



# TEXAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS FOUNDATION



## Frequently asked questions

All applications are individually reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Submitting an application does not guarantee approval.



**1. If I am approved what bills will I get assistance with?**

If you are approved you can receive assistance for basic life sustaining bills such as utilities, rent/mortgage, insurance, transportation costs, etc.

**2. What bills will not be paid?**

If approved we will not assist with any fees, fines, judgments, citations, legal fees, higher education, child support, alimony, spousal support, political contributions, religious tithing, phone, cable, medical, child care, repairs, down payments or any other expense not considered by us as a basic life sustaining need to avoid privation.

**3. I have a discharge that says "Under Honorable Conditions". Do I qualify?** The answer is NO. You might be eligible for another program(s), please contact us.

**4. I live in Texas, but do not have a Texas Driver's License or I.D. Do I qualify?** The answer is MAY-BE. A current Texas Driver's License, Texas I.D or Texas voter registration card is the best way to prove Texas residency. Please contact us if you do not have any State of Texas issued identification.

**5. I just moved to Texas and have resided here for less than six (6) months, do I qualify?** The answer is NO. The best way to prove Texas residency is with a current Texas Driver's License, Texas I.D or Texas voter Registration card, not a temporary one.

**6. I am a Texas citizen on active duty currently stationed in another state. Do I qualify?** The answer is YES, as long as services you are asking assistance for are located here in Texas and your Leave and Earning Statement shows you are a resident of Texas.

**7. I received a grant before. Am I to apply now?** The answer is YES, if the previous grant was awarded three (3) years or thirty-six (36) months prior. The reason for hardship must not be the same as before. If the reason you need to apply within the 3 year period is due to a state or federal designated disaster, you may be eligible. Contact us for more information.

**8. Do I have to have a veteran service agency/ military point of contact?** The answer is YES. We will NOT process your application without one. Please coordinate with them for long term solutions from other resources.

**9. What if I do not have email?** If you do not have email or access to email you can ask your Veteran Benefits/Military Point of Contact that you listed on page 17 to submit an email request on your behalf.

**10. I am not required to file a tax return. Am I still eligible for assistance?** The answer is YES. If you do not have to file a tax return or you have not filed a tax return, you will need to obtain a statement from the Internal Revenue Service. This can be either a Verification of Nonfiling or a Transcript of the last return you filed. You must submit an IRS Form 4506-T "Request for Transcripts of Tax Records" to the IRS and send to us the confirmation you receive from the IRS. We know this will take time so please submit your application to us along with a copy of the IRS Form 4506-T that you submitted to the IRS so we can preserve your place in line while awaiting the return correspondence from the IRS that you will forward to us once you receive it.

**Please know that making fraudulent claims to obtain financial benefits is a criminal violation and legal repercussions may occur, including reimbursement of funds and possible criminal charges.**



**Don't send this page with your application.  
Keep for your records.**



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(continued)

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**11. I do not have a bank account of any type. Am I still eligible for assistance?** The answer is MAYBE. If you receive income on a debit card, you can obtain a transaction history of that by calling the financial institution listed on the back of the card. There are few instances that will allow a waiver on this requirement.

**12. Why do you require financial information on all adult members residing in the household?** We require financial information on all adult members residing in the household because many items are shared by the members of the household, such as water, electricity, shelter, food, communications services, transportation, etc.

**13. I am in need of financial assistance today. Can I get immediate assistance?** The answer is NO. The Veterans Assistance Program (VAP) is not able to process same day applications.

**14. Do I qualify if I am unemployed?** The answer to this is MAYBE. Sudden unexpected unemployment constitutes a well-grounded claim for assistance. We know that each case is unique, and we evaluate each on a case-by-case basis. Chronic unemployment with no attempts to become employed even if the employment is not in your area of expertise will result in a denial. Any situation in which voluntarily job termination, for any reason, will be denied, as well as any situation in which full or partial ownership of a business is involved.

**15. I sent in my application and supporting documents. What happens next?** The answer is that your application will be reviewed by our review committee. The review committee may ask for further information, in which case you will be contacted by a representative and asked to provide that information. We assist on a "first come, first served basis". You may request a status update by sending an email to [foundation@texasvfw.org](mailto:foundation@texasvfw.org). Include your full name and that you are inquiring as to the status of your application. Due to privacy issues we do not handle status requests over the phone. A representative of the Texas VFW Foundation may call you to talk to you in person and/or to request further clarification or documentation that is needed for the review committee.

**16. When is my application deemed complete?** The application is deemed complete when all supporting documentation has been received, your information has been verified, the review committee has no further questions, and all bills presented have been validated, and if approved, checks completed and mailed.

**17. How will I know if I have been approved for a Grant?** The answer is YOU WILL RECEIVE NOTIFICATION IN THE MAIL. Notices of decision are mailed for both approved and denied applications. If approved, the award and instructions are included.

**18. Your application is too long and you require too many documents. Why is this?** We want to help you, yet at the same time we have to be good stewards of the limited resources we have to help veterans and their families. While the application process may be lengthy, you can get through the process faster with full disclosure and truthful representations. Please understand this assistance is not an entitlement simply because you are a veteran. It is a program created by war veterans, to assist eligible veterans who qualify, with temporary short term assistance for basic life sustaining needs to avoid privation.



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**19. If I am approved how much money will I get?** The answer is NONE. The VAP cannot issue cash to you if approved. Instead, we will issue checks to your creditors. Those checks are included in the notice of decision sent to you so that you may forward them to your creditors. The maximum amount you COULD receive is \$2,500.00 in assistance.

**20. I received a letter saying I was denied. Can I appeal this decision?** The answer is NO.

To avoid this and to give yourself the best possible chance at receiving assistance, please ensure you meet the eligibility criteria and disclose all information at the time of your application. If things change after you submit your application, please immediately notify us so we can add that to your file for review by the committee.

**21. I was denied. Can I reapply for assistance if I feel my situation has changed from my original application or if I have another situation different from my first one come up?** The answer is YES. You should submit new supporting documentation that you feel would have an impact on your situation along with a written request to "send back to review". If it has been more than a year from date of your original application a complete new application is required.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to privacy concerns status check requests for your application must be made by email while your file is being processed. Status checks by phone will be denied, and you will be directed to correspond your status check by email at [foundation@texasvfw.org](mailto:foundation@texasvfw.org). Please include your full name in the request. We will let you know the status of your application as soon as possible. Our offices are not equipped to handle walk-in cases. Please work with a local relief agency or the agency of your choice. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and service to our country. We do appreciate it.



To help expedite this process, please ensure you have submitted all required documentation when applying and as additional documents are requested. Failure to do so will only delay your application. Decisions about your case are based on all information available to us. You need to forward any additional documents applicable to your case as you receive them.

**FINAL DECISIONS:** Are mailed to the address listed on your application. If your mailing address, phone or email contact information changes while we are processing your application, please immediately inform us. Decisions of approval and denial are final and not subject to appeal. The Texas VFW Foundation is a I.R.S. 501 (c) (3) Charity. We are not a governmental entity or a subdivision of a government entity.

**FEDERAL FALSE CLAIMS ACT—31 USC 3729-3733.** (Updated August 2010 incorporating passage of Pub. L. No. 111-203, 124 Stat. 1376) § 3729. False claims (a) Liability for certain acts. (1) In general. Subject to paragraph (2), any person who—(A) knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval; (B) knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement material to a false or fraudulent claim; ...is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not less than \$ 5,000 and not more than \$ 10,000, as adjusted by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note; Public Law 104-410), plus 3 times the amount of damages which the Government sustains because of the act of that person.



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