

## AEF IN ACTION

*"I cannot tell you what a blessing it was to open the mailbox and find your letter. It's going to be a very long time before I can work again, but at least I have a home to stay in. Thank you, thank you, thank you."*  
—Auxiliary Member, Vermont

*"Thank you so much for your assistance in my family's time of need. Your help with our rent will enable us*



*to start saving for replacing our furniture after the flood. I am so grateful for all of my Auxiliary sisters and the caring they have shown my family."* —Auxiliary Member, Alaska

*"Thank you so much for the temporary assistance from AEF. Never in a million*

*years did I imagine I would be in need of asking for assistance. However, during a family vacation celebrating my brother's safe return from Afghanistan, my house burned down. Everything was lost, or so I was told. When I went to thank the police department for their efforts, the chief brought out a box of "stuff" they saved for us. In that box was the flag my brother flew over Iraq for us.*

*It was a moment that reminded us that no matter what our situation may be, we are blessed to live in the land of the free and home of the brave. Once again, thank you."* —Auxiliary Member, Colorado



*"I can't tell you how much it meant to me when I opened your envelope for the grant you awarded to me and my husband.*

*"Thank you" doesn't seem like much to say, but THANK YOU."*  
—Auxiliary Member, Illinois

*"Thank you for the grant. It sure did come in handy as a result of losing my house due to a tornado. This has been a traumatic experience."* —Auxiliary Member, Illinois

## RESOURCES

### [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)

The ALA website has resource information for military servicemembers and their families, including organizations that provide community and social support, health and wellness services, career and education resources, and legal and financial aid.

### [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

The American Legion's Family Support Network connects those in need with a Legion post that can provide assistance with grocery shopping, child care, mowing the grass, fixing the family car, and other routine household jobs.

### [www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net)

Operation Homefront provides emergency financial assistance for servicemembers, their families, and wounded warriors when they return home.

### [www.211.org](http://www.211.org)

This website links people with resources for basic needs, physical and mental health services, jobs, etc.

### [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

The FEMA website provides information for preparing, preventing, and responding to disasters.

### [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

The American Red Cross offers relief focused on meeting immediate, disaster-related needs such as food, shelter, health, and mental health services.

### [www.fns.usda.gov/snap](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap)

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move toward self-sufficiency.

### [www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap)

Find links to each state's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).



**American Legion Auxiliary  
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**3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268**

**P: (317) 569-4500 | F: (317) 569-4502**

**[www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)**

**[www.ALAFoundation.org](http://www.ALAFoundation.org)**

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# American Legion Auxiliary

## Members Helping Members in Crisis

# Emergency Fund



## A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

## AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency help to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have been the victim of a natural or financial disaster.

The AEF was established in 1969 with a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisc. It continues today solely through generous donors.

## ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Emergency assistance grants may be awarded by the national AEF Grant Committee on a case-by-case basis up to a maximum of \$2,400.

Grant funds for Disaster Assistance applications may be used for repairs to the applicant's primary residence and for emergency expenses (lodging, food, fuel, supplies, etc.). Grant funds for Temporary Assistance applications may be used for overdue mortgage or rent expenses and/or utilities. AEF money may not be used for medical expenses or debt such as that on credit cards.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary whose dues are current and who have maintained membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years), who have not received a grant (of the same type they are applying for) within the last 12 months, and are applying within six months of the disaster are eligible to apply for a Disaster Assistance grant or a Temporary Assistance grant when:



★ A financial crisis hits, leaving a member without resources to pay rent/mortgage and/or utilities, and no other source of aid is readily available.

★ A natural disaster or weather emergency leaves a member with a damaged or destroyed primary residence and/or significant emergency expenses (lodging, food, fuel, supplies, etc.), and no other source of aid is readily available.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Members can submit or download an application for assistance at [www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF) or they can submit their application to the AEF via email at [AEF@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:AEF@ALAforVeterans.org). Applications can also be mailed to American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268. The national AEF Grant Committee, which consists of representatives from the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and The American Legion, reviews each application and awards AEF assistance according to case findings. AEF applications, supporting documents, and case files are not disclosed or released to anyone outside of the AEF Grant Committee.

## TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR APPLICATIONS APPROVED

By meeting all application requirements and submitting as many of the requested documents as possible, members can greatly speed up the application process and receive their grant funds as soon as possible.

★ For Temporary Assistance applications — Submit a completed application, along with overdue rent/mortgage and/or utility bills, and any other documentation that helps verify your situation to the AEF Grant Committee.

★ For Disaster Assistance applications — Submit a completed application, along with photos of all damages to the primary residence, a voided check for direct deposit reimbursement (if grant is approved), estimates for damages, and receipts for emergency expenses (lodging, food, fuel, supplies, etc.).

If you are unsure whether a document should be submitted, include it anyway. When it comes to the AEF, the more information you can provide, the better.



# YOU CAN HELP

### BE KNOWLEDGEABLE

Familiarize yourself and your unit members with the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Knowing about this program will make the process easier and increase the chances of the applicants receiving a grant, should you need to help a member apply. Learn the application process, what kind of documents to include with applications, fund restrictions, and help members in need contact other organizations that might be able to assist them.



### BE GENEROUS

When you donate to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, you're giving a fellow Auxiliary member not just help, but hope.

Please give online at [www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate) or mail a check, payable to American Legion Auxiliary, with "AEF" in the memo line. Mail to:

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