



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Increase Fact Sheet

January 2023

Objective: Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is advocating for legislation that would increase DIC for surviving spouses to 55% of a single 100% disabled veteran's compensation, making it equal with other federal survivor programs.

Background: Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax-free monetary benefit administered by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). DIC is paid to surviving spouses of service members who die in line of duty while on active duty, veterans who die as a result of a service-connected disability, or veterans who are rated 100% disabled by VA for 10 years or more.

Facts:

- DIC is a compensation with the purpose of replacing a portion of the family income lost as a result of the service member/veteran's death due to their military service.
- Survivor benefits have been paid in some form since the Revolutionary War.
- There are two types of DIC for surviving spouses:
 - **Flat Rate DIC:** A DIC recipient whose service member/veteran's death was on or **after** January 1, 1993 currently receives a flat rate of \$1,562.74 per month.
 - **Rank-Based DIC:** A DIC recipient whose service member/veteran's death was **before** January 1, 1993, receives DIC based on the rank (pay grade) of the service member. A DIC recipient whose service member/veteran's rank was E1-E6 currently receives \$1,562.74. A DIC recipient whose veteran's rank was E7 or above receives a higher amount based on rank.
- DIC has only been increased by Cost-of-Living Adjustments since 1993.
- The latest statistics from the Veterans Benefit Administration Annual Benefits Report for Fiscal Year 2021, updated as of June 2022, indicates that **442,518** surviving spouses receive DIC.
- Currently, a 100% disabled veteran receives monthly compensation from VA in the amount of \$3,621.95 (Per 2001 Public Law 107-107, a deceased service member is the equivalent of 100% disabled veteran.) When the service member or veteran dies, the compensation from VA drops significantly, to just 43% of the veteran's compensation.
- When an employee of the Federal Government dies due to their job, their surviving spouses are able to receive up to 55% of their spouse's salary as their death benefit.