



April 9, 2020

WDVA Bulletin No. 1077

TO: County/Tribal Veterans Service Offices

SUBJECT: Temporary Suspension of Certain Administrative Rules Related to the Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant (ANVG)

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has instituted a temporary suspension of certain rules contained within *Wisconsin Administrative Code VA 2.01* related to the Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant (ANVG) in light of recent circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent challenges that veterans currently face in submitting applications and/or qualifying for the grant.

As Wisconsin Administrative Code § VA 2.01 stands, certain rules, if strictly complied with during this time of emergency, would prevent, hinder, or delay grant payments to veterans who have suffered a loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary suspension of certain rules will allow WDVA to take the necessary actions to assist and protect the health and welfare of Wisconsin's veterans and their families.

Among the provisions, WDVA has modified four definitions and suspended one definition contained within Wisconsin Administrative Code § VA 2.01. These definition changes include the following:

- The definition of "liquid assets" is modified to exclude the cash value of life insurance policies, liquid investments, including stocks and bonds, and amounts deposited in any retirement plans.
- The definition of "Declaration of Aid" (DOA) is modified to eliminate the requirement that the form be signed by a county official authorized to determine the aid available for an applicant and the applicant's family and submitted with the application.
- The definition of "Description of Benefits" is modified to no longer expire 90 days after the date eligibility has been established. This will lift the restriction on the timeframe during which a veteran must receive care.
- The definition of "economic emergency" that is limited in its scope, is suspended in its entirety.

The income limit restricting eligibility for the grant to applicants whose household income is less than 180% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines at time of application is suspended.

The timeframes in which an applicant must submit an application following a loss of income and receive medical care by a health care provider is suspended.

Along with the changes to the rules regarding the Declaration of Aid, the rule requiring WDVA to terminate an application if requested documents have not been received within 30 days of notification is suspended.

With many public offices currently closed, these changes will significantly lift any burden or hardship placed upon veterans seeking to apply for this grant. This will further allow more veterans currently facing financial challenges due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to qualify for the grant and receive assistance from WDVA.

For ease and accessibility, we encourage the submission of applications and supporting documentation either via email to VetsBenefitsGrants@dva.wisconsin.gov or fax to (608) 267-0403.



If you are assisting an applicant with completing an application for the Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant, please have the applicant list their email address (if they have one) on the form, as this will help us better communicate with applicants if necessary. Please ensure that the veteran's marital status is indicated.

A complete application for Health Care Aid should include all of the following:

- WDVA 2450 (Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant Application – Health Care).
- Proof that available household liquid assets (meaning cash on hand, including cash in checking, savings, money market or similar accounts, but excluding the cash value of life insurance policies, liquid investments, including stocks and bonds and amounts deposited in any retirement plans) do not exceed \$1,000.

A complete application for Subsistence Aid should include all of the following:

- WDVA 2453 (Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant Application – Subsistence Aid).
- Proof that available household liquid assets (meaning cash on hand, including cash in checking, savings, money market or similar accounts, but excluding the cash value of life insurance policies, liquid investments, including stocks and bonds and amounts deposited in any retirement plans) do not exceed \$1,000.
- Employer's Letter, on company letterhead, for the veteran and spouse (if applicable), that indicates when the veteran last worked, when the veteran was last paid, and that the employee was released from their job duties due to the COVID-19 pandemic (if applicable).
- Proof of income (paystubs) from the veteran and spouse for the 30 days prior (date paid, not when worked) to when the veteran last worked.
- Proof of income (paystubs) from the veteran and spouse since the veteran last worked (date paid, not when worked) until the time that the application was received.
- If the loss of income is due to injury or illness (apart from a diagnosis due to the COVID-19 pandemic), a WDVA 2045 (Verification of Injury or Illness) must be submitted by the veteran's physician.
- (For self-employed veterans) A Profit and Loss Statement will need to be provided from February 1st until when the application is received in 30 day increments. Applications for self-employed veterans will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact our Grants Unit with any questions at VetsBenefitsGrants@dva.wisconsin.gov.