

Roscommon County Veterans Affairs Veteran Relief Fund

The Roscommon County Department of Veterans Affairs is established under Michigan Public Act 192 of 1953.

Act 192 is an act to create a County Department of Veterans Affairs in certain counties and to prescribe its powers and duties and to transfer the powers and duties of the Soldiers Relief Commission (Public Act 214 of 2899).

The County Department of Veterans Affairs will operate under Act 192 as amended and will carry out the intent of Public Act 214 as well. The department shall perform such duties and shall exercise such powers as shall be necessary in carrying out the provisions of the act and any and all other benefits to which veterans may be entitled as prescribed by the County Department of Veterans Affairs.

Eligibility Requirements:

A veteran is deemed eligible if he or she meets the criteria below.

- I. **Service:** The veteran must have been honorably discharged, retired or reverted to an inactive status under honorable conditions.
- II. **Residency:** Legal residence in Roscommon County at the time of application is a requirement in all instances.
- III. **Legal dependents or unremarried widow of a veteran are also eligible for assistance.** A legal dependent is a person who depends upon the veteran for his or her support and relies upon the veteran for his or her daily sustenance, such as husband, wife, child or children legally adopted by the veteran by approval of a responsible court of records. Legal dependency shall cease to exist upon emancipation, marriage or when the child reaches the age of 18 years or completes high school education, whichever occurs first. A child considered to be handicapped who is incapable of maintaining self-support, confirmed by competent medical evidence shall be considered to be a legal dependent of a qualified veteran if such condition existed prior to age 18. The child of a divorced veteran shall be considered the legal dependent of a veteran and are eligible for assistance as long as they fill the residency requirement.

Legal Residency Defined: The Director of Veteran Affairs* and/or Committee shall consider legal residency to be established if the veteran has resided in the county for a period of time sufficient to have acquired proof of residency. Relevant criteria include year round residence, voter registration, place of filing tax returns, property ownership, driver's license, auto registration, marital status, place of

employment or any other proof. Maintenance and residency at a half way house or shelter are not legal residency for this purpose.

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Emergent Need Defined: Emergent need is defined to be an emergency in the life of honorably discharged veterans and/or their legal dependents who meet the prescribed eligibility requirements, which necessitates immediate temporary assistance for food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other unforeseen emergencies. Funds from the Department of Veterans Affairs are not designed to take the place of existing programs. They are designed to supplement those programs on a short-term temporary basis. Emergent need is further defined to mean that the veterans dependent are unable to provide basic necessities or commodities needed due to a short term hardship, i.e., temporary layoff, loss of wages, etc.

The Director of Veterans Affairs* and/or committee members are to apply the broad definition of hardship and need. In instances where there is a reasonable doubt in any specific case the Director and/or committee will find in the favor of the applicant.

Vouchers for Payment: Each Veteran Affairs Committee Member shall be issued one voucher book to be used for emergency assistance. The vouchers are numbered and controlled by the chairman of the committee. A copy of the voucher will be maintained as a permanent record. The committee as a whole will review and approve all vouchers that have been issued since the last meeting. Individual committee members and the Director of Veteran Affairs* can only approve up to \$500 without full committee approval. All requests for over \$500 must be approved by at least two committee members or the Director of Veteran's Affairs and one committee member.*

ONE COMMITTEE MEMBER OR THE DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* CAN APPROVE ON THEIR OWN UP TO THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

Rent		\$500
Mortgage		\$500
Food	4 or more persons	\$125
	Under 4 persons	\$75
Medical	Committee	
Dental	Committee	
Hearing Aids	Committee	
Utility	Amount of shut-off notice	
Propane	Minimum delivery	

*Amended by the Roscommon County Veteran Affairs Committee at it September 4, 2014 meeting.

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September 4, 2014 Amendment

The Director of Veterans Affairs is authorized to approve or deny applications for Veteran Relief funds based on the above eligibility criteria. The Director of Veterans Affairs will investigate the request and work with the applicant to accumulate the required documentation and verification needed to determine if the request should be granted. Failure by the applicant to fully complete the application, and/or provide the required documentation or verification may result in a denial of the applicant's claim.

Appeals Rights

An applicant whose application for assistance has been partially or completely denied by the Roscommon County Veterans Affairs Director may take the following action.

1. File an appeal with the Roscommon County Veterans Affairs Committee. Such an appeal must be filed in writing within 21 days after receiving written notice that the veteran's request for assistance has been denied.
 - a. The written appeal shall be considered at the next meeting of the Roscommon County Veterans Affairs Committee.
 - b. The decision of the Veterans Affairs Committee shall be final.

Approved at the RCVA Committee Monthly Meeting of 8Oct2014; Recorded by Kevin C. Sherman, Director;