

WAYNE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 25-25

A resolution establishing assistance available from Wayne County Veterans Affairs and establishing requirements for Application process and receipt of assistance.

Section 1. Categories of Assistance. There shall be three (3) categories of general relief assistance available from Wayne County Veterans Affairs as follows:

Emergency Relief for needy person(s)
Relief for poor person(s)
Relief of an extended nature

Section 2. Definitions. The definitions of terms used in this Resolution are:

"Needy Person" is a person or the family unit of that person that is domiciled in Wayne County, Iowa, or who is a transient in the County for less than three (3) days and who, because of circumstances which are not attributable to that person, needs immediate relief.

"Poor Person" is a person or the family unit of that person that is domiciled in Wayne County, Iowa, and who because of physical or mental disability, is unable to engage in gainful employment and otherwise cannot make a living.

"Relief" means burial, food, rent/shelter, clothing/household items, transportation, utilities and medical. Food does not include cigarettes or alcoholic beverages, but does include laundry soap, household cleaners, and other items of a non-food nature used for personal hygiene.

"Net Worth" includes cash, checking and savings deposits, other deposits, stocks, bonds, real estate, cash value of life insurance policies, jewelry, and the value of all other real and personal property. Items whose value is exempt from calculating an individual's net worth are clothing, household items, wedding rings, and automobile used for medical appointments or for work.

"Family Unit" means the individual applying and all members of the immediate family (spouse, children under eighteen (18) years of age, children over eighteen (18) years of age who are dependent upon the Applicant for federal tax purposes if they reside with the Applicant as a family unit). Non-family members residing with the Applicant will comply with this Resolution and be listed as part of the family unit.

"Liquid Assets" means cash or any other item of net worth of the family unit that can be readily converted to cash within seven (7) days by sale or otherwise.

"Awaiting approval and receipt" means a poor person who has applied for assistance under any State or Federal law who has pursued the Application with due diligence; and who has not had that Application denied. This does not include an appeal or a denial of benefits. It does include a person who has had an application denied and who reapplies after eighteen (18) consecutive months have expired from the date of denial.

Section 3. Form. The relief shall be purchased directly from the supplier for the Applicant of the family unit. It may be for one or more of the items of relief that can be provided.

Section 4. Eligibility of Needy Person. Emergency Relief is to be provided by a needy person who is in need of immediate relief, cannot obtain relief from any other source, and whose income or assistance from a State or Federal program has been delayed or not actually received by the person because of reasons not attributable to that person and who does not have sufficient liquid assets of the family unit from which to pay for the items of relief that can be provided. Noncompliance with requirements of any other assistance program the Applicant qualifies for will result in ineligibility for Wayne County Veterans

Affairs funds for a period of six (6) months following the date of noncompliance. Emergency relief is also to be provided to people whose net worth is less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and who because of reasons not attributable to that person, do not have sufficient liquid assets of his or her family unit from which to pay for items of relief that can be provided.

Section 5. Eligibility of Poor Persons. Relief is to be provided for poor persons who need immediate relief, cannot obtain relief from any other source, such as family members or private charitable organizations, and who are eligible for, and are awaiting approval and receipt of assistance under, programs provided by State or Federal Law.

In no event shall relief be provided to people whose family unit income and liquid assets combined exceed the guidelines set in this resolution. Noncompliance with any requirements of any other assistance program the Applicant qualifies for will result in ineligibility for Wayne County Veterans Affairs Assistant and Emergency funds for a period of six (6) months following the date of non-compliance. Financial guidelines for a single-family and Family Unit household shall not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level for the date on which Application is made.

Section 6. Level of Benefits. The maximum level of benefits to be provided for each item single or family Unit household in a 12-month period shall be:

Food: 3 food vouchers max. of \$50.00 each for Hy-Vee (if food from the Foodbank of Iowa and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP benefits) are not available at the time of filing the Application).

Rent and shelter: Max. of \$200.00, NO DEPOSITS

Clothing/Household items: Items of need shall be from local donation locations if available. Any monetary assistance will be at the sole discretion of the Executive Director.

Utilities: maximum of \$150.00 with verification of ineligibility for State or Federal funding. NO DEPOSITS
On an emergency basis only medical, dental, and prescription costs based on the fair market value of the same.

Health Care/medication: Veterans that are eligible for VA Healthcare must get care, medication and equipment through VA Healthcare.

Veterans and dependents that are not eligible for VA Healthcare, must have verification that they do not qualify. They must use State or Federal programs first.

Section 7. Requirements for Receiving Relief by a Needy Person. A needy person shall be referred to the Department of Employment Services and actively seeking employment. Two job searches per week are required to be eligible for benefits and proof of these job searches shall be filed with the County General Relief Office. To be eligible for relief, a needy person must accept any employment offered whether or not it is deemed "suitable employment" under the guidelines of the Department of Employment Services. A refusal or failure to actively seek employment offered shall disqualify the needy person from receiving future benefits for one year.

