

# Veterans & Survivor Emergency Assistance

## Income – Expenses = Must show a need

- Food - allowance starts at \$200 and increases \$25 for each additional dependent
  - Shelter (rent or house payment, Prop Tax & Home Owners Insurance) – amount to be provided by applicant. If none, allow \$100
  - Fuel/Utilities (Coal, oil, gas, electric, water, sewage) – amount to be provided by applicant. If none, allow \$75
  - Shoes and Clothing - \$35 per person
  - Medical, out of pocket - \$30 if undocumented; If documented, allow that amount
- **Pennsylvania Department of Military & Veteran Affairs (DMVA) will only process applications for this program that are submitted by County Veterans Affairs or Adjutant General Field Offices (AGO) locations.**
- Other service organizations, Government Agencies or other Veterans Advocates desiring to submit applications for this program must submit them through the local County Veteran Affairs Offices or AGO Field Office

## Application Criteria

- A. Expenditures of State funds for this program will only be authorized when the application and attached documents provide adequate proof of an **unexpected and sudden** loss of legal income **for reasons beyond the control of the veteran** and the applicant's **allowable expenses exceed their total household income.**
- B. The Death of a Veteran can be considered an **unexpected and sudden** loss of legal income
- C. No person shall be eligible to receive VEAP for more than three months in any 12 month period

- D. Applicant incarcerated or immediately following incarceration in a federal, state, county, or city penal institution are not eligible for VEAP
- E. Applicants who are receiving cash assistance from the Department of Public Welfare are ineligible for VEAP regardless of the amount received
- F. The Justification for VEAP must have occurred within the previous 180 day period prior to date application is received at DMVA
- G. Applicants must expend employer granted benefits such as sick leave, vacation or personal leave prior to making application for VEAP

### **Specific Eligibility**

A former member of the military of the United States, or Women's organization officially connected therewith, who:

- 1. Served during a period of war or armed conflict and was discharged from the armed forces;
- OR
- 2. Died in service or was killed in action during a period of war or armed conflict;
- OR
- 3. as a result of peacetime hostile fire or terrorist attack as determined by the department, was killed or suffered a service connected disability as certified by the United States Veterans Administration and was honorably discharged from the armed forces
- AND
- 4. Was honorably discharged

## **Surviving Dependents**

- the following surviving dependents of a deceased veteran may apply for VEAP if the veteran would have been otherwise eligible

### **And**

1. The surviving spouse – if not remarried
2. The dependent children were, biological or legally adopted dependent children or dependent stepchildren, or illegitimate dependent children
3. Dependent parents – whether biological or adoptive
4. **Pennsylvania does not recognize Common Law Marriages**

## **Proof of Residency**

1. Applications for VEAP must prove residency and that they permanently and exclusively reside in **Pennsylvania**

All applications must include full documentation of support payment for dependents other than the veteran

1. Marriage licenses
2. Birth certificates – to determine child dependency
3. Court Orders (e.g. child support)

## **Originating Official Responsibilities** (our responsibilities)

1. Conduct initial interview – complete the MA-VA Form 17
  - a. The veteran, or surviving dependent, is responsible for providing all required documentation
2. Verify with the Department of Public Welfare that the applicant is not in receipt of cash assistance
3. Originating officials are responsible for the accuracy of the information submitted on the initial applications and renewal requests.
4. Forward applications to:  
Department of Military & Veterans Affairs  
Attn: Bureau of Veterans Affairs (VEAP)  
Bldg 0-47, FTIG  
Annville, PA 17003-5002

## **Renewal Applications**

- First check is issued after submission and approval of VEA application
- Prior to issuance of subsequent checks
  - Renewal form MA-VA 11 has to be completed
    - Form will indicate any additional information that needs to be completed
    - The originator is responsible to confirm any changes regarding, income, expenses, or dependency and further recommend the issuance of subsequent checks
    - Form must be completed and returned in adequate time to issue subsequent checks
- No subsequent check will be issued without the MA-VA 11 being returned

## **Special Circumstances**

### **Appeals**

- **Reconsideration**
- **Appeal to the Deputy Adjutant General - will schedule a hearing on the appeal**