



STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STATE BENEFITS DIVISION

Veterans Service Building, 20 West 12th Street, 2nd Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155
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SPECIAL NEEDS GRANT OVERVIEW

Benefit Provided

The purpose of the Special Needs Grant is to provide one-time financial assistance to a Veteran or surviving spouse to assist in their financial crisis and to promote stability and prevent homelessness.

Eligibility Period

Special Needs Grants are open year round.

Eligible Applicant

1. A veteran as defined by [MN Statute 197.447](#), or the surviving spouse (who has not remarried) of a deceased veteran, **and**
2. A Minnesota Resident, **and**
3. Can demonstrate a financial need that cannot be met with existing income and assets

Note: Two veterans married to each other are entitled to their own separate Special Needs Grants

Assistance Can Be Requested For

Financial assistance is paid directly to the creditor or vendor providing services. Financial assistance is not reimbursed to the applicant or an applicant's family member. Assistance may be provided for the items listed below; items not listed below will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Assistance can be requested for more than one item.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Rent/Mortgage | Security Deposits | Property Taxes | Home Repairs |
| Utility Bills | Medical Bills | Hearing Aides | Auto Repairs |
| Auto Insurance | Auto Loan Payments | Major Appliances | Books for college |
| Furnace/AC Unit | Medical Insurance | Property Tax | Storage Units |
| Storage Units | Tools for work/school | Wells/Septic Systems | Wheelchair Ramps |

Demonstrating a Financial Need

One of the most important aspects of a Special Needs Grant is the applicant's letter that informs us of their situation, their financial need, and how if assistance is granted, they will be able to sustain themselves moving forward. This includes substantiating their financial need with documentation.

All income and assets are factored when assessing your financial need.

Examples of supporting documentation may include but is not limited to:

1. A letter from an employer stating a reduction in hours, salary, being furloughed, or laid off.
2. Confirmation of receipt of Unemployment Insurance
3. History of pay stubs showing a reduction in hours

4. Hospitalization records and/or medical bills
5. Police reports or court records

How to apply

An eligible applicant must apply for a Special Needs Grant through their County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO). You may find your CVSO by going to <https://www.macvso.org/find-a-cvso.html>.

If your County Veterans Service Office is unable to assist you during this State of Emergency please contact MDVA's Field Operations Team, who can assist you with your application, by contacting FO.MDVA@state.mn.us

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the Special Needs Grant please contact your County Veterans Service Officer or LinkVet at 1-888-Link-Vet.