

Questions and Answers Regarding the Vermont Veterans' Fund (VVF)

When was it Created?

The Vermont Veterans' Fund (VVF) was created on June 4, 2010 as Act 160 by the Vermont General Assembly.

How are Funds Raised?

Funds are raised either through direct donations or as a "check off" on the Vermont Income Tax Return. All donations are tax deductible. Funds are deposited into an account administered by the Vermont State Treasurer:

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| <u>Direct Donation</u> Can be made at <i>any time</i> during the year: A check payable to the "Vermont Veterans' Fund" can be mailed to: Office of Veterans Affairs 118 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620-4401 | <u>Vermont Income Tax Return</u> A donation can be made <i>when filing Vermont State Income Tax Return</i>: Make a voluntary "check off" contribution, line 29 "VT Veterans' Fund" on Form IN-111, Vermont State Income Tax Return |
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How Can the Funds be Used?

Act 160 authorizes five appropriate uses for the VVF. Donations must be used in Vermont to help Vermont veterans and their families. Organizations with programs in any of five categories can apply for a grant:

- (1) Long-term care of veterans
- (2) Aid homeless veterans
- (3) Transportation services for veterans
- (4) To fund veterans' service programs
- (5) To recognize veterans

When Will Applications for Grants be Accepted and Reviewed?

A call for applications will be issued on or around July 1st this year; the deadline for grant requests will be August 27th. With the grant recipients announced in early September.

Who Decides What to Support?

Act 160 created a committee of nine members to help decide which programs to support. The current committee consists of representatives with a wide range of veterans experience in employment, healthcare, homeless, benefits, and service and program administration:

Members (specified by Act 160):

- (1) The Adjutant General or designee
- (2) The Vermont Veterans Home Administrator or designee
- (3) The Commissioner of the Department of Labor or designee
- (4) The Secretary of the Agency of Human Services or designee
- (5) The Director of the White River Junction VA Medical Center or Designee
- (6) The Director of the White River Junction VA Benefits Office or designee
- (7) Three members of the Governor Veterans Advisory Council:

Representatives:

Ken Gragg, DAG (Chair)
Brenda Cruickshank
Larry Forsyth
Will Eberle

Gregory Hartford

Jeff Neily
Gary De Gasta, Richard Farmer, and Adrian Megrath

Using their knowledge and expertise, Committee members evaluate the merits of grant applications. They also help to ensure individual and organizational donors that their contributions remain in Vermont, are used by legitimate organizations, and provide needed services to veterans and their families.