

When a veteran applies for the Caregiver Program, he/she will be scheduled for an in-home evaluation to determine if the veteran is eligible for the program and what kind of care the veteran requires. The first part of the evaluation goes over the seven eligibility criteria as outlined in the law.

The Caregiver Support Nurse will then rate the veteran's ability to perform various Actions of Daily Living (ADLs), as well as the degree to which the veteran must be supervised and/or protected to due mental conditions.

High Dependence: 28-21

Moderate Dependence: 20-13

Low Dependence: 12-1

4 = TOTAL ASSISTANCE (Veteran completes < 25% of task/activity or is unable to do task task/activity without assistance)

3 = MAXIMAL ASSISTANCE (Veteran completes 25-49% of task/activity with supervision/ coaching assistance)

2 = MODERATE ASSISTANCE (Veteran completes 50-75% of activity with some hands on help)

1= MINIMAL ASSISTANCE (Veteran completes 75% or more of task/activity with some hands-on help)

0 = COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE (Veteran completes task/activity without help)

#### *Category 1 – ADLS*

The VA examiner will rate the veteran's competency in or use of:

- Eating
- Grooming
- Bathing
- Dressing
- Toileting
- Assistive devices
- Mobility

#### *Category 2 – Assistance/Supervision*

The VA examiner will also rate the degree to which the veteran has difficulty in, or needs assistance/supervision with various areas:

- Requires supervision/assistance as a result of seizures (blackouts or lapses in mental awareness, etc.):
- Difficulty with planning and organizing (adhering to medication regimen, managing financial and other household affairs):

- Safety risks (significant risk of falling, wandering outside the home, leaving stove/oven on, crossing street, using electrical appliances, suicidal ideation):
- Difficulty with sleep regulation:
- Requires assistance/supervision as a result of delusions/hallucinations:
- Difficulty with recent memory (forgets what day it is, what happened yesterday, etc.):
- Self-regulation (being able to moderate moods, agitation/aggression):

The examiner will combine the scores of both categories, and the total will determine the tier to which the veteran belongs. This score also determines how many hours a week the veteran will need care or assistance, which will be the basis of the primary caregiver's stipend.

*High Tier (Tier 3)* – A Veteran who scores 21 or higher will be presumed to need a full-time caregiver, one who provides 40 hours of personal care services per week.

*Medium Tier (Tier 2)* – A Veteran who scores 13-20 in all categories will be presumed to require 25 hours per week of caregiver assistance.

*Low Tier (Tier 1)* – A Veteran who scores 1-12 will be presumed to need 10 hours per week of caregiver assistance.

**Tags:** [activities of daily living](#), [eligibility](#), [VA caregiver program](#)