

**St. Clair COUNTY SOLDIERS/SAILORS RELIEF FUND
OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
200 Grand River, Ste. 104
Port Huron MI 48060
(810) 989-6945**

EMERGENCY GRANT PROCEDURES BRIEF

Temporary assistance granted by the St. Clair County Soldiers/Sailors Relief Fund (SCCVA) for emergencies or hardships is available to eligible wartime veterans their families, residing in the county of St. Clair, state of Michigan. Under the authority of Public Act 192 of 1953 (as amended), the SCCVA cannot provide assistance for long-term problems or chronic financial difficulties. Those eligible for the SCCVA temporary grant program must apply through the SCCVA Committee. All applications are investigated, deliberated, and decided in confidence. Any applicant may request a personal hearing before the commission at the meeting when his/her application is considered. The decision of the SCCVA Committee is final. Soldiers/Sailors Relief Fund Committee is the St. Clair County Department of Veterans Affairs Committee members.

General Definition of Need

When an eligible applicant is unable to temporarily provide the basic necessities of life in our society without causing a hardship, a situation for a possible SCCVA grant exists. The assistance must be essential and not for the relief of an inconvenience, or the purchase of a want/desire. The key factor is determining whether or not a grant is justified is the ability of the applicant to manage the obligation for which aid is requested after a grant is made. If there is no reasonable expectation that the SCCVA grant would enable the applicant to resume his/her responsibility then aid is not appropriate or wise. Since the SCCVA only has a yearly allotment to provide grants and administer its operation, care must be taken to insure that the resources are expended wisely and where they will help the most. If, by experience with the SCCVA or through other means and applicant's financial situation creates repetitive "emergencies" or appears to be chronic in nature, commission must refer that person to other resources designated to address those lingering needs. In addition, the applicant should have attempted to resolve the emergency or hardship through every reasonable means available prior to asking the SCCVA for assistance. (Often the willingness to take responsibility for one's difficulties is demonstrated by the ability to pay a portion of the debt). In other words, the applicant should have tried to resolve the problem, but is apparently unable to do so without SCCVA aid.

Basic Eligibility

To be eligible for a grant from the SCCVA you must be a legal resident of the County of St. Clair, State of Michigan at the time of the application. The veteran must have been discharged under honorable conditions, with at least 90 days of active wartime service, or have been separated as the result of a physical or mental disability incurred in the line of duty (or aggravated by active duty). Service during the following periods:

<i>WWI</i>	<i>April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 (If service in Russia then to April 1, 1920)</i>
<i>WWII</i>	<i>December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946</i>
<i>Korea</i>	<i>June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955</i>
<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975</i>
<i>Persian Gulf</i>	<i>August 2, 1990 to present</i>

The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, for service between periods in places such as listed below is required:

<i>Lebanon</i>	<i>July 1, 1958 to November 1, 1958</i>
<i>Berlin</i>	<i>August 14, 1961 to June 1, 1963</i>
<i>Quemoy & Matsu</i>	<i>August 23, 1958 to June 1, 1963</i>
<i>Taiwan Straits</i>	<i>August 23, 1958 to January 1, 1963</i>
<i>Cuba*</i>	<i>October 25, 1962 to June 1, 1963</i>
<i>Congo</i>	<i>July 14, 1960 to September 1, 1962; November 23-27, 1964</i>
<i>Laos</i>	<i>April 19, 1961 to October 7, 1962</i>
<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>July 1, 1958 to July 3, 1965</i>
<i>Dominican Republic</i>	<i>April 18, 1965 to September 21, 1966</i>
<i>Korea</i>	<i>February 1, 1955 to February 27, 1961</i>
<i>Evacuation of Cambodia</i>	<i>April 11-13, 1975</i>
<i>Evacuation of Vietnam</i>	<i>April 11-13, 1975</i>
<i>Mayaguez Operation</i>	<i>May 15, 1975</i>
<i>Lebanon**</i>	<i>June 1, 1983</i>
<i>Grenada</i>	<i>October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983</i>
<i>Persian Gulf</i>	<i>July 24, 1987 to date to be announced</i>

*Navy Expeditionary Medal -- The Department of Defense advises that a Navy Expeditionary Medal has been authorized for Navy personnel for Cuba service January 3, 1961 to October 23, 1962; and Marine personnel serving in Thailand May 16, 1962 to August 10, 1962. Naval personnel attached to the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force serving ashore in Thailand at the same time are eligible to the Navy Expeditionary Medal.

**The Navy and Marine Expeditionary Medal is authorized for Lebanon service from August 20, 1982 to May 30, 1983.

Future dates: The period beginning on the date of any further declaration of war by the congress or the beginning of an emergency condition recognized by the issuance of a presidential proclamation or a presidential executive order and in which the armed forces expeditionary medal or other campaign service medals are awarded according to presidential executive order and ending on a date prescribed by presidential proclamation or concurrent resolution of the congress. Veterans who served in more than 1 period of war service may combine their active duty days of service to make the 90 days required by veteran benefit statues or acts.

Documentation

One or more of the following may be required when filing an application for soldiers/sailors relief assistance:

- Discharge papers, separation report, or DD-214 (showing the dates of active duty and the character of the release).
- Proof of residence (driver's license, voter registration, utility bill...)
- Marriage certificate; birth certificates for minor children
- Death certificate of a deceased spouse or parent
- Bills or account statements regarding the items for which you are seeking a SCCVA grant.
- Documentation of any disability rating, (Social Security or VA)
- Proof of employment or other income.