

IDVS-PO-19-01 – POLICY GOVERNING THE VETERANS SERVICES EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

The Chief Administrator of the Division of Veterans Services has the authority under Idaho Code, as the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission shall determine to be reasonably required, to extend financial relief and assistance to destitute Veterans and to those dependent upon such destitute Veterans through what henceforth will be called the Veterans Services Emergency Relief Program.¹

This policy contains the provisions for accepting, evaluating, granting, and denying requests for emergency relief.

There exists in Idaho a need to aid honorably discharged Veterans meeting basic eligibility criteria and their dependents in the way of the actual necessities of life such as food, fuel, shelter, and clothing in a time of temporary emergency.

Purpose of Grants.

Relief grants are provided to eligible individuals for the purchase of food, fuel, shelter, and other necessities of daily living in a time of temporary emergency need. No grants will be made to residents of domiciliaries or long-term care facilities or to a potential recipient who refuses to take advantage of available government benefits or federal-state- local relief. Applicants will be required to obtain certification that they have applied for available assistance programs. Emergency relief funds may not be used to duplicate assistance from other sources.

Grant Stipulations.

Amounts of grants will depend upon facts and conditions as shown on the application submitted. A grant amount will be determined in proportion to the extent of the emergency and the length of time assistance is required. Grant recipients may receive only one (1) grant in a six (6) month period. In no case will a grant exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500), and the lifetime total of all grants awarded to a Veteran and their dependents shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500). All grants are subject to the availability of funds.

Submission of Application.

Persons authorized to submit Veterans Services Emergency Relief Program applications on behalf of applicants include post and county service officers and public welfare employees. Additionally, any person in need of emergency assistance may apply on their own behalf. A relative may file an application on behalf of the petitioner if the petitioner is not available or is unable to file the application.

Basic Eligibility.

The applicant must provide proof of the following eligibility criteria:

1. **Bona Fide Resident.** The applicant maintains, at the time of application, a principal or primary place of abode in the state of Idaho and has the present intent to remain at

¹ Idaho Code § 65-202-2

that home or abode and return to it after any period of absence.

2. **Veteran Separated Under Honorable Conditions.** Pursuant to Section 65-203, Idaho Code, the applicant is a person who served on active duty in the United States military, naval, or air service and was discharged or separated under honorable conditions after ninety (90) days of continuous active duty, or was separated or discharged from military service earlier than ninety (90) days under honorable conditions because of a service-connected disability.
3. **Idaho as Home of Record.** Idaho was the applicant's home of record while completing their term of service. The Chief Administrator of IDVS may waive the home of record requirement if the applicant has resided in Idaho for a minimum of five (5) years.

Persons to Receive Relief - Classifications.

Emergency relief grants may be made by the Idaho Division of Veterans Services to veterans and their dependents who come under the following classifications:

1. **Destitute Veterans.** Those persons meeting the basic eligibility criteria who demonstrate a state of extreme emergency need resulting from an accident or catastrophic event which has occurred within ninety (90) days of the date of the application for emergency relief, unless such ninety (90) day period is waived by the Chief Administrator of IDVS.
2. **Disabled Veterans.** Those persons meeting the basic eligibility criteria who demonstrate a state of extreme emergency need who are unemployed as the result of a disabling condition which has occurred within ninety (90) days of the date of application for emergency relief, unless such ninety (90) day period is waived by the Division Administrator.
3. **Surviving Spouse and Dependent Children.** Surviving spouses and dependent children of Veterans meeting the above eligibility requirements.

Payment Process.

Upon approval of a Veterans Services Emergency Relief Program application payment will be processed through the State Controller's Office, and a state warrant will be issued to the applicant.

Investigation.

Applicants must agree to permit investigation of their financial, domestic and employment status as may be related to the emergency need. Personal and private information on an application is confidential, and the applicant must sign the application if he is available and capable. Each application should include a full report on the financial and home conditions pertinent to the applicant, together with recommendations of the investigator making the report. Temporary emergency or destitution must be clearly shown in the investigator's report. Incorrect or falsified information may constitute basis for denial of grant including future relief.

Appeals.

The award of a grant under the program is at the discretion of the Bureau Chief, Office of Veterans Advocacy. If denied emergency relief under this policy, you may appeal the decision

in writing to the Chief Administrator within 30 days of denial.