



**Veterans Assistance Commission of Franklin
County**
901 Public Square
Benton, IL 62812
(618) 435-9836
Vacfc.org



Financial Assistance Policy

The Veterans Assistance Commission of Franklin County (VACFC) will provide financial assistance to veterans and/or their families as provided by Illinois law. A determination of eligibility is made by the Superintendent of the VAC and/or the Superintendent's designated staff member based upon the evaluation of evidence relating to eligibility factors which must be provided by the applicant to the best of applicant/recipient ability. The VACFC has 30 days to decide from the date the applicant/recipient requested any Veterans Financial Assistance. The exception is in cases where a review of the veteran's military personal record is necessary to determine eligibility. A review is necessary in cases where the character of discharge is not honorable or general under honorable, and the claimant believes the character was based on a service-connected injury, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The determination of eligibility is to include a personal interview and a completed budget worksheet prior to authorization of assistance. When a VACFC policy differs from Illinois law, the VACFC will defer to Illinois law.

Ability to Assist per Year

1. Assistance can be provided up to three (3) times a year. Satisfactory progress on a personal progress report will be needed for each additional time of assistance for the year period beyond the initial assistance.

Amount of Aid

1. The amount of financial aid per case is set at five hundred dollars (\$500.00), with the ability to go to seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) due to extreme hardship. Further exceptions may be possible pending board approval.

Proof of Need

1. The following information will be needed to help determination: DD214, current bank statement, all utility bills in the veterans, or the veteran's spouse's name, and all income received to support the household.
2. The applicant's address is to be verified with a landlord's or mortgage holder's statement, to be provided to the VAC. If an applicant is homeless when an application is first made, is found to be eligible for VAC benefits and subsequently finds housing, a form will be provided to the recipient for the landlord to complete. When this completed form is returned to the VAC office the recipient's address will then be added to the application. Responsibility of obtaining documents needed to determine the applicant's / recipient's eligibility is that of the applicant/recipient.

Eligibility

1. A minimum of OTH (other than honorable discharge) is needed on applicants' DD214. Priority will be given to HON (honorable discharge) if funds become limited.
2. If found ineligible, the individual will be referred to a Franklin County veteran service organization, they will need to meet that organization's standard for assistance.