

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund offers financial relief to veterans recovering from spring weather and other emergencies

This spring, severe weather swept across Michigan, bringing damaging storms, flooding, power outages and destruction to homes and property in communities throughout the state. For veterans and surviving spouses facing unexpected financial hardship as a result of these storms, help is available through the [Michigan Veterans Trust Fund \(MVTF\)](#).

Established in 1946, the MVTF was signed into law by Gov. Harry Kelly using \$50 million in post-World War II reserve funds. For 80 years, the fund has provided emergency financial assistance to Michigan veterans and their families, helping them recover from unforeseen hardships and regain financial stability.

An emergent need is defined as an unforeseen circumstance causing a temporary financial emergency or hardship that a grant can resolve. A key factor in determining eligibility is whether the applicant will be able to manage the financial obligation after receiving assistance.

Through its Emergency Grant Program, the MVTF assists wartime-era veterans and peacetime veterans who earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, as well as their surviving spouses. Assistance is available for unexpected expenses, including:

- Emergency home repairs, including storm-related damage
- Mortgage and rent assistance
- Utility bills
- Emergency vehicle repairs
- Property taxes

The MVTF's 65+ Peacetime Program provides similar assistance to peacetime veterans age 65 and older and their surviving spouses. Eligible veterans must have served at least 180 days and received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions. Assistance may be used for utility bills, emergency home repairs, property taxes and mortgage or rent assistance.

For veterans dealing with damage from this spring's severe weather or any other unforeseen financial emergency, the MVTF can provide a critical lifeline.

To apply for assistance, veterans may contact their [county committee](#) or the [Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency \(MVAA\)](#) at 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838).

Applicants should be prepared to provide:

- Discharge papers, separation report or DD-214 (Member Copy 4 showing dates of active duty and character of discharge). Veterans who need a copy of their DD-214 can visit Michigan.gov/DD214 or call 1-800-MICH-VET.
- Proof of Michigan residency, such as a driver's license, voter registration card or state ID.
- Bills or account statements related to the requested assistance and copies of monthly expenses.
- Proof of employment or other income.
- Documentation of any U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating.
- Marriage certificate and/or birth certificates of minor children, if applicable.
- Death certificate of a deceased spouse or parent, if applicable.

Applications are reviewed by county committees appointed by the MVTF Board of Trustees. Appeals and reviews are considered by the board during its monthly meetings. The seven-member board, appointed by the Governor, has constitutional authority over the expenditures and policies governing the Emergency Grant and 65+ Peacetime programs.

As communities across Michigan continue recovering from this spring's severe weather, the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund remains committed to ensuring veterans and their families have access to emergency assistance when they need it most.