

It was moved by See and seconded by Lindeen to approve Resolution #2-2019 for Veteran's Affairs General Assistance Policy. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2 -2019**

### **VETERAN'S AFFAIRS GENERAL ASSISTANCE RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 35B of the Code of Iowa outlines the legal basis for the Veteran Affairs Commission Program in Iowa counties and;

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 252 of the Code of Iowa outlines the legal basis for General Assistance in Iowa counties and;

**WHEREAS**, In Henry County, the Veteran Affairs Program is administered by the Secretary to the Commission under the general supervision of the Veteran Affairs Commission and;

**WHEREAS**, Henry County, intends to use the following policies to administer and provide for Veteran's Affairs general assistance;

Benefits from the Henry County Veteran Affairs Commission are temporarily granted to veterans, widows, wives, and minor children. Veterans shall make application in person. If the veteran is physically disabled, the necessary information will be obtained from family or a legal representative.

Temporary benefits are granted up to twice in a year with a six month separation between grants. Appeal can be made to the Henry County Veteran Affairs Commission. The Commission reserves the right to refuse benefits to an applicant who has not proven to be indigent

## ELIGIBILITY

Those persons eligible for assistance in Henry County shall include the following:

- I. Applicants who:
  - a. lawfully reside within the borders of Henry County, meaning a domicile has been established with the intent to remain, which may be demonstrated by a drivers license, apartment rental, enrollment of children in school, registration to vote, or other indicators of good faith residence; and
  - b. have an "Honorable Discharge" from the United States Armed Forces; and
  - c. served on "active duty" for at least 90 continuous days for other than training during the following dates:
    - WWI April 6, 1917 thru November 11, 1918
    - Occupation of Germany November 12, 1918 thru July 11, 1923
    - American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia November 12, 1918 thru April 30, 1920 Second Haitian Suppression of Insurrections 1919-1920
    - Second Nicaragua Campaign with Marines & Navy in Nicaragua or on a Combat Ship 1926- 1933
    - Yangtze Service with Navy & Marines in Shanghai or in the Yangtze Valley 1926-1927 & 1930- 1932
    - China Service with Navy & Marines 1937-1939
    - WWII December 7,1941 thru December 31,1946
    - Korean War June 25, 1950 thru January 31,1955
    - Vietnam War February 28,1961 thru May 7, 1975
    - Lebanon or Grenada August 24,1982 thru July 31, 1984
    - Panama Service December 20, 1989 thru January 31, 1990
    - Gulf War August 2, 1990 thru a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation
  - d. Veteran includes the following persons:
    - i. Former members of the reserve forces of the United States who *served* at least twenty years in the *reserves* forces after January 28, 1973, and who were discharged under honorable conditions. However a member of the *reserve* forces of the United States who completed a minimum aggregate of ninety days of active federal service, other than training, and was discharged under honorable conditions, or was retired under Title X of the United States Code shall be included as a veteran.
    - ii. Former members of the Iowa National Guard who served at least twenty years in the Iowa National Guard after January 28, 1973, and who where discharged under honorable conditions. *However*, a member of the Iowa national guard who was activated for federal duty, other than training, for a minimum aggregate of ninety days, and was discharged under honorable conditions or was retired under Title X of the United States Code shall be included as a veteran.
    - iii. Former members of the active oceangoing merchant marines who served during World War II at any time between December 7,1941 and December 31,1946, both dates inclusive, who were discharged under honorable conditions ..

- iv. Former members of the women's air force service pilots and other persons who have been conferred veterans status based on their civilian duties during World War II in accordance with federal pub. L. No. 95-202, 38USC. } 106. Henry County Commission of Veteran Affairs also considers ALL peacetime veterans eligible for assistance with Henry County Veteran Affairs Commission and their spouses and surviving spouses and dependent and minor children.
  1. are 18 years old; and
  2. are the spouse, widow or dependent of a Veteran who meets the above criteria; and
  3. have completed and signed an application for assistance from Henry County Veteran Affairs; and
  4. have monthly income and liquid assets combined of less than 125% of the federal poverty guidelines; and
  5. have non-exempt resources of less than \$200.00; and
  6. have made application for and complied with all requirements of all other assistance programs for which the applicant may be eligible and maybe awaiting approval and receipt; and
  7. seek full-time employment and register with Workforce Development and those employment agencies which are determined by the Director to be appropriate, comply with the requirements of those agencies, and accept work and training as offered; and
  8. if physically or mentally unable to work, applicant must provide a doctor's written verification of diagnosis and length of illness and state the applicant is unable to work full-time.

## **FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY**

1. Determining income eligibility:
  - a. the total income of the household living unit for thirty (30) days prior to the date of application will be considered; and
  - b. all income received by the applicant's household shall be considered, including but not limited to net wages, child support, retirement benefits, disability benefits, investment income, rental income, income from trust funds, gifts, loans, and any assistance received from public or private entities, including food stamps; and
  - c. proof of income shall be required for determining eligibility for general assistance, failure to provide proof of income shall result in denial of benefits or a pended application.
2. Determining countable resources:
  - a. resources shall include liquid assets including but not limited to checking or savings accounts, cash on hand) stocks, bonds or other investments, the total value of such assets shall be considered an available resource; and
  - b. all real property shall be considered a resource at net value (value of property less remaining payments/mortgage), except exempted property identified in this resolution; and
  - c. excluded as countable resources are household goods, personal effects, a homestead, equity a family home or farm, an equity not to exceed \$2,500 in one motor vehicle

- (equity is defined as the Blue Book price less remaining loan balance), life insurance with no cash surrender value, equity not to exceed \$2,500 in one funeral contract or burial trust for each member of the household living unit, tools of an actively pursued trade; and
- d. when the value of one or more exempted resources exceeds the specified amount, the excess must be counted as available resources; and
  - e. all resources, other than excluded above, shall be considered as available to meet basic needs and must be used for such; and
  - f. if resources are available to meet the request at the general assistance standard) no eligibility exists; and
  - g. if resources are available to partially meet the need, they must be utilized prior to eligibility for assistance.

