

Policy Manual for:
Livingston County Veterans Affairs
Veterans Relief Rules

****You must have an appointment to fill out application/drop off information.****

In order to apply for financial assistance you must complete the whole application. You must also have copies of each item listed below. There must be no blanks on the application and you will need to have all the information needed in order for your application to be reviewed.

Proofs required at time of application:

1. **Proof of Veteran or Active duty status:**
War time service as defined by Public Act 190 of 1965(MCLA 35.61). See reverse page for war time dates. DD214 or similar document, Orders to active duty (not for training). Veteran must be Honorably Discharged.
2. **Proof of Residency:**
Drivers License (all adults in household), Michigan ID, Utility bills, Rent receipts, Mortgage documents, Tax statements.
3. **Proof of Dependency:**
Birth certificates, Marriage license, Divorce Decree, Adoption Certificate, Court Order. Income tax return/IRS guidelines.
4. **Proof of Income for all Wage Earners in Household:**
Social Security award. V.A. award of pension, compensation, education or insurance. Employer letter, pay stub, or IRS statement. Unemployment compensation letter. Department of Human Services income. Workers compensation. Child support.
5. **Proof of Problem:**
Employment layoff notice, Bank foreclosure notice, Rent or Mortgage late notice (need warranty deed if asking for mortgage assistance or copy of lease if asking for rent assistance), Utility shutoff notice (current bill), Eviction notice, Repossession notice, Collection notice, Doctor/Dentist statement of need, Sheriffs sale due to delinquent taxes, Health Dept. or Building Dept. condemnation notice, Vehicle title and insurance in applicants name if requesting assistance with loans, repairs, or insurance along with two written estimates.

Examples of acceptable requests for aid

1. Food
2. Housing
3. Transportation

4. Utilities
5. Medical/Dental/Optical/Pharmacy
6. Insurance
7. Taxes
8. Tools of trade
9. Clothing

Wartime service periods – 90 days active duty, 1 day wartime

WWII	Dec. 02, 1941	to	Dec. 31, 1946
Korea	June 27, 1950	to	Jan. 31, 1955
Vietnam	Feb. 28, 1961	to	May 7, 1975
Persian Gulf	Aug. 02, 1990	to	TBD

Or have an Armed Forces expeditionary medal

Level of need (See attached Income Threshold for verification)

1. Single veteran
2. Veteran and one dependent
3. Veteran and two dependents
4. Veteran and three dependents
5. Veteran and four dependents
6. Veteran and five or more dependents

Dependent is defined as a spouse and/or child less than 18 years of age or disabled before age 18 or parent as allowed by IRS.

Level of Authorization

1. Administrative Aide - \$300.00
2. Veterans Counselor - \$600.00
3. Director - \$1000.00
4. Requests over \$1000.00 will need the Director and 2 members of the Department of Veterans Affairs Committee to concur.
5. In the event #4 (above) does not result in a grant to the applicant, the application will be taken to the full committee at their regularly scheduled meeting. The applicant will appear at that meeting.
6. A denied applicant will be furnished the information necessary to facilitate an appeal to Circuit Court. (Appeals sheet is attached.)

Frequency of application

1. There will be a maximum of **three** applications per year. Exceptions to this rule can be made by the DVA Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting.
2. There is no limit to the number of applications made during a veteran's lifetime.

Livingston County 2010/ 2011

VA National Geographic Income Thresholds

County Name	MSA Name		LIMIT Veteran Only	Veteran + 1	Veteran + 2	Veteran + 3	Veteran + 4	Veteran + 5	Veteran + 6	Veteran + 7
Livingston County	Livingston County, MI HUD Metro FMR Area	<u>Annual Rate</u>	\$44,800	\$51,200	\$57,600	\$64,000	\$69,100	\$74,250	\$79,350	\$84,500
		<u>Veteran Monthly rate:</u>	\$3733	\$4267	\$4800	\$5333	\$5758	\$6188	\$6613	\$7042

The qualifying income for consideration for "Indigent Fund" assistance is based on the Veterans Administration Geographic Income Thresholds. A veteran (or their surviving families) must meet or be below these annual income levels in order to be considered for relief. Although the figures are given in ANNUAL amounts, a sudden loss of income will be considered as well on a monthly basis. For example, if veteran earnings exceed \$44,800 per year (\$3,733 per month), and then there is a sudden loss of income below that monthly rate, the veterans can apply and will be considered for assistance.

Veterans Relief Rules

M.C.L.A. 35.23

P.A.214 of 1899, Sec. 3

Denied applications for Relief:

“Appeal may be taken therefrom to the circuit court of such county, by certiorari by filing application therefore with the clerk within 15 days following the making of such decision. The court shall hear the case de novo and its decision shall be final.”

Definitions: “Certiorari” means the Circuit Court is superior to the Soldiers Relief Commission or the Department of Veterans Affairs Committee and can make a decision regarding the appeal.

“De Novo” means a new case before the Court.

There is a \$150.00 statutory appeal fee for filing an application of appeal with the Circuit Court. If you are indigent and unable to pay the filing fee, you can ask for paperwork to request that the Court waive the filing fees. The office of the Circuit Court Clerk is located at 204 S. Highlander Way, Ste. 4, Howell, MI 48843.

The Veterans Relief applicant who wishes to appeal a denied application shall file an appeal in his/her own words that indicates to the court what is being appealed and why the court should grant this relief.

The Court's decision is final.