NONFINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY FACTORS
UTILIZATION OF OTHER BENEFITS

B. DETERMINATION OF POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER BENEFITS

The Regional Office has the responsibility for determining the likelihood of potential eligibility for other benefits, providing the written notice and referral to the proper agency, and assisting the individual, as necessary, in complying with the requirements that he or she file for certain other benefits. Awareness of potential eligibility for other benefits is elicited from:

- Responses to lead questions on DOM-300/DOM-300A
- Information received from the initial interview;
- Inquiries with other agencies; and,
- Knowledge of governmental and private pension plans and disability programs.

If the Regional Office determines that an application for other benefits would not be beneficial, e.g., proof exists of a prior denial and there has been no change in circumstances, do not require the individual to apply for such benefits. The case record must be documented with the reason for the decision not to refer a client to file for other benefits.

If there is doubt about the possibility of eligibility in a given case, the worker should try to resolve the matter by means of a telephone call or written inquiry to the agency or organization involved. If the issue of potential eligibility is still uncertain, notify the individual of the potential eligibility as outlined below.

1. General

A client may be eligible for more than one type of benefit so care must be taken to identify all potential sources of benefits.

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2. **Social Security/ Railroad Retirement Benefits** Any client who is not already receiving Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits at the time of application must be referred to apply for either retirement benefits (including early retirement), disability benefits (if under age 65) or survivor's benefits (if a widow(er) or disabled child of a deceased parent). The case record must be documented as to why no benefits are payable if none are awarded.

3. **Workers' Compensation Payments** If a client alleges either injury on the job or has what may be may be a work-related impairment, refer the client to apply for such benefits.

4. **Veterans' Benefits** Explore the possibility of entitlement to VA benefits if a client is a veteran, the child or spouse of a veteran, a widow(er) or previous spouse of a veteran or the parent of a veteran who died from service connected causes.

5. **Private Sector** Explore entitlement for benefits if the client or former/deceased spouse worked for a private employer with a pension plan and is not already receiving or has not received a pension based on that employment.

6. **Public Sector** Explore entitlement for benefits if the client or former/deceased spouse (or deceased parent if client is a child) is not already receiving or has not received a pension based on such employment and was employed in one of the following:

   a. Federal Civilian Employment for a minimum of 5 years,

   b. Federal Uniformed Service (Military) for a minimum of 20 years,

   c. State or Local Government Employment.