Section 8. Relief of an Extended Nature. It is contemplated that items of relief to be provided to the needy persons, poor persons or their family unit will not, during any twelve (12) month period, exceed ninety (90) days. If it appears that items of relief are needed beyond this 90-day period, the Executive Director/Administrator of Wayne County Veterans Affairs shall determine if it is better for the family unit of the needy or poor person to continue to receive items of relief on a month-to-month basis.

Section 9. Application for Relief. Applications for relief shall be submitted by needy and/or poor persons to the Executive Director/Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Wayne County, Iowa, during usual business hours on forms provided by the Executive Director/Administrator. If, because of undue hardship, a needy or poor person cannot come to the Veterans Affairs office in the County, the Executive Director/Administrator shall mail to such person an application form or deliver to such person the

Application. If the Applicant or the family unit is or appears to be eligible for relief or assistance from any other federal, state, or local source, the Executive Director/Administrator shall immediately make Application to that source and pursue such Application with due diligence as a condition of eligibility for further relief under this Resolution. It is the obligation of each person to apply to establish his or her eligibility for any category of general relief and need for any item of relief. The person applying shall provide the Executive Director/Administrator with a verified statement of net worth and liquid assets. The Executive Director/Administrator may request the most recent Federal and State income tax returns, medical reports, medical authorization and anything else that bears upon the person's eligibility and need for relief. The Executive Director/Administrator shall also receive anything that the person applying desires to submit to establish their eligibility or need, including letters verifying need, medical reports, and other written documents as well as the verbal statements of the Applicant. The Executive Director/Administrator shall then proceed to investigate concerning the Applicant's file and the investigation and findings of the Executive Director/Administrator shall be made available to the Applicant, upon request, or the Applicant's POA/attorney by written authorization.

Section 10. Initial Determination The Executive Director/Administrator/Administrator shall make an initial determination of the eligibility and needs of the Applicant within three (3) business days of receipt of the Application. Upon determination, the Executive Director/Administrator shall notify the Applicant within two (2) business days. Notification shall be sent to the address shown in the Application and shall include rationale for the determination and any applicable laws or Resolutions which apply, together with the specific benefits to which the Applicant is entitled.

If the Executive Director/Administrator cannot make the initial determination within three (3) business days, the Executive Director/Administrator shall immediately inform the Applicant by telephone, if it is possible, of the reasons why such a determination cannot be made. The Executive Director/Administrator shall also mail to the Applicant by ordinary mail, within two (2) business days thereafter, the Executive Director/Administrator written decision showing the reasons why such determination could not be made.

If an Applicant has previously applied for relief and either been denied or reached maximum annual benefit limits as set forth above, the Applicant must reapply for any additional requested benefits. The Executive Director/Administrator shall then proceed to a determination of whether or not current relief is warranted. Notice and mailing of such determination shall be as provided in paragraph two (2) above. If an emergency and immediate need is present, the Executive Director/Administrator may verbally authorize a county supplier or vendor to furnish any item of relief for the benefit of the Applicant and the amount allowed for such benefit. The Executive Director/Administrator shall inform the Applicant and issue a written decision as provided above.

Section 11. Appeal. Every Application, whether granted relief or not, shall be given written notice stating the reasons for the Executive Director/Administrator action or inaction and explaining the Applicant's right to appeal the Executive Director/Administrator decision to the Wayne County Veterans Commission. The written appeal notice shall inform the aggrieved Applicant of the method by which he/she may obtain an appeal hearing before the Wayne County Board of Supervisor.

Upon notification of the Applicant to the Executive Director/Administrator requesting appeal of the Executive Director/Administrator determination, the Executive Director/Administrator shall take such an appeal and immediately schedule it upon the Board of Supervisors agenda, in accordance with Chapter 28A of the Code of Iowa, for the next regular Board of Supervisors meeting. In no event shall the Board of Supervisor's hear such an appeal sooner than five (5) days after the Applicant requests an appeal. The Applicant must notify the Executive Director/Administrator of the Applicant's desire to appeal within ten (10) days of the Executive Director/Administrator determination, and provide Applicant's current address and telephone number, and state the reasons for the appeal. Upon the Board of Supervisors scheduling the appeal hearing, the Applicant shall be informed immediately by telephone and by ordinary mail of the date and time of hearing before the Board of Supervisors and of the Resolution under which said appeal is taken. The Executive Director/Administrator shall grant the Applicant or his representative access to the Executive Director/Administrator's relief case file as it pertains to the Applicant upon the Applicant's request.

Section 12. Appeal Hearing. The Board of Supervisors shall hear the Applicant's appeal de novo at the time scheduled unless continuance is requested by the Applicant. At the appeal hearing the Applicant shall have the right to be represented by counsel at Applicant's own expense, or by any other representative the Applicant desires. The Applicant or his representative shall have the right to present arguments on Applicant's behalf present witnesses, present documentary evidence, and to cross examine the witnesses opposing his Application for relief. The technical Rules of Evidence shall not apply. However, all irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded from evidence. The appeal hearing will not be open under Chapter 28A, Code of Iowa, since the confidential files of the Applicant will be in evidence. In all cases the Executive Director/Administrator shall be present at the appeal hearing and shall present the reasons for the initial determination.