## **GENERAL ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Application for Assistance:
  - a. all applicants for general assistance must complete a Veteran Affairs General Assistance application in its entirety; and
  - b. discharge document or separation paper which reflects discharge under Honorable Conditions; and
  - c. social security card; and
  - d. certificate of marriage (if applicable) or verification of common law marriage; and
  - e. birth certificates of children under 18 years of age (if applicable); and
  - f. the applicant must also have an interview with the Director or their designee prior to approval for assistance; and
  - g. eligibility will be determined within 30 days of receipt of complete application and interview, so long as all required documentation has been provided; and
  - h. applicants will receive a written notice of eligibility determination
2. Employment:
  - a. applicants for or recipients of general assistance who are under 65 years of age and not disabled will be required to register with the Workforce Development Center; and
  - b. applicants who are 65 years of age or older or who are physically or mentally disabled will not be required to register for employment; and
  - c. any applicant for general assistance who must seek employment shall be required to provide reasonable proof he or she is actively seeking employment or has registered with the Workforce Development Center; and
  - d. a refusal or failure to actively seek employment, or refusal or failure to accept a reasonable employment offer may disqualify the applicant from receiving benefits under this resolution; and
  - e. an applicant who has been laid off from work temporarily shall provide a written statement from the employer stating they will be called back to work; and
  - f. an exception to this resolution is if a person is has written excuse from a medical doctor, physician assistant or accredited registered nurse practitioner stating the individual is unable to work full-time; and
  - g. all members of the household living unit 18 years of age or older are required to comply with this section,

## **BENEFITS**

1. Scope of Assistance:
  - a. the forms of assistance hereinafter described shall be available only for current bills or expenses; and
  - b. assistance is not available for bills or expenses accrued prior to application for general assistance; and
  - c. assistance shall not be granted more than twice a year six months apart; and
  - d. general assistance shall not be extended to any applicant or household member where financial assistance has already been provided within 365 days.
2. Rent:
  - a. payment for actual rent, up to a maximum of \$500.00 per month twice a year six months apart; and
  - b. no payment will be made for deposits; and
  - c. a copy of the lease agreement with the veteran or member of the household members name on the lease shall be required; or
  - d. a written statement from the landlord stating the applicant rents from them, the amount of current rent and signature of the landlord with their mailing address; and
  - e. no rental payments will be made to relatives of the applicant or member of the household; and
  - f. there shall be a 60 day limitation from the date of approval for rental assistance under this resolution, assistance shall be issued no more than twice a year six months apart.
3. Utilities
  - a. payment of an actual current utility bill (less sales tax) for lights, heat, water and cooking, not to exceed \$200.00 twice a year six months apart; and
  - b. no payment will be made for deposits or re-connections; and
  - c. a copy of the current utility bill in the name of the applicant or member of the household shall be required; and
  - d. there shall be a 60 day limitation from the date of approval for utility assistance under this resolution, assistance shall be issued no more than twice a year six months apart.
4. Burial costs may be paid to a funeral home when:
  - a. payment will only be made for an indigent person who is a legal resident of Henry County; and
  - b. the deceased person would have been eligible to receive assistance under the provisions of this resolution in the month of death; or
  - c. **income of the available spouse must be within general assistance income standards unless exception is granted; or**
  - d. application for burial assistance must be made within thirty (30) days of the indigent person's death; and
  - e. all of the deceased assets must be applied toward burial expenses, if there is no surviving spouse, including cash on hand and funds in checking and savings accounts, or savings certificates; and
  - f. death benefits may be available from employment, railroad retirement, pension plans, VA benefits) life insurance policy, prepaid burial agreements or social security. The family of the deceased must apply for these benefits and apply them to the burial; and
  - g. No more than what has been established by the Henry County GA policy will be paid by Henry County per burial and the county shall not provide for partial burial costs if

arrangements exceed the established limit.

- h. costs towards which the money received maybe applied should include;
  - i. preparation and embalming of the body
  - ii. services of funeral director and staff
  - iii. use of facilities and equipment
  - iv. casket and grave liner
  - v. transportation from place of death to internment within Henry County
  - vi. cremation and urn
- i. if death benefits identified in h above exceed \$1,000.00 Henry County will not approve a General Assistance burial application.

**FORM**

Assistance shall be purchased directly from the supplier for the applicant or the applicant's household living unit. Payment will be through a warrant issued out of the Henry County Auditors office and according to the Henry County Auditors monthly disbursement schedule.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HENRY COUNTY** that the Board of Supervisors for Henry County, Iowa have developed the aforementioned policies to administer Veteran's Affairs general assistance in Henry County, Iowa, pursuant to Iowa Code sections 35B and 252.

**APPROVED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019.**

ATTEST:

/s/Andrea Cook  
Henry County Deputy Auditor

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

/s/Greg Moeller, Chairman  
/s/Gary See, Member  
/s/Marc Lindeen