

Veteran's Assistance Program

Guide

Introduction:

This Guide is established so that the Veterans Assistance Program, a program of Operation Support Our Troops–America, (hereinafter OSOT-America) will operate in a clear and consistent manner. Each case is handled on an individual basis. This is a one-time, once in a lifetime grant and must receive a majority vote of the Veterans Assistance Program committee to be approved.

Grants Program:

Overview:

The purpose of the grant program is to assist veterans and immediate family members who are in financial crisis. Eligible family members include: an “appointed guardian” (whose veteran member is physically or mentally incapable of filing) or a child between the age of 18 to 26 , whose veteran parent was killed or died in the line of duty and is, unmarried, living at home, and a full-time student, in need of financial assistance. Proof of hardship must be provided to be eligible for this grant.

Grants are a hand up and not a handout. The veteran must be in receipt of some form of income or if unemployed must be actively pursuing employment. If the veteran is unemployed and is employable the veteran can also be pursuing a course of education or training leading to employment for a grant to be considered.

If the veteran is totally disabled, proof must be shown. Proof may be in the form of a current VA disability award letter, current rating decision by the VA or a current disability Social Security Award letter. Short-term disability may also be considered on a case by case basis.

The applicant must provide an explanation (short 250 to 500-word letter) with supporting documentation of how the grant will benefit in achieving and maintaining sustainability.

If the veteran or child that is requesting assistance admits or is found out that the current financial crisis is a result of current or ongoing substance abuse the case will be suspended. The veteran will become eligible for reinstatement only after proof of enrollment into a drug or alcohol treatment unit at the VA or through a private license healthcare provider specializing in substance abuse. The veteran must show proof from the provider on provider letterhead that treatment is being received and is ongoing. The letter must also state that the veteran is ready to pursue gainful employment. Only after receiving this documentation will the veteran be eligible to reapply for a grant if grant funding is still available

Eligibility

Service requirements:

- Received an Honorable Discharge or a General Discharge under honorable conditions.

Other requirements:

- The “Request for Assistance” must be completed by either the veteran or an appointed guardian.
- The veteran or grantee is required to supply a current physical address.
- Surviving children, where the parent(s) were killed or died in the line of duty, 18-26 years old living at home and must be an unmarried full-time student.
- OSOT-America will make checks payable and send to the debtor or organization.
- In no circumstances will a check be issued to the individual. We must have a working phone number and/or website of the debtor or organization that will be receiving the payment.
- Veteran or surviving child must present themselves with sound moral character. Meaning “a person’s conduct measures up to the standards of average citizens of the community in which the applicant resides.”

Documentation required prior to assistance being granted:

- Short Letter (250 to 500 words) of how this grant will improve their life and how they will be sustainable after receiving it.
- If the veteran or child has been turned down for assistance by another organization, please include that information.
- Valid copy of; DD214, NGB 22 report, DARP FM 249-2E, NRPC 1070-124, AF 526, NAVMC 798, or CG 4175.
- Certified financial Power of Attorney of “Appointed Guardian” of veteran.
- If the Veteran or the child applying have had a name change because of marriage, divorce, or for other reasons must show proof that their name has been changed from that on the DD 214 by providing appropriate proof of the name change.
- Proof of Hardship – Two of your most recent pay stubs, social security checks, and disability check. Also please include a picture of current credit score.
- The online “Request Assistance” form must be completed in its entirety. Including a detailed description of the veteran’s or child’s financial situation along with supporting documentation. All applications must be completed online.
- For a Request for Assistance grant to be valid, all documentation must be current. The veteran, guardian, or child must request an updated bill with the date of when the application begins. If the bill is stamped or marked final by the appropriate utility a current statement must be submitted.
- In the case of a surviving child, please also provide a death certificate of the parent.

Grant Coverage

Rent/mortgage: (Up to one month's rent/mortgage)

- Rent or mortgage assistance requires that the veteran or applicant show proof of income to meet ongoing sustainment of rental/mortgage payments.
- The lease or mortgage must include current dates.
- OSOT–America will cover up to one month rent or mortgage. The veteran will be responsible for any security deposit, home-owners association fee, back-taxes, etc.)

Utilities:

- Current bill
- Notice of overdue payment
- Current shut off notice

House Service Systems:

- OSOT–America will provide grant assistance for repairs and/or installation of Central A/C units, Furnaces/Boilers, and/or Hot Water Systems.
- OSOT-America will work with most licensed service technicians or repair companies that can be identified through a website, the Better Business Bureau, or repair shop.
- In the case of a rental the lease must state the landlord does not provide such services.

Auto Repair:

- For auto repairs the estimate must be from an auto repair shop that can be identified through a website, the Better Business Bureau or a dealership.
- For purchase of tires the veteran must show and demonstrate a need i.e. a certification by an authorized dealer that the tires are unsafe. OSOT-America will only cover the cost for either standard or all-season tires.