COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

General FAQs

What will you accept as an electronic signature?

There are various different types of electronic signatures that we are willing to accept. The most commonly used digital signature used is through [Adobe Acrobat](#). Certain electronic signatures will also pull credentials of the user that is logged-in to the computer account. Some individuals also have the ability to draw their signature either from a tablet or a signature pad. There are also several third party mobile applications that allow individuals to sign documents. We are willing to accept any form of digital signature.

Will the federal governments stimulus payment be counted as income?

No. We will not count the stimulus payment as income. However, whatever amount is carried over into the next month of financial records could be considered an asset.

Can an individual apply for a COVID-19 Special Needs Grant and a COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant?

Yes. A household could receive both grants. If the household is comprised of two married veterans, they could receive up to two COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grants and one COVID-19 Special Needs Grant.

Are internet charges now eligible items to be considered for payment?

Yes. Internet charges will now be considered items under the Special Needs Grant, COVID-19 Special Needs Grant, and Subsistence Assistance. Internet charges that are part of a packaged bill (i.e. Xfinity cable services) will be separated out and only the internet charges will be considered.

If I am self-employed and was denied unemployment insurance because I could not show hourly wage, am I eligible for the Disaster Relief Grant with a UI denial?

No. You must be approved for UI in order to be a self-employed individual and receive a Disaster Relief Grant.

I have lost a lot of value or income due to market volatility as it relates to the stock market, am I eligible for the Disaster Relief Grant?

No. Loss in value of investment assets are not qualifiers for the Disaster Relief Grant.

I work cash jobs here and there, and are not required to file taxes. How do I apply for unemployment insurance and received assistance under this program?

Unfortunately, if you cannot prove substantial employment and provide records to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development sufficient to be approved for Unemployment Insurance then you will not be eligible for our program as you would be considered a self-employed individual.

Is the Disaster Relief Grant considered taxable income?

No, the Disaster Relief Grant is not considered taxable income.

Does the COVID-19 Special Needs Grant have the same requirements as the regular Special Needs Grant?

Yes. The COVID-19 Special Needs Grants have the same requirements as a regular Special Needs Grant in addition to the requirements that they meet one of the seven COVID-19 eligibility criteria and that the financial crisis has to be caused by one of the seven COVID-19 eligibility criteria. CVSOs should continue to reference the Special Needs checklist and in the CVSO remarks field indicate that the application is a COVID-19 Special Needs Grant and add the applicant's email address. CVSOs reference the SSAP COVID-19 Policy Adjustments Memo for updated information on policy changes.

Can an individual still apply for the regular Special Needs Grant if they apply for the COVID-19 Special Needs Grant?

Yes. The COVID-19 Special Needs Grant is separate and the approval of a COVID-19 Special Needs Grant does not have any effect on an individual's eligibility for a regular Special Needs Grant.

County Veterans Service Officer FAQs

How does a CVSO email PII to MDVA since we are not on the same system?

Our preferred method of receiving documents is through our upload portal at https://gibill.mn.gov. If you email MDVA documents it is important that you know and understand your county's encryption capability and their policies on sending private and sensitive data through email.   Check with your organization's IT administrator.

Do you want one account per person or one account per county on the VATS Upload Portal?

We encourage one account per person so that the submitters contact information is unique and saved. This will allow MDVA staff to direct any questions or issues directly to the individual that submitted the documents.

Can we submit claims through SEP still?

Our preferred method of receiving documents is through our upload portal at https://gibill.mn.gov. Yes, you can still submit claims through SEP. If you use any program or vendor application to submit directly to the Federal VA, please send a copy of the claim or at least indicate to the applicable MDVA Claims Division, using your county letterhead and submitting to the portal https://gibill.mn.gov the action you have taken.

If we have Vectraspec or Vetpro and can direct submit to VBMS, how would you like to identify those claims?

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Are any of the policy changes for SSAP applicable to previous periods of subsistence?

The SSAP policies are effective April 1, 2020. If there is an open application or a pending decision as of April 1, 2020 the new policies will be applied.

Can we run the MDVA's COVID-19 flyer in our newspaper and use our CVSO grant money to pay for the cost?

Yes.

Do the CVSO's still need to request an extension to Dental and Optical authorizations?

No. Any Dental or Optical Authorization that was issued prior to 3/13/2020 will automatically be extended for one year from the date it was issued.   Any Dental or Optical Authorizations that are issued on or after 3/13/2020 will still require a written request to extend.