

2016-2017 Auxiliary Emergency Fund Plan of Action

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What is this program and why do we have it?

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides temporary financial assistance to eligible members during times of financial crises or weather-related emergencies and natural disasters and promotes awareness and knowledge of the program.

What can you do?

1. Familiarize each Unit with what AEF can and cannot do, where to locate the current application and how to apply.

Ideas:

Member

- Distribute the “Before you begin-Frequently Asked Questions” sheet and AEF brochure found at www.ALAforVeterans.org to eligible members. Promote as a benefit to new members.

Unit

- Have printed applications and AEF brochures available during Unit meetings and at Local Post.

2. Help the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund obtain donations by supporting Department and Unit fundraisers.

Ideas:

Member

- Support fundraisers sponsored by your Department and Unit. Make a personal donation to the AEF. Donations of \$50 or more will receive a pin, requested by your Department from National Headquarters.

Unit

- Put an AEF donation can in your local Post (visit www.ALAforVeterans.org for a free, downloadable can label). Solicit local businesses for monetary or in-kind donations to your Unit for AEF.
- Schedule an annual “Members Helping Members” night at your local Post. Not only is this a great time for an AEF fundraiser, but it gives you the opportunity to share information about what makes a member eligible to receive help from the AEF. Have membership applications available, and sign up new members during an event. Legion members might sign up eligible relatives in order to provide this protection for them. Prior to the event, be sure all Unit members have read and are familiar with the AEF frequently asked questions as well as the criteria for assistance.

Programs and Activities

1. The AEF brochure is available through department and also online at www.ALAforVeterans.org
2. Please use the current form and follow directions to ensure that evaluation and processing are completed in a timely fashion. Incomplete applications can delay the application process. The current application and expedited application are available at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

3. Pins are awarded for individuals who donate \$50 or more. Notify this department chairman if you have a member or members who have earned a pin. Pins will be awarded at Department Convention.
4. AEF frequently asked questions and additional AEF information are available on the AEF page at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
5. The following core rules apply to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund:
 - a. Temporary assistance to eligible members during:
 - A time of financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to pay for shelter, food and utilities.
 - Weather-related emergencies and natural disasters, for food and shelter.
 - Educational training for eligible members who lack the necessary skills for employment or to upgrade competitive workforce skills.
 - b. Assistance will not be granted to pay accumulated debts or medical expenses. The intent is to help members who have suffered a financial setback and is meant to be a bridge offering a helping hand until financial stability is re-established. Incomplete applications and missing documentation will significantly slow processing the case file.
 - c. Eligibility: Persons who have been members of the American Legion Auxiliary for at least the immediate past two consecutive years and whose current membership dues are paid at the time the emergency occurs (three consecutive years' dues) may apply for assistance.
 - d. Assistance provided: The maximum grant amount is \$2,400, disbursed as the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Grant Committee determines.

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. www.ALAforVeterans.org (for additional resources and descriptions)
2. www.legion.org
3. www.operationhomefront.net (general financial assistance for military families)
4. www.211.org (referral program for local help with food, housing and employment)
5. www.fema.gov (disaster assistance)
6. www.redcross.org (disaster assistance)
7. www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
8. www.liheap.ncat.org (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
9. Your Department Chairman (see front page)