

Chapter VA 2

GRANTS

- VA 2.01 Emergency grants
VA 2.02 Educational grants for correspondence courses and part-time classroom study

Note: Chapter VA 2 as it existed on December 31, 1979 was repealed and a new chapter VA 2 was created effective January 1, 1980.

VA 2.01 Emergency grants. (1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section the following terms shall have the designated meanings:

(a) "Health care aid" means payment by the department for essential medical services, including without limitation by reason of enumeration physician services, hospital charges, eye glasses, prostheses, leasing or purchase of medical appliances and equipment and dental care.

(b) "Subsistence aid" means payment by the department for essential budgetary requirements including without limitation by reason of enumeration, rent or mortgage payments on the veteran's or veteran's dependents residential living quarters, food, clothing, medical insurance, prescribed medications, travel, moving expenses, household utilities expenses including heat, electricity, gas and telephone, and, in exceptional cases, for such other items relating to temporary emergency aid as the department may deem necessary.

(2) **OBJECTIVE.** The department may grant to any veteran or eligible dependent such temporary emergency aid from the veterans trust fund as may be necessary to prevent want or distress. Want and distress may be deemed to exist only when an applicant for temporary emergency aid has insufficient resources to cover the cost of health care or subsistence required by the applicant and the applicant's dependents, is ineligible for sufficient aid under federal or state assistance programs, except for direct general relief, and when the applicant has insufficient income to enable the applicant to repay a loan, the proceeds of which could be used for the purpose of providing necessary health care. Applicants and their dependents will be required to apply all medical insurance benefits and all available liquid assets, except for the cash surrender value of life insurance policies, toward the cost of their health care or subsistence before the department may approve emergency aid.

(3) **SCOPE OF EMERGENCY AID.** Emergency aid to prevent want or distress may be authorized to provide health care aid and subsistence aid. Emergency aid for students will be construed as such assistance as will enable a student to pursue without interruption the course of education or training undertaken. Any medical care provided a student veteran or student veteran's dependents will be considered emergency medical care, unless the veteran has sufficient financial resources so that the cost of such medical care would not result in interruption of education or training.

(4) **LIMITATIONS.** (a) *Health care aid.* Health care aid to meet medical or hospital bills will be limited to a payment for a maximum of 30 days

within a 12 month period for the same condition or conditions. Where need for such care results from willful misconduct, health care aid will not be granted.

1. Except for applications involving recently separated veterans not covered by CHAMPUS or CHAMPVA and who are unable to qualify for maternity insurance coverage, and students who might be forced to drop out of school unless health care aid is provided, health care aid for expenses of maternity care may be granted only if want or distress caused by a medical emergency is established.

2. Health care aid for dental care will be limited to extractions, fillings and plate repairs, unless adjunct to health care aid otherwise provided resulting from accidental injury.

3. Health care aid will not be authorized to provide payment for the treatment of alcoholism or other drug addiction.

4. Health care aid for hospital and medical care received outside the boundaries of the state of Wisconsin may be authorized only in case of medical emergency, unless appropriate medical care is not available in Wisconsin as determined by a medical advisory committee to consist of staff physician selected by the superintendent of university hospitals, a staff physician selected by the director of the Wm. A. Middleton VA Memorial Center, and a staff physician selected by the medical director of Wisconsin veterans home.

5. Health care aid for major surgery to a veteran such as open heart surgery, kidney transplant, etc., will not be authorized when the attending physician determines that surgery does not constitute a medical emergency and when the veteran fails to seek such surgery at either a veterans administration hospital or university hospitals at the veterans preference rate for hospitalization and physicians services.

(b) *Subsistence aid.* Subsistence aid shall be provided only on a month-to-month basis and will be limited to 3 months within a 12 month period for the same condition or conditions. When there is evidence that the disability which causes want or distress can be expected to continue beyond 90 days, veterans or dependents of veterans will be directed to make application for other governmental assistance. Subsistence aid may be provided only when illness or disability, including alcoholism or drug addiction, causing loss of income, results in want or distress or, even though there is no loss of income, during periods while veterans are being treated in a VA hospital for post-traumatic stress disorder. Except as otherwise provided herein, subsistence aid may not include payment of existing debts, loans or credit purchases. Subsistence aid may not be granted for the purchase of or payment of luxury or mere convenience items. Subsistence aid for payment of motor vehicle expense, including fuel and repairs and monthly motor vehicle payment if necessary to prevent repossession, may be provided only when use of such motor vehicle is required for medical care, spouse's employment, transportation of children to school or other necessitous reasons during the period of incapacitation.

(5) **USE OF AVAILABLE AGENCIES.** The department shall require that the veteran or veteran's dependent for whom health care aid is requested obtain medical treatment or other required emergency aid from federal, state, county or local agencies if possible. When medically feasible, veter-

ans should be transferred to a VA hospital and, for long-term hospitalization, dependents should be transferred to university hospitals, if possible. Availability of other programs, such as medicare, medicaid, aid to the aged, handicapped children admission to university hospitals, state-county admission to university hospitals, special aids to school age children, etc., must be considered before approving a grant from the veterans trust fund for non-emergency medical care.

