

American Legion Coleman-Isgate Post #293

Rusk, Texas

Benevolence Committee / Veteran Assistance Program

Purpose: The Veteran Assistance Program (VAP) exists to provide limited financial assistance to Veterans.

Eligibility: Veterans - Priority and preference will be given to American Legion Coleman-Isgate Post #293 members.

Required Documentation:

- Copy of DD214 form, DD256 certificate, NGB22, VA Medical card, Military ID card or Dependent ID card. Veterans who received a Dishonorable Discharge, Bad Conduct Discharge, or Entry-level Discharge are ineligible for VAP assistance; Veterans must have received an Honorable Discharge to be eligible for VAP assistance;
- Billing statement for assistance requested i.e. repair bill, service quote, etc.
- Latest bank statement if available
- American Legion Coleman-Isgate Post #293 VAP Application

Subjective Review:

- Details of financial assistance sought
- Plight backstory
- Steps taken by Veteran to mitigate the plight
- Future outlook

VAP Disbursement: Approved funds will be paid directly to the creditor(s) requiring payment via check(s) or credit card depending on the financial source.

Approved creditors include but are not limited to:

- Landlords
- Mortgage companies
- Utility companies
- Insurers

Limit: American Legion Coleman-Isgate Post #293 VAP will offer financial assistance to eligible Veterans only once in a 12-month period.

Review / Interview Findings

Evaluate need/request

- Does the request fit the need?
- Are there other needs that should be addressed?
- Are there children or elderly in the household?
- Have they sought other help? Why or why not?
- Have they been turned down? Why?
- Is there another organization we can refer them to?
- Are there other organizations we can partner with?
- What is their backstory?
- How did they get to the point of needing help?
- Is the need chronic or acute?
- Are there additional contributing circumstances?
- Is a home visit needed? Substance abuse, inappropriate spending, unmotivated to work, etc.?
- What has the veteran or survivor done to improve their situation?
- How can we help them be successful long term?
- Will the veteran or survivor have to seek help again in the near future?
- Have we offered or put them in contact with organizations that provide training, equipping, mentoring / counseling in life skills, including budgeting?

Dispensing Assistance

- \$200/mo. budgeted for Benevolent Fund / Veteran Assistance Program
- Payments will be paid directly to the creditor / debt holder, or contractor
- In the case of a need not involving a debt / quote, materials will be purchased directly
- Gift cards may be used whenever appropriate for groceries, common needs, etc.
- Strategic Communication / Public Affairs exposure through outreach with Rusk Cherokeean newspaper

Community Partner Network

Rusk

Good Samaritan

Food bank

Clothing and Home supplies

Annie's Closet

Jacksonville

Hope--Food bank, Food Kitchen

Mission 69

CASA

Crisis Pregnancy Center

Churches

Banks

Grocery Gift cards--Super Gallo, Brookshire's, Super 1, Wal-Mart

Other Organizations

Texas Health and Human Services

Lone Star Military Resource Group

Veteran's Peer Network (Bradley Erickson in Jacksonville)

Cherokee County Veteran Service Officer (Andrew Dehart)