311(c), 1315(g), 1502(b). See also 38 C.F.R. 3.351(b) and (c).

Additionally, Veterans Affairs have established regulations to determine the need for an aid an attendance allowance, which include but are not limited to: living in a nursing home, “inability of claimant to dress or undress”, and having an “incapacity, physical or mental, which requires care and assistance on a regular basis”. See 38 C.F.R. 3.351(c)(2) and 3.352(a).

Though exceptions exist to aid and attendance entitlement (those not married, residing in a nursing facility and those receiving 10-20% service-connected compensation) those identified on the VA file receiving long term care or home health services whether or not coded for aid and attendance should be referred.

**FINANCIAL  
Pension or Compensation**

VA OUTPUT RECORD FORMAT (Aug. 2007)

<i>Record Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Length</i>
Entitlement Code	299-300	2 ; First Position numeric, Second Position Alpha <b>or</b> numeric
Gross Award Amount	365-379	15 numeric (\$\$\$\$ - no ¢¢)

Pension, which is based on financial need, and compensation, which is a non-needs-based benefit based on degree of disability or service-connected death. It is best to split the two characters “Entitlement Code”. The first position of the Entitlement Code designates the period of service (e.g., WW I, WW II, Vietnam, etc.); the second position the type of benefit (compensation, pension for veteran, pension for survivor, DIC for survivor, etc.).

<u>First Position</u>		<u>Second Position</u>	
0	Gulf War Service	1	Compensation
1	WWI Service	2	Protected Pension (veteran)
2	WWII Service	4	Section 306 Pension (veteran)
3	Korean Conflict Service	5	Death Compensation
4	Peacetime Service	6	Protected Pension (survivor)
7	Vietnam Service	7	Dependency Indemnity Compensation
9	Philippine Service	8	Section 306 Pension (survivor)
		L	Improved Pension (veteran)
		D	Improved Pension (survivor)

**Clients Receiving \$90 (Nursing Home Rate) and no longer in Nursing Home**

There are clients receiving \$90 monthly pension (Medicaid nursing facility pension rate) that do not reside in a nursing facility, but continue to receive this reduced payment because Veterans Affairs believes them to be institutionalized. This applies to those eligible for VA pension only (both veterans and survivors), not to those clients entitled to compensation, who should continue to receive their compensation rate regardless of living arrangement. Moreover, any veterans or survivors with dependents should not have pension reduced to the \$90 rate when residing in Medicaid nursing facilities.

Comparison of living arrangement data (and possibly marital status and dependent data) from the state eligibility system with those receiving pensions at the \$90 rate (Entitlement Code and Gross Award from the VA File) will identify those Medicaid clients receiving the reduced VA pension rate in error.

## Disability Rating Could be Increased

Those eligible for compensation require an analysis of medical services to assess whether or not the individuals current disability rating is accurate. Benefits to an increased disability rating may result in increased financial compensation for self and family members as well as increased health care and prescription drug coverage.

The gross award amount will indicate the baseline disability rating.

[see <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/> - VA Compensation and Rate Tables for current rates].

Vietnam Veterans may be reviewed for those diagnosis determined to be a result of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. There are designated types of cancer and Type 2 diabetes that have been determined to have resulted from Vietnam in-country service. These cases, if adjudicated, usually result in a disability rating of 100%.

## REASON FOR AWARD CHANGE

VA OUTPUT RECORD FORMAT (Aug. 2007)

Record

Name	Position	Length
Change Reason (1)	301-312	12 numeric
Change Reason (2)	313-324	12 numeric
Change Reason (3)	325-336	12 numeric

The VA File provides a Change Reason code which may indicate the reason for non-payment of VA benefits. Referral to Veterans Services Office can help determine which clients are correctly not receiving any payment, and file reinstatement claims for the others. Example of codes to refer are “Veteran on active pay or in receipt of retired pay”, “claim withdrawn or benefits renounced”, “failure to file income questionnaire”, “whereabouts unknown”, “failure to report for physical”, “failure to furnish requested evidence” etc.

Commonly used Change Reason codes:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Code</u>
Original Award	00
Cost of Living Adjustment	02
Benefit Change to Compensation	03
Benefit Eligibility Adjustment	04
Benefit Change to Improved Pension	10
Benefit Eligibility Adjustment - Pension	11
Incarceration Adjustment	13

Countable Income Adjustment	15
Medicaid Adjustment	17
Net Worth Adjustment	18
Compensation Rating Adjustment	31
Compensation Rating Adjustment	31
Workers Compensation Adjustment	36
CONV - Failure to Report for Examination	CONVAWD17
Death of Beneficiary	DB
Entitled to A&A	ETAA
EVR Adjustment	EVRADJ
Fugitive Felon	FF
Failed to Furnish Requested Evidence	FFRE
No Entitlement to Benefit Sought	NETBS
No Longer A&A	NLAA
Renouncement	REN
Terminated-Incarceration	TI
Terminated-IVAP	TIVAP
Whereabouts Unknown	WHUNK

### COMPARING VA MONTHLY PAYMENTS WITH STATE SYSTEM AMOUNTS

Element Positions      395-409      Payment Amount      (VA Output file)

**Action-** Compare the above VA check dollar amounts with the amount, if any, in the state eligibility system to assure accurate VA payment rate on file with state agency. There will be a number of cases, particularly at the outset, that reflect VA income (check amount) that either is not coded in the eligibility system at all, or, in most cases, is greater than the amount reflected in the state eligibility system. This saves state dollars as well as insures payment accuracy and integrity.