



April 10, 2020

**WDVA Bulletin No. 1078**

**TO: County/Tribal Veterans Service Offices**

**SUBJECT: Clarification of Changes to the Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant (ANVG)**

As stated in WDVA Bulletin No. 1077, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has temporarily suspended certain rules within Wisconsin Administrative Code § VA 2.01 related to the Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant (ANVG) in order to streamline the application process and better assist veterans and families suffering from financial hardship, especially in light of the challenges Wisconsin veterans currently face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this bulletin is to further clarify how WDVA will evaluate an applicant's assets or income available to meet basic subsistence needs when reviewing applications for Subsistence Aid.

Applications for the Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant (Subsistence Aid) shall require applicants to list their monthly household living expenses for the month immediately preceding application for subsistence aid. Proof of household living expenses that shall be requested and evaluated by WDVA staff include current costs for the following:

- Rent or mortgage payments on the applicant's primary residence;
- Food;
- Medical insurance premiums and costs for prescribed medications;
- Essential travel;
- Child care required because of employment, educational or medical reasons;
- Electricity, heat, and basic telephone service for the applicant's primary residence.

The list of current household living expenses will be compared to the amount of available cash on hand and other assets (as required to be provided with the application) in order to determine if there is less than six months' worth of assets or income to cover the applicant's basic household living expenses. Consistent with *Wisconsin Statute § 45.40(1m)(a)*, this method will be used to uniformly evaluate if the veteran has other assets or income available to meet basic subsistence needs.

For reference, WDVA Bulletin No. 1077 may be viewed here:

[https://dva.wi.gov/Documents/newsMediaDocuments/WDVA%20Toolkit/Bulletins/Bulletin\\_CVSO\\_1077.pdf](https://dva.wi.gov/Documents/newsMediaDocuments/WDVA%20Toolkit/Bulletins/Bulletin_CVSO_1077.pdf).

Please contact our Grants Unit with any questions at [VetsBenefitsGrants@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:VetsBenefitsGrants@dva.wisconsin.gov).