

# WEBSTER COUNTY

## Veterans Affairs Commission

723 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

The Webster County Veterans Affairs Commission, with approval of the Webster County Board of Supervisors, set forth the following policies, and eligibility guidelines, in conjunction with Chapter 35 of the Code of Iowa for indigent Veterans, their spouse, surviving spouse, and children age seventeen and under living in Webster County.

### I. Requirements & Documentation:

- Be a legal resident of Webster County.
- Provide an-other than dishonorable DD 214.
- Current circumstance **MUST** demonstrate an emergency.
- **COMPLETELY** filled out County VA application for assistance.
- **COMPLETELY** filled out Budget expense worksheet.
- If under the retirement age of 65, and not employed, you must provide documentation from the Iowa Work Force Development verifying you are actively seeking employment.

### II. Ineligible for assistance from the Webster County Veterans Affairs:

- Incomplete or falsifying any information on the VA application for assistance form(s).
- Voluntarily quitting a job or terminated for cause due to job performance.

### III. Service Qualifications:

- Prior to September 8, 1980: Served under conditions other than dishonorable.
- September 8, 1980 and after: Served under conditions other than dishonorable for at least 90 days. This does **NOT** include basic or advanced training.
- September 8, 1980 and after: Served under conditions other than dishonorable in the Guard or Reserve for 24 months of continuous active duty or the “**full period**” for which the member was ordered to active duty for mobilization or deployment.
- Served under conditions other than dishonorable while attaining 20 good years for retirement purposes while a member of the Guard or Reserve.

#### IV. The Veterans Affairs Commission Will:

- Approve or disapprove each request on the merit of the application.
- Decline assistance to an applicant who has not proven to be indigent.
- Decline assistance to an applicant who is capable but not actively seeking employment.
- Decline assistance to an applicant claiming “cannot work due to a medical issue”, yet provides no medical documentation to support the claim.
- Family/household income will include wages from employment, child support-alimony, rental assistance, social security or disability, supplemental security income, unemployment, Veterans disability compensation, or worker’s compensation. And other receipts of income or public assistance of the family to include food stamps and housing assistance. Failure to disclose all income constitutes an immediate disqualification for assistance.
- **Consider current month needs for the following categories:**
  - Burial
  - Rent
  - Utilities
  - Transportation for medical

#### V. Guidelines for Available Assistance:

- **Burial:**
  - Maximum amount set by the Webster County Board of Supervisors is **\$2,000.00**.
  - All assets, must be liquidated before consideration can be made. This may include personnel property, real estate, life-insurance etc.
- **Rent:**
  - Rental agreement must be in the Veterans name.
  - Not more than, three non-consecutive months during the fiscal year (July-June).
  - Maximum amount per month is set at **\$500.00**.
  - Payment only to a non-relative owner of the property.
  - This office does not pay security deposit or mortgage payments.
- **Utilities:**
  - Utility bill must be in the Veterans name.
  - Not more than, three non-consecutive months during the fiscal year (July-June).
  - Maximum amount per month is set at **\$175.00**.
  - Utility company will receive direct payment.
  - This office does not pay for deposits or reconnect charges.
- **Transportation:**
  - Consideration only if the Veteran does not receive travel pay.

**VI. Income Guidelines per Household Occupancy: Unique or Unusual Circumstances will necessitate approval at the discretion of the Commissioners.**

1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	Over four
\$2,265	\$3,052	\$3,838	\$4,625	Add \$150.00 per person

**VII. Maximum Assistance Available: \$1,500 per fiscal year and \$10,000-lifetime.**

**VIII. Procedure for Appealing Decision:**

The applicant has ten working days from the date the denial was postmarked to submit an appeal. The Webster County Veterans Affairs Director will then submit the appeal for placement on the agenda of the next Webster County Board of Supervisors scheduled meeting.

Notification of the appeal hearings date and time will be send via regular mail to the applicant. One appeal only for each denial.

Upon written request, the applicant will have access to their case file to present relevant evidence in support of their appeal. They may testify or have other witnesses testify on their behalf. Evidence to include the applicants file but not limited to, will be used as evidence. The Board of Supervisors may question the applicant. A member of the Veterans Affairs Commission shall be present and give the Board of Supervisors reasons for the denial of assistance. The hearing before the Board of Supervisors shall not be an open meeting as under Iowa Code Chapter 21 due to the confidentiality of evidence within the applicants file.

The Board of Supervisors shall make a decision on the appeal with-in ten working days of the appeal hearing. Within four working days of making their decision, the Board of Supervisors shall mail its written decision to the applicant by ordinary mail. The decision shall state the reasons for the action together with any statutes or ordinance that apply. The decision of the Board of Supervisors shall be final.

Adopted May 24, 2022 by the Webster County Veterans Affairs Commission:

Commission Chairman Thomas Dorsey Thomas S. Dorsey  
Commission Member Marie Sheeder Marie A. Sheeder  
Commission Member Richard Lennon Richard Lennon  
Veterans Affairs Director Dan Lewandowski Dan Lewandowski

Approved May 24, 2022 by the Webster County Board of Supervisors:

Mark Campbell, Chair Mark Campbell