

Department of Veterans Affairs

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News Release

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR LENAWE COUNTY VETERANS

There are financial hardship emergency assistance programs for Lenawee County veterans who served under honorable conditions on active duty for other than training purposes. Some of these hardship assistance programs may also aid the veteran's legal dependents.

The veteran and/or his/her legal dependent must provide required documentation to verify eligibility, the delinquent bill and/or unexpected financial hardship emergency situation and a statement of explanation on reasons why the temporary assistance grant is sought along with explaining how he/she will be able to maintain future financial obligations. The applicant will also need to provide documentation of a financial emergency (house fire, sick-leave from work, awaiting approved disability VA/SS benefits or unemployment, shut-off notice, foreclosure notice, rent eviction notice, repossession threat notice, etc...) and verification of attempts he/she has made to resolve the hardship before seeking financial relief.

Request for temporary financial relief must be for essentials of life and not for a relief of an inconvenience. The key factor in determining whether or not a grant is approved is the ability of the applicant to manage the obligation for which aid is requested after a grant is made. If there is no reasonable expectation that a grant would allow the applicant to resume his/her financial responsibility then a grant request does not meet policy and may not be approved.

Veterans' Relief Fund (VRF): Requires (1) day of wartime service. There is an indigent income threshold limitation. The program is for veterans and their legal dependents.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF): Requires (180) days of wartime service. There is no income threshold limitation. The program is for veterans and their legal dependents.

Peacetime's Relief Fund (PRF): Requires (90) days of peacetime service. There is an indigent income threshold limitation. This program is only for the veteran and has a request limit. The veteran must also show proof that he/her and/or his/her spouse has a source of income (such as: wages, social security, unemployment, cash assistance, VA compensation) to maintain his/her financial obligation if a PRF grant is approved.

To inquire about eligibility and obtain a checklist of required documentation needed to schedule an appointment to file an application for assistance, please contact the Lenawee County Department of Veterans Affairs located in the Human Services Building at 1040 W. Winter St., Ste. 3017 in Adrian MI 49221. Open to the public Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch) and closed on Friday for administrative purposes. Call (517) 264-5335 or email veterans.affairs@lenawee.mi.us