

maintenance is above poverty criteria, it is, in most cases, much less than the standard of living which the veteran, but for his service disability, could have expected to provide for his family.

It is seldom possible to rehabilitate the totally disabled veteran economically. Therefore, an equitable alternative lies in a program of educational assistance for the veteran's wife. Such a program would enable her to supplement the income of the family of the veteran totally incapacitated due to service.

Thus, the Commission recommends a program of education and training for the wives of veterans who have a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from a service-connected disability. This program would be similar in all respects to that proposed for widows receiving DIC, except that eligibility for enrollment would expire at the end of eight years from the date of a veteran's total disability rating or from the date of legislative enactment, whichever is later.