



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
Auxiliary Emergency Fund/Office of Emergency Services
February 2024

It was wonderful to see many of you at January's DEC meeting in Sacramento. I was pleased that many of you came up to me to ask questions about AEF grants so I am including some general information as Frequently Asked Questions. My focus this month will be AEF grants for Disaster Assistance as we are already experiencing rain/weather/flood emergencies throughout the state.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary up to \$3000 as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

What are the qualifications to apply for AEF grants?

The applicant must be an American Legion Auxiliary member who has maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years).

What types of expenses qualify for disaster assistance?

When no other source of aid is readily available, expenses incurred when a natural disaster including flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, fire, or other severe weather emergency leaves a member with a damaged/destroyed primary residence and/or significant emergency expenses such as lodging, food, fuel, supplies, etc. may be covered. Applications for disaster assistance must be received within six months of the disaster event.

Funds may be awarded for interior/exterior structure damage to the vital livable portions of the primary structure, personal items, household contents, major appliances, furniture, and HVAC units with photos provided as documentation. Reimbursable expenses with itemized receipts as documentation related to essential emergency expenses for temporary shelter, temporary structure repairs, purchase of alternative power sources and/or purchase/replacement of groceries incurred due to or being displaced after the disaster will be accepted. Only applicable receipts dated the day of the disaster and after the disaster up to a three-week time limit may be considered for funding.

What types of expenses are not applicable for disaster assistance?

Assistance will not be granted for damage to: landscaping, recreational structures (such as Pools, Attached patios/sunrooms, Lanais, or Sheds, detached garages and similar non-vital portions of the structure, individual personal electronics, damages to a secondary or seasonal residence, or for any expense that occurred before the disaster event or exceeds the three-week time limit.

I strongly encourage all eligible members that experience any weather related damage this year to consider putting in an application. The application process is private and all the information, process to apply, and the application form can be found on the National website: alaforveterans.org.

Please consider making an Individual, Unit, or District donation to the AEF grant program. The Donation form – "AEF California Donation Form" - is on the Department website (calegionaux.org) under the AEF Committee/Program page.

Additionally AEF donations of \$100 made by ALA members directly to ALA National Headquarters within the ALA fiscal year (October – September), will receive by mail a beautiful “Members Helping Members” gold pin. AEF pins are sent quarterly from ALA National Headquarters to the member’s home address once a qualifying donation is made.

I was honored that a member came to me at DEC and donated \$100. Her Donation form and donation has been submitted to National.

Stay safe, warm, and dry.

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