



GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTANCE

INTRODUCTION

The Veterans Service Commission (ACVSC), formerly called the Soldiers Relief Commission, was established by the Ohio General Assembly in 1886. Title 59, Chapter 5901 of the Ohio Revised Code establishes and regulates the operation of the ACVSC. ACVSC is empowered to provide temporary assistance to veterans and their spouses, their dependents, widows and orphans.

The ACVSC maintains offices at 110 Cottage St., Ashland, Ohio (County Office Building). Hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The ACVSC meets the third Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at the above office.

The ACVSC will make decisions based on the facts of each case and will be fair in each and every instance, ensuring that assistance is granted to those that are entitled. This program is not intended to replace or supplement normal income, insurance, retirement programs, Social Security or other assistance programs. **A veteran/applicant must prove the need for emergency financial assistance.**

To expect a set of procedures to cover all possible situations is not practical. The following guidelines are presented not as firm rules, but to establish a general policy on which the ACVSC can base the decisions. All assistance applications will be dealt with fairly, but at the discretion of the ACVSC.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Ashland County Veterans Service Commission office or call 419-282-4225/4200/4274.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

The ACVSC provides three types of temporary assistance;

1. Immediate Emergency Assistance

This may be granted by the Veterans Service Office personnel if the amount is not over \$300.00 per applicant. This is assistance given between ACVSC monthly meetings and is limited to groceries and household supplies, major utilities, rent, or interest on mortgage. Any assistance above \$300.00 must be with the approval of one designated board member.

2. Monthly Assistance

This assistance may be granted monthly (with limitations). The need for assistance and the amount, not to exceed \$1500 monthly and will be determined at the regular ACVSC meetings. The veteran and/or applicant may attend the meeting of the ACVSC. At that time the facts of their case can be reviewed. The ACVSC may also request the veteran and/or applicant to appear before the ACVSC prior to assistance being granted. Notification by either party must be done before the Friday prior to the Thursday meeting.

3. Widow's Allowance

Veteran's unmarried surviving spouses who are in receipt of the Death Pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or would be entitled had the deceased veteran served during a period of war, may be assisted with vouchers for groceries and household supplies, not to exceed \$200 per month. The widow's allowance eligibility shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

1. To be considered eligible for temporary financial assistance from the ACVSC an applicant **shall** be a veteran (as defined under Title 59-Section 5901.01B), an active-duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the spouse, surviving spouse or dependent parent, minor child or ward of a veteran or active-duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States. Definition of a veteran under Title 59-Section 5901-01 (B):

“Veteran means a person who served in the armed forces of the United States on active military duty and was discharged from the service under honorable conditions, and who either served on active duty for reasons other than training or while serving on active duty for training, incurred a disability recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense as service-connected”.

2. Have been a resident of Ashland County for three consecutive months immediately prior to application. Residency requirements can be proven by voter registration, rent receipts or utility bill payments.

3. Have a total household income that is insufficient to meet the monthly expenses. Total household income includes all income sources for the veteran, all dependents and all other full or part time occupants of the veteran's household.

THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE

A. The primary purpose of the ACVSC is to help veterans in need and/or their dependents meet the needs of life. Therefore, only certain items can be considered. They include:

1. Groceries & household supplies for veteran/applicant and dependents. The amount of dollar assistance is \$50.00 per week for the veteran/applicant and \$50.00 per week additional for each dependent (including step-children) in the home. If only household only supply vouchers are granted, they will receive \$15.00 per week for the veteran/applicant and \$10.00 per week for each dependent in the home.

2. Monthly rent payment will be for the veteran/applicant and dependents primary residence only. ACVSC will consider the current months rent ONLY. The dwelling must be rented by the veteran or applicant and cannot be paid to a relative.

3. Heat in the primary residence of the veteran/applicant and dependents ONLY, and must be in the veteran's/applicant's name.

4. Electricity for the primary residence of the veteran/applicant and dependents ONLY, and must be in the veteran's/applicant's name.

5. Water, sewer and sanitation for the primary residence of the veteran/applicant and dependents ONLY, and must be in the veteran's/applicant's name.

6. Mortgage interest on the first mortgage of veteran's primary residence, and must be in the veteran's/applicant's name.

B. Other items such as telephone, taxes, insurance, credit card payments, other installment payments, transportation costs and any other expenses cannot be paid. However, all information regarding the monthly cost of such items must be listed on the application for assistance to help the ACVSC in making a decision.

C. Before assistance has been awarded to the veteran/applicant and after assistance has been given, the veteran/applicant has certain responsibilities to the ACVSC. They include:

1. Seeking more permanent financial solutions to their problems.
2. Following instructions given by the ACVSC and Veterans Service Office staff. Instructions may include seeking three places of employment per week, job interviews, applying for food stamps, or other programs through social service agencies, and other assistance that may be available to them.

FAILURE TO DO SO MAY TERMINATE ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE.
THE ACVSC WILL DO THEIR UTMOST TO HELP THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO
HELP THEMSELVES.

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

The applicant must cooperate fully with the ACVSC to have the application approved.

1. The application is completed during a scheduled appointment with office staff. All application questions and necessary information must be answered fully and honestly and properly signed by the veteran or applicant. The application cannot be presented to the ACVSC or to the office staff (in emergency requests) until the application is fully completed.

2. Proof of income and expenses must be furnished upon request of the ACVSC.

3. Proof of residency, etc., such as voter registration, rent receipts or utility receipts must be provided to justify information on the application.

4. A veteran or applicant may attend any ACVSC meeting to appeal a decision rendered by the ACVSC or Ashland County Veterans Service Office. A request to appeal a decision must be in writing, on appeal form furnished by Ashland Co. Veterans Service Office, and received 7 days prior to the monthly meeting. The request will be submitted to the Ashland Co. Veterans Service Office.

DURATION OF ASSISTANCE

Veteran's financial assistance is not intended to be a long term solution, but to provide temporary help. All applications for assistance will be reviewed by the ACVSC at their regular monthly meeting. Applicants may be entitled up to six (6) months of financial assistance in a twelve (12) month period for their first year of assistance, up to three (3) months of assistance in a twelve (12) month period for their second year of assistance, and up to three (3) months of assistance in a twelve (12) month period for their third and final year of assistance. There shall also be a full twelve (12) month waiting period between the first and second year, and the second and third year of assistance before full eligibility for financial assistance opens back up, although applications can be submitted at any time to be reviewed collectively by the ACVSC. Additionally, financial assistance is limited to a lifetime maximum of \$12,000.00 per household. Exception to these rules shall be for extreme emergencies as determined by the ACVSC.

The Ashland Co. Veterans Service Office will issue a voucher for the financial assistance authorized by the ACVSC.

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