



## STATE OF VERMONT VETERANS AFFAIRS

118 State Street, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620-4401 (Next to the DMV)

In-State Phone: (888) 666-9844; Out-of-State Phone: (802) 828-3379

Fax: (802) 828-5932

Operating Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### **The Needy Veterans Fund**

#### What is the Needy Veterans Fund?

The Needy Veterans Fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their dependents in the form of a one-time monetary payment.

#### To Qualify for Assistance, Applicants Must Meet the Following Conditions:

A. Applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria regarding military duty:

1. If they served in the active duty military, they must have received a discharge that was honorable or under honorable conditions, and the period of active duty must be greater than 1 year, unless the individual was discharged for the convenience of the government, medical reasons or has service connected disability.

2. If they served in the National Guard or the Reserves, they must have been mobilized for at least 180 consecutive days (not including active duty for training), served in a war zone, or has service connected disability; in all cases they must have received a discharge that was honorable or under honorable conditions.

B. If they are a dependent of a veteran, the veteran must meet the conditions above.

C. They must have resided in the State of Vermont for all of the last 12 months; Vermont residents returning to Vermont from active duty do not need to meet this requirement.

D. They must show that without financial assistance serious harm will result.

E. Other benefit programs would not better address their hardship.

#### How do Veterans and Their Dependents Apply?

You can visit our office or call us using our toll-free number to apply. The application requires information regarding the veteran's military service, any disabilities, and income/expenses.

#### How does the State Veterans Affairs Office Verify Military Service?

The office has the discharge paperwork for nearly all veterans who joined the military from Vermont. If the office does not maintain a copy, *it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide proof of military service.*

#### How many times can I receive assistance?

Applicants may receive assistance a maximum of 3 times and, if approved, must wait at least 180 days before applying again. In addition, the State Veterans Affairs Office may require applicants to apply for other benefits before they can receive monetary assistance from this fund again.

#### Selecting a Co-Payee

Applicants must choose a co-payee, as the assistance check will be made out to both the applicant and a company or person the applicant needs to pay. The check will be mailed to the applicant; they will endorse it and then send it to the co-payee to cash.

### **Finding Permanent Solutions Beyond the Needy Veterans Fund**

#### Service Net:

Residents with Internet access can easily discover many state and local programs, from fuel assistance to legal support. Most public libraries provide Internet access and assistance. [www.ahs.state.vt.us/services](http://www.ahs.state.vt.us/services).

#### The Department of Prevention, Assistance, Transition, and Health Access (PATH):

PATH should be the first place low-income veterans turn to for help. They offer programs such as General Assistance, Food Stamps, Aid to Needy Families with Children (ANFC), Seasonal/Emergency Fuel Assistance, and Disabled Child Home Care. 1-800-287-0589; Fuel Assistance 1-800-479-6151; [www.dpath.state.vt.us](http://www.dpath.state.vt.us).

#### The Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA):

VSHA provides many assistance programs to help people meet their housing needs, whether they're looking to rent or purchase a home. Rental Assistance is especially helpful. 1-800-798-3118; [www.vsha.org](http://www.vsha.org).

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118 State Street, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05602-4401 (Next to the DMV)

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### **Finding Permanent Solutions Beyond the Needy Veterans Fund (continued)**

#### The Vermont Department of Employment and Training (DET):

Each DET office has professionals who work solely to find appropriate employment and training for veterans.

Barre: 476-2618	Bennington: 447-2865	Brattleboro: 257-2582	Burlington: 652-0338
Middlebury: 388-4921	Morrisville: 888-1318	Newport: 334-3968	Rutland: 786-5838
St. Albans: 527-5486	St. Johnsbury: 748-4954	Springfield: 885-1421	White River: 295-4131

#### Vermont Vet Centers at South Burlington and White River Junction:

Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling services that cross a wide spectrum and include drug and alcohol counseling, sexual trauma and harassment counseling, and assistance with illnesses such as depression and anxiety. They also help educate veterans on the services and benefits available to them in their local community, to include benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the State of Vermont, and private organizations. South Burlington: (802) 862-1806; White River Junction: 1-800-649-6603.

#### Disability Compensation or Improved Pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA):

Any veteran who has any type of disability or is over age 65 should see if they are eligible for assistance. This is true for both service-connected (Disability Compensation) and non-service-connected (Improved Pension) disabilities. 1-800-827-1000; [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

#### Medical Care from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA):

The DVA will provide medical care to any veteran, not just veterans with service-connected disabilities, and can provide a full range of medical treatment for low or no costs. This is especially relevant to veterans who need prescription medication. 1-877-222-8387; [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

#### Survivor Benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA):

Dependents and surviving spouses may be eligible for assistance from the DVA. This assistance can include a death pension, medical care, and education assistance. 1-800-733-8387; [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

#### Vocational Training and Education Assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA):

Disabled veterans have opportunities to receive considerable assistance in attending trade schools, college, and many other programs designed to provide usable skills or certifications. 1-888-442-4551; [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

#### Supplemental Security Income & Social Security Disability Insurance from the Social Security Administration:

If you have a disability that hinders your ability to work, funds may be available through the federal benefits programs administered by the Social Security Administration. 1-800-772-1213; [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

#### Quitting Time: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling from the Clara Martin Center:

This program assists veterans with chemical dependency. (802) 295-1311.

#### Consumer Credit Counseling Service:

This non-profit organization helps veterans decrease their debt. 1-800-327-6778; [www.cccsnh-vt.org](http://www.cccsnh-vt.org).

#### Loans and Grants Through the Small Business Administration (SBA):

Veterans wanting to start a business may be eligible to receive assistance. 1-800-827-5722; [www.sba.gov/vets](http://www.sba.gov/vets).

#### Professional Service Officers:

The best way to apply for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits is to work with a professional service officer. They will help you complete the application paperwork, and they know better than anyone of the programs available to assist veterans. *Please note, you do not need to be a member of the service officer's organization to receive their assistance!* They will be glad to help any veteran or their family:

(802) 296-5166 American Legion	(802) 296-5168 VFW	(802) 296-5167 Disabled Am. Vets
(802) 295-4136 Vietnam Veterans of America	(802) 388-5713 Vietnam Veterans of America	

*For more information on any of these items, please feel free to call the State Veterans Affairs Office. We will gladly give you information over the phone or mail you literature specific to your interests.*

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