

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS****Poverty Threshold**

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives notice of the weighted average poverty threshold established for 1998 for one person (unrelated individual) as established by the Bureau of the Census. The amount is \$8,316.

DATES: For VA determinations, the 1998 poverty threshold is effective September 30, 1999, the date on which it was established by the Bureau of the Census.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Trowbridge, Consultant, Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7218.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We published a final rule amending 38 CFR 4.16(a) in the **Federal Register** of August 3, 1990, 55 FR 31,579. The amendment provided that marginal employment generally shall be deemed to exist when a veteran's earned annual income does not exceed the amount established by the Bureau of the Census as the poverty threshold for one person. The provisions of 38 CFR 4.16(a) use the poverty threshold as a standard in

defining marginal employment when considering total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of an individual. We stated we would publish subsequent poverty threshold figures as notices in the **Federal Register**.

The Bureau of the Census recently published the weighted average poverty thresholds for 1998. The threshold for one person (unrelated individual) is \$8,316.

Dated: November 29, 1999.

Togo D. West, Jr.,

Secretary, Veterans Affairs.

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