



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
Department of WI – Veterans and Family Support
December/January General Orders
www.wivfwaux.org



As we enter upon this holiday season, we need to remember those less fortunate. This month I'd like to concentrate on the Unmet Needs program.

Established in 2004, the VFW **Unmet Needs** program (www.unmetneeds.com) has provided over \$10.5 million in emergency assistance grants to nearly 9,000 qualified veterans and military families. In 2007, Burger King franchisees became the primary supporters of the Unmet Needs program; to date they have raised more than \$5.3 million to provide veterans and military families with assistance for rent, mortgages, utilities, vehicle repair, food and other basic needs. Eligible applicants can receive grants of up to \$1,500 toward qualifying expenses, paid directly to the creditor. Participating Burger King franchisees conduct fundraising campaigns in July or November of each year. 100% of the proceeds support veterans and military families.

Unmet Needs Eligibility Criteria – The applicant is the service member, veteran, or eligible dependent listed under the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

The financial hardship must be due to one of the following:

- Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error, or from being discharged for medical reasons.
- Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service-connected injuries and/or illnesses.
- Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation for a service-connected injury/illness and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

The financial hardship cannot be caused by:

- Civil, legal or domestic issues, misconduct, or any issues that are a result of spousal separation or divorce.
- Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

All grants are paid directly to the creditor and not to the applicant. The applicant must provide the most current bills due. We will render payment for eligible current bills only.

Expenses Eligible for payment:

- Household expenses – mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance.
- Vehicle expenses – payments, insurance, repairs (major repairs for vehicles over ten years old will not be considered).
- Utilities
- Food and clothing.
- Children's clothing, diapers, formula, school or childcare expenses.
- Medical bills, prescriptions & eyeglasses – the patient's portion for necessary or emergency medical care only.

Ineligible Expenses:

- Credit card, military charge cards or retail store cards.
- Cable, Internet, or secondary phones.
- Cosmetic or investigational medical procedures & expenses.
- Taxes – property or otherwise.
- Furniture, electronic equipment or vehicle rentals.
- Any other expenses not determined to be a basic life need.

The eligible and ineligible expense lists are not all inclusive. Each case will be carefully reviewed for its own merits. Upon approval, payments will be made directly to the creditor. All applications are individually reviewed and the VFW reserves the right to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. For more information, contact Unmet Needs at 1-866-789-6333.

Let us do everything we can to support our Veterans. In doing this we are **“Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans”** as we **“Soar Like an Eagle for Veterans”**.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!!

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