

2017-2018 American Legion Auxiliary Guide

AUXILARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF)

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PURPOSE:

Auxiliary Emergency Fund and the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Plan by providing temporary financial assistance to members in need, the AEF increases brand loyalty (Goal 5) and helps us retain members. (Goal 1)

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides emergency assistance to help eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary when a financial setback occurs.

Core Rules for Auxiliary Emergency Fund

- A time of financial crisis when no other source of aid is available to pay for shelter, food and utilities.
 - Weather-related emergencies and natural disasters, for food and shelter.
 - Educational training for eligible members who lack the necessary skills for employment or upgrade to competitive workforce skills.
 - Assistance will be granted to pay accumulated debts or medical expenses. The intent is to help members who have suffered a financial setback and is meant to be a bridge offering a helping hand until financial stability is re-established. Incomplete applications and missing documentation will significantly slow processing of the case.
 - Eligibility: Persons who have been members of the American Legion Auxiliary for at least the immediate past two consecutive years and whose

current membership dues are paid at the time the emergency occurs (three consecutive years' dues) may apply for assistance.

- Assistance provided: the maximum grant amount is \$2,400, disbursed as the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Grant Committee determines.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

As a member, support fundraisers sponsored by your department and unit.

Make a personal donation to the AEF. Donations of \$50 or more will receive a pin requested by your department from National Headquarters.

Have printed applications and AEF brochures available during unit meetings and at the local posts.

Distribute the "Before you begin – Frequently asked Questions" sheet and AEF brochure found at www.ALAforVeterans.org to eligible members. Promote as a benefit to new members.

Consider putting an AEF donation can in your local post (visit www.ALAforVeterans.org for a free, downloadable can label). Solicit local businesses for monetary or in-kind donations to your unit for AEF.

Schedule an annual "Members Helping Members" night at your local post. Not only is this a great time for an AEF fundraiser, but it gives you the opportunity to share information about what makes a member eligible to receive help from AEF. Have membership applications available and sign up new members.