



April 3, 2020

### COVID-19 DISASTER RELIEF FOR VETERANS FACT SHEET

**What:** Governor Tim Walz and the Minnesota Legislature recently approved \$6.2 million to provide \$1,000 emergency grants to Minnesota Veterans financially affected by COVID-19.

**Timeline:** Starting Monday, April 6 Veterans can apply for a Disaster Relief Grant, administered from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). In addition to the Disaster Relief Grant, Veterans who have experienced a more significant impact may also apply for an MDVA COVID-19 Special Needs Grant. Veterans should contact Anoka County Veteran Services for eligibility requirements and assistance with the grant application process.

**How to Apply:** As one of the main points of contact for grant applications, County Veterans Service Officers also have access to a specially created portal to submit required documents and expedite the grant process.

The Special Needs Grant must be filed through County Veteran Service Officer or MDVA, but the Disaster Relief Grant may be submitted directly by the Veteran or surviving spouse. Application materials will be made available at [www.MinnesotaVeteran.org/COVIDRelief](http://www.MinnesotaVeteran.org/COVIDRelief) on Monday, April 6 starting at 8 a.m.

**Who:** To be eligible for the Special Needs or Disaster Relief Grants, Minnesota Veterans or surviving spouses must meet the following criteria:

1. Qualifies as Minnesota Veteran under Minnesota Statute 197.447, or is a surviving spouse of a Veteran
2. Applicant or their legal dependent(s) have or had a confirmed case of COVID-19
3. A healthcare provider has determined that the applicant's presence in the workplace would jeopardize their own health or the health of others because of likely exposure to COVID-19
4. A healthcare provider determined that the applicant's health was jeopardized because of diagnosed underlying health condition(s) which would have put them at increased risk if exposed to COVID-19
5. The applicant is or was under legal isolation or legal quarantine (Minn. Stat. 144.419) related to a diagnosis of COVID-19 or they are/were caring for a dependent under legal isolation or legal quarantine
6. The applicant's employer directs them not to report to work for COVID-19-related reasons
7. The applicant's workplace is closed for COVID-19-related health and safety reasons and applicant is excused from work duties and cannot be reassigned
8. The applicant is financially impacted by a school or care provider closure due to COVID-19

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For more information or to apply for one of these grants, visit [www.MinnesotaVeteran.org/COVIDRelief](http://www.MinnesotaVeteran.org/COVIDRelief) or contact Anoka County Veteran Services at (763) 324-4500 or [veterans@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:veterans@co.anoka.mn.us). Due to the current statewide stay-at-home order, Anoka County Veteran Services is currently closed to the public, however we are equipped to assist clients remotely.

**Below is a checklist of items that should be included in your upload packet:**

- Completed MDVA-1A (Disaster Relief Application) to include the Substitute W9 Form
- Copy of the veteran's DD-214 or military discharge papers or equivalent.
- Proof of MN residency (MN Driver's License/ID Card, Voter Registration Card, or Utility Bill).
- Documentation supporting the selected eligibility criteria (i.e. Letter from doctor, letter from employer, letter from daycare/school, etc.)
- Documentation demonstrating a financial loss if not indicated in the supporting documentation of the eligibility criteria (i.e. pay stubs, letter from employer, confirmation of Unemployment Insurance, etc.)

***For Surviving Spouse Applicants:***

- Copy of the death certificate confirming the veteran's spouse at the time of death if the Veteran passed away somewhere other than Minnesota.

***For eligibility criteria based upon dependents:***

- Copy of the birth certificate of the affected child showing the parental relationship to the applicant if the child was born outside of Minnesota (staff can independently verify Minnesota born dependents).
- Copy of the marriage certificate if the marriage took place outside of Minnesota and you are applying because of a spouse affected by COVID-19.

**Questions**

If you have questions regarding the Disaster Relief Grant please contact Anoka County Veteran Services at (763) 324-4500 or [veterans@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:veterans@co.anoka.mn.us).

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