The Board of Supervisors shall rule on the Applicant's appeal within five (5) business days of the appeal hearing. The decision shall be made based on the evidence produced and presented at the appeal hearing, and on other evidence officially noticed by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors shall allow the Applicant and the Executive Director/Administrator to submit proposed findings and rulings if desired by the parties. The decision of the Board of Supervisors shall be in writing and shall contain a statement of the reasons supporting it. The Applicant shall be informed immediately by telephone and ordinary mail of the Board's decision. The Board of Supervisors' decision shall state that an appeal may be taken from the Board's determination, as provided below, and the method by which such an appeal may be taken.

The Applicant shall be allowed to appeal from the Board of Supervisors' decision to the District Court within the time and by the manner and procedures provided under the Iowa Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 17A of the Code of Iowa.

Section 13. Actions of the Board of Supervisors. In the event the Board of Supervisor in reviewing the actions of the Executive Director/Administrator questions any allowance or disallowance of relief benefits allowed or disallowed by the Executive Director/Administrator, it shall take no action concerning such allowance or disallowance until it conducts a hearing. This hearing, the reasons for it, and notification to the Applicant shall be given in the same manner as if the Applicant had taken an appeal under Sections 11 and 12. This hearing shall proceed in the same manner as an appeal from the Executive Director/Administrator's determination under Sections 11 and 12.

Section 14. Additional Provision. The Executive Director/Administrator may allow, upon Application, the additional benefits provided for in Chapter 252, Code of Iowa. The provisions of Chapter 252.13, Code of Iowa, for repayment of benefits to Wayne County, are applicable and the Applicant shall acknowledge the same in writing. Recipients of Relief may further be required to work for Wayne County as a condition to receive such benefits as required in Section 252.42, Code of Iowa. Benefits provided for a recipient shall be a claim against the homestead of a recipient and a claim against his estate as provided by law.

Section 15. Funeral Benefits. Wayne County will pay an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 toward burial expenses for eligible Applicants. Eligibility will be determined using Wayne County Veterans Affairs Emergency Assistant Application and Guidelines. All funds available for burial expenses shall be deducted from the County's liability.

Such "other available funds" shall include but not be limited to funds of the decedent, insurance benefits, retirement benefits, supplemental security income benefits, social security benefits, veteran's compensation/pension/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), etc.

Veterans, their spouse, or any child under 18 years of age, any adult child living with the veteran that is over the age of 18 yrs old and deemed disabled before the age of 18 yrs of age are eligible for burial expenses. The decedent's family will have a maximum of 72 hours from time of death to apply for benefits. All of the above is in compliance with Iowa Code Chapter 35B.

Funeral benefits consist of: Cremation only, unless you are under the age of 18 years age.

Plot for burial

Temporary Marker (family will be responsible for installing a permanent marker)

Opening and closing of grave site
Transportation mileage, to and from the crematory
Medical Permit

Uncovered items are as follows:

1. Urns and/or vaults
2. Notification cards
3. Permanent Headstone Marker
4. Memorials and ceremonial events

Any Application for funeral benefits shall be determined within 3 days from time of death. If the Applicant appeals

the denial of benefits, the Board of Supervisors will hold an emergency hearing within 24 hours of the denial.

If approved, the payment will be sent directly to the funeral home or the County Auditor's Office if paid by Wayne

County.

The burial will be in Wayne County or the State Veterans Cemetery pursuant to any Applications that are approved.

Federal Grave Marker: Federal Grave Markers are free to the Veteran and may be applied for, if buried in Wayne County. The Veterans family may apply for emergency installation funds of Federal Markers in Wayne County, if funds are available in a maximum of \$200.00 provided the Federal Grave Marker is installed by a reputable individual or business that installs or repairs grave monuments in Wayne County cemeteries.

County Flag Grave: County markers will be installed in Wayne County Cemeteries for all Veterans and members of the National Guard who qualify based on Wayne County Veterans Affairs Policy.

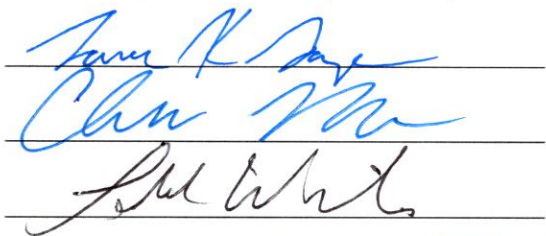
Section 16. All Resolutions, Ordinances, existing policies, or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

The Provisions of the Resolution shall not be waived or excepted.

Effective Date: 07/01/2025

Dated at Wyne County, Iowa, this 24th day of June, 2025.

Board of Supervisors of Wayne County, Iowa



Attested by: 
Wayne County Auditor