



# Community Outreach

# Why Reach Out?

- American Legion Posts are in all communities across the country.
- Our nations veteran population needs assistance that can be hard to find, is not suited to their specific need or just plain out of their grasp.
- It's why we exist.
- It's the right thing to do.

# Post Service Officer

- The value of the Post Service Officer increases with length of service. The longer you are on the job the more you learn. The more you learn the better you become. Your reputation will grow and so will the prestige of your Post within the community.
- The Post Service Officer must know how to access and utilize the expert services available through Legion channels and other community agencies, such as the county veteran's office, Red Cross, United Way, churches and other agencies.

# Community means Everyone



Veterans



Military  
Families



Community



Active  
Military

Post Service Officer



# Veterans

- Think back to your date of discharge.
  - Did you have a job to come home too?
  - Did you have shelter?
  - Did you have food?
  - Did you need education?
  - Did you need medical care?
  - Did you need to file a disability claim with the VA?

Do you know how to address these concerns?

# Military Families

- Think back to a grieving spouse.
  - How do you schedule an Honor Guard?
  - How do you get a burial flag?
  - How do you file with VA for burial marker or Placard?
  - How do you help file a survivors claim with the VA?
  - How do you file for Presidential Memorial Certificates?
  - How do you file for Education or Property Tax benefits?

Do you know how to address these concerns?

# Communities

- Think about your Post.
  - What is your Post's image in the community?
  - Will veterans come to the post if they need help?
  - Can anything be done to improve the curb appeal?
  - What can your Post do to help improve the community?

Do you know how to address these concerns?

## Active Military

- Think about a Deployed Soldier.
  - How can that soldier's family contact the soldier in time of need?
  - The soldier's family in need of anything?
  - How do you file a Pre-Discharge claim with the VA?

Do you know how to address these concerns?



## Interactions Inside & Outside the Post

- Being a member of the Post Visiting Committee would allow you to gain much information on the members of your post that may require your assistance.
- Don't be afraid to network with community leaders and local business'.
- You speak for all active military, veterans, and their families in your community.

***Don't let that voice go unheard.***

# COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS OFFICES

- In some counties, emergency relief grants are available to Michigan veterans who do not meet the criteria of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. Funds are limited, so the county Veterans Affairs committee may try to refer veterans who are eligible to other sources for financial assistance. County veteran Service Officers can be located at, [www.mivabenefits.org/find-service-officer/](http://www.mivabenefits.org/find-service-officer/)

# MICHIGAN VETERAN TRUST FUND

Financial assistance may be available to certain Michigan Veterans serving at least 180 days of active duty in a wartime period who were discharged un honorable conditions. The program assists with the unforeseen situation that causes a temporary or short-term financial emergency or hardship that a grant will resolve. Examples of such needs include delay in unemployment benefits or other income or unexpected hospitalizations that cause reductions in income to meet household needs. The grants may assist with housing, utilities, car payments, insurance, or medical assistive devices. Coordination is made with other agencies that may also assist with these types of needs.

For additional information, contact the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund at 1-517-284-5299 or by email at, [www.MichiganVeterans.com](http://www.MichiganVeterans.com)

# BASIC NEEDS

- Area Food Banks, Monthly Commodity Food Assistance, Food Kitchens, County Veterans Service Office.
- Clothing, i.e., churches, St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, Local Helping Hands.
- Utility Assistance; Michigan Community Action Agency, St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, County Veterans Service Office, Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.
- Eviction/Foreclosure/Housing/Rent; County Housing Commission, County Veterans Service Office, VA Assistance to Veterans in Default, call 1-877-827-3702, Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Michigan Works!

- As a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, you have special benefits within the Michigan Works! system:
- 24-hour lead time on all job postings
- Information about employers who specifically seek veterans as employees
- One-on-one assistance in job search
- Referrals to support service agencies and training programs

<https://www.michiganworks.com/job-seekers/veterans/>

## Veterans Employment Services

<https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/wd/panel-veterans>



# Questions

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