(6) **PRIOR AUTHORIZATION.** Except in the case of medical emergency, prior authorization must be obtained for health care aid. In the case of medical emergency, health care aid may be granted for medical and dental care received within the 10 day period prior to receipt by the department of a valid notice that treatment has been or is being received for an emergency condition.

(7) **PAYMENT OF MEDICAL BILLS.** Where payment for medical or hospital bills has been approved by the department, final payment will be made only when itemized medical or hospital statements are submitted in duplicate.

(8) **FURNISHING OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.** Major medical appliances and equipment required for rehabilitation, to continue employment or maintain life may, notwithstanding the provisions of sub. (4) (a), be provided for use as long as medically necessary, but if purchased by the department ownership thereof will remain with the department.

(9) **EVIDENCE REQUIRED.** Temporary emergency aid will be granted only if the department has sufficient evidence in its files upon which to base such aid. When deemed necessary, direct investigation may be made prior to acting upon an application.

(10) **DELINQUENT LOANS NOT A BAR.** A delinquent loan shall not bar temporary emergency aid from the department, but such emergency aid shall not be used to repay a department loan in whole or in part.

(11) **DUPLICATION OF ASSISTANCE.** When assistance applied for under this section is available from other agencies, excepting only general relief, emergency aid may not be approved except as a supplement to such other assistance, but emergency aid may not be used to duplicate assistance provided by other agencies including general relief.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; emerg. am. (4) (b), eff. 10-6-82; am. (4) (b), Register, April, 1983, No. 328, eff. 5-1-83.

VA 2.02 Educational grants for correspondence courses and part-time classroom study. Students who are veterans and establish eligibility for reimbursement of the cost of enrolled part-time classroom study courses or direct correspondence courses under the provisions of this section may be reimbursed in whole or in part for the cost of such courses to the extent authorized under this section.

(1) **RELATION TO OBJECTIVES.** Courses must be related to the student's occupational, professional, or educational objectives.

(2) **EXTENT OF REIMBURSEMENT.** A student may be reimbursed to the extent that payment or reimbursement specifically for tuition, fees and required textbooks is not available from any other source or in cases where reimbursement from another source is not specifically for tuition, fees and required textbooks, reimbursement from the department may be made to the extent that reimbursement from another source is insuffi-

cient to cover all of the costs incurred in connection with the student's educational program including but not limited to the costs of food, housing, utilities, transportation and medical or dental treatment. Such reimbursement shall not exceed the cost of tuition, fees, and required textbooks.

(3) APPROVED SCHOOLS. To be reimbursed a student must be enrolled at an approved school. Approved schools are limited to those in the university of Wisconsin system, those receiving aid from the vocational, technical, and adult education board, those located in Wisconsin which are approved by the north central association of colleges and schools and to the public or private high schools in Wisconsin.

(4) DEFINITION OF PART-TIME STUDY. *Part-time classroom study during a regular college semester, trimester or quarter means enrollment by a graduate or professional student in courses for which no more than 7, or enrollment by an undergraduate student in courses for which no more than 11, semester or the equivalent trimester or quarter credits will be given upon satisfactory completion. In this subsection a graduate student means any student who has received a baccalaureate degree whether the student is taking graduate or undergraduate courses. Part-time classroom study during a summer semester or session shall be defined as study considered to be part-time by the educational institution being attended.* (Italicized language from s. 45.396, Stats.)

(5) DEGREE LIMITATIONS. Any student who has obtained a master's degree or its equivalent is ineligible for grants under this section. Any student who has obtained at least a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent, but not a master's degree or its equivalent, is not eligible for grants under this section if the student has remaining federal veterans administration education benefits. For the purposes of this subsection an LLB degree shall be deemed to be the equivalent of a master's degree.

(6) APPLICATION DEADLINE. To be approved an application must be received by the department prior to the termination of the course for which application for reimbursement is made. Reimbursement will be made only if the student satisfactorily completes either the course listed on the application, or a substitute course offered by the same school in the same semester or other school term, which substitute course has not been satisfactorily completed by the date of the application and which otherwise meets the conditions of this section.

(7) NOTICE OF COMPLETION. The student will be reimbursed for the cost of tuition, fees and required textbooks to the extent authorized, upon receipt of a certificate of satisfactory completion signed by the approved school's veterans coordinator listing the official satisfactory completion date and the costs of tuition, fees, and required textbooks.

(8) LIMITATIONS. Reimbursement for fees shall be limited to those fees which are mandatory and uniform for the courses in which the student is enrolled and which are paid to schools set forth in sub. (3), and reimbursement shall not include the cost or value of meals and lodging which may be included in such fees. Reimbursement for tuition shall be limited to tuition paid to schools set forth in sub. (3).

History: Cr. Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; am. (6), Register, February, 1981, No. 302, eff. 3-1-81.