

## 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 the temporary assistance from AEF. Never in a million years did I imagine that 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

*"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

*"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 for my family."*

*"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

## 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) ★ (800) 504-4098

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)

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

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

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).



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National Headquarters

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[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



## In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country

## 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 suffered a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

The AEF was established in 1969 with a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. It continues today solely through generous donations from Legion Family members.



## 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) are eligible to apply in the wake of a financial crisis. Temporary assistance may be considered when:

- ★ A financial crisis hits, leaving a member without resources for shelter or utilities, and no other source of aid is readily available.
- ★ A natural disaster or weather emergency leaves a member without shelter or food.
- ★ In extreme circumstances, educational training is needed by a member lacking the necessary skills for employment.

In the case of a natural disaster, an expedited application can be found at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org). The completed application can be submitted directly to ALA National Headquarters.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Members may request an application by contacting their unit or department headquarters and must submit their completed applications to an officer of the ALA unit to which the member belongs. The unit president, secretary, and investigator will complete the unit portion and forward the application to ALA National Headquarters. Applications are reviewed by the national AEF case manager. The national AEF Grant Committee, which consists of representatives from the headquarters of the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion, reviews each application and awards AEF assistance according to case findings. The AEF maintains the confidentiality of all applicants. AEF applications, supporting documents, and case files are not disclosed or released to anyone outside of the AEF Grant Committee.

## ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Emergency assistance grants may be awarded by the AEF Grant Committee on a case-by-case basis up to a maximum of \$2,400. Grant funds may be used only for shelter or utilities. AEF money may not be used for medical expenses or debt such as that on credit cards.

To ensure the integrity of the program, the national AEF Grant Committee directs payments to a provider such as a mortgage or utility company.

Educational grant payments are directed to the educational institution.



# 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 should you need to help a member apply.

**BE AWARE** – Learn the application process and fund restrictions, and help members in

need contact other nonprofit agencies 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](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org). or mail a check or money order, payable to American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, with "AEF" in the memo line. Mail to:

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