

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUNDS

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The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a National Grant Assistance program that provides temporary emergency help to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary whom have suffered a significant financial setback, as the results of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

PURPOSE:

To promote awareness, raise funds and disseminate information on the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, as well as to give information on the new application process.

ELIGIBILITY:

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have maintained membership for at least the immediate past 2 years and who have paid their dues for the current year (3 consecutive years of membership) are eligible to apply.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED IN 3 WAYS:

1. Temporary assistance during a time of financial crisis to pay for food, shelter, and utilities. This assistance, though immediate, is meant to be temporary and applicants should make every effort to secure help locally. (refer to Resource list) Funds are not available to settle existing or accumulated debts, or pay for catastrophic illness.
 - a. Example: a house fire
2. Temporary assistance upon a natural disaster or weather-related emergency leaving a member without shelter and food. An applicant must have received damage to primary residence, been displaced or evacuated from their residence.
 - a. Example: a hurricane, tornado, earthquake, area fire or flooding
3. Temporary assistance for educational training for members whom due to a major change in their lives have become the major source of income for a family, but need upgraded educational training/skills.
 - a. Example: death of a spouse

HOW MUCH CAN A MEMBER RECEIVE?

The maximum amount of any grant is \$3,000. The National grant committee reviews each application on a case by case basis, awarding assistance according to each case finding. Payments may be sent directly to the member, or provider such as the mortgage or utility companies. Educational grants are directed to the educational institution.

HOW TO APPLY:

The application process has been changed in order to keep the strictest confidentiality of each applicant.

The National Organization has eliminated the requirements of Unit President and Secretaries signatures, also eliminating the need to send the application into Department headquarters. Each applicant can acquire their needed form directly on ALAforVeterans.org (or request a hard copy of the form from the department chairman or secretary) with complete directions to be done on line. Each applicant is reminded to provide **support documentation** and Resources used when filling the forms out!! - Confirmation/proof of ALA membership for 3 consecutive years. All current and past due copies of mortgage, rent, utility bills, eviction or disconnection notices, etc. - Copies of receipts for emergency expenses incurred including lodging, food, water, fuel, and any needed use of rentables.

Emergency educational requests will need some personal information as well as confirmation of educational facility.

FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIONS FULLY AND PROVIDING A LIST OF OTHER RESOURCES IS KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION.

UNIT SUPPORT and FUND RAISING IDEAS

Contact local restaurants with AEF information and **ask** if they would set aside a day/evening where a percentage of their sales would be donated to AEF. State how your unit would be willing to cover local newspapers with a public relations promotional article stating their name, location, time, and date for their generous support event. Be sure to enhance the attendance by talking about it with your District members, as well as family and friends! Make this special by printing up informative flyers to be handed out by Unit Greeters in branded shirts.

Locally owned General stores and businesses tend to have limited 'Donation' budgets yearly. Try asking IF, your unit could leave a closed container for donations for AEF? Never forget to show your ALA I.D. card, and let them know when you will pick up the container. Always realize, any success should be followed up with a thank you in the same newspaper, perhaps a 'certificate of appreciation'. Allow me to top that with AEF pins for your presentations to these businesses!! (Call or write this chairman!)

Always remember to pass a container at your monthly meetings! Every penny counts when you donate to AEF because you're giving a fellow Auxiliary member not just help, **But Hope**. Members helping Members via a Unit Emergency Fund is also a part of the AEF program. Supporting the fund raising efforts of your unit, allows members to give immediate assistance at their desecration.

NATIONAL AWARDS:

1. To 'A Department' contributing the largest amount (per capita) of funds to the AEF.
2. To 'A Unit' contributing the largest amount (per capita) to the AEF.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

Frank Burbee Jr. Trophy - To the Unit in Department which donates the highest percentage of dollars per member to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

ALL Auxiliary Emergency Fund donations should be sent to; ALA Department of N.H., 21 So. Fruit Street suite 266, Concord, NH 03301 and earmarked as" AEF donation" with Unit # number."

RESOURCES:

www.ALAforVeterans.org (for forms and directions plus additional resources)
www.legion.org
www.operationhomefront.net (general financial assistance for military families)
www.211nh.org (referral program for local help with food, housing and employment)
www.fem.gov (disaster assistance)
www.redcross.org (disaster assistance)
www.fns.usda.gov/snap (supplemental nutrition assistance program)
www.liheap.ncat.org (links to each states low income home energy assistance program)

AEF TIPS:

Collect and copy your home insurance policy, and all family members' vital records. (SS#, birth, marriage records, ALA membership card number, employment records, military records, mortgage, rent agreements, copy of will and any other legal documents) Place in a bank deposit box or scan onto a thumb drive and place in your emergency grab and go bag. These items will save time and be of great assistance during a personal emergency or disaster situation.