

Are there any benefits that could assist with my monthly rent?

Yes, Bell Tower will help you explore options that may be available to you such as Long Term Care Insurance, the Veteran's Administration, as well as deductions for assisted living as a medical expense.

Long Term Care Insurance

Do you have long term insurance? Even if your policy states it will ONLY cover a nursing home, this may no longer be the case. If you meet the requirements of your policy, it may cover certified assisted living. Please feel free to contact us, and we will assist you in the right direction.

Veteran or Widow of a Veteran

If you are a veteran or widow of a veteran who served in a war, you may be eligible for a monetary program called Aid and Attendance. Please feel free to inquire about this program.

Tax Deduction

Section 213 of the Internal Revenue code allows deductions for medical care for an individual, spouse, or dependent if the expense exceeds 7.5% of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. The monthly fee of an Assisted Living community is a medical expense. This further states that if a resident is living in an Assisted Living Community because of a medical condition which requires them to be there, and meals and lodging are furnished, then the cost is considered medical care expense.

If the main reason for living in an Assisted Living community is for medical care, then that cost is a deductible medical expense.

Please consult your tax advisor on this rule if you feel this would apply to your situation.



Aid and Attendance for Independent & Assisted Living Communities

What is Aid and Attendance?

Aid and Attendance is an additional amount available to eligible veterans and dependents who are entitled to VA pension or VA compensation. A VA compensation or pension benefit is awarded to a veteran determined to be in need of regular aid and attendance of another person to perform basic functions of everyday life.

A veteran may qualify for Aid and Attendance benefits if he or she:

- Is blind or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual field to 5 degrees or less
- Is a resident in an assisted living facility because of mental or physical incapacity
- Proves a need for aid and attendance under established criteria
- Inability to perform tasks of daily living

Who is eligible for Aid and Attendance?

Who is eligible for Aid and Attendance? Any Wartime Veteran with 90 days of active duty, one day beginning or ending during a period of War. A surviving spouse (marriage must have ended due to death of veteran) of a Wartime Veteran may also apply.

How do I apply?

Complete nursing home certification with the following information:

- Date admitted to the Assisted Living facility
- Total cost of daily care, amount paid out of claimant's own funds, and if Medicaid is paying all or part of the cost
- Diagnosis
- Type of care such as skilled or intermediate
- Signature of Administrator of the Independent/ Assisted Living facility, physician, and by the claimant who is the resident in the nursing home

What income requirements are applied for eligibility?

- \$123,000 or less of Assets for individual veteran/individual widow

** Does not include house or car

What benefits can I receive?

- Call the local office at 563-589-7840 to set up an appointment to start the process