



Dear Ottawa County Veteran, Veteran Dependent, and/or Active Duty Military Personnel,

The Ottawa County Veterans Service Commission (formerly known as the Soldiers and Sailors' Relief) was founded in 1886 to assist honorably discharged military veterans and their children, spouses, and widows who were met with an unexpected hardship resulting from loss of employment, illness, injury, or other life crisis. Today, the Ottawa County Veterans Service Commission continues to carry out this mission in service to our veterans residing in Ottawa County. Under Title 59 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ottawa County Veterans Commission is responsible for providing a number of services to county veterans and their dependents.

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

To qualify for this assistance, the applicant must establish a financial need and hardship. Documentation is required to substantiate individual hardship. Please call (419)898-2089 to schedule an appointment.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Transportation may be provided for veterans with appointments to the Veterans Administration Medical Center facilities and Community Based Outpatient Clinics. This assistance is available to all veterans regardless of financial need and provided at no charge to the veteran. Please call (419)898-2089 to arrange for transportation.

SERVICE OFFICERS

Assistance is available to file claims for benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs (Disability, Education and Training, Healthcare, Home Loan Guaranty, Pension, Life Insurance, Burial Benefits, Dependents' and Survivors' Benefits, ascertaining military documents and/or awards, *etc.*). To meet with a Service Officer, please call (419)898-2089 for an appointment.

OHIO VETERAN HOME TOURS

Tours to the Ohio Veterans Home are available to veterans and their family members. A complimentary lunch may be provided. To schedule a tour, please call (419)898-2089.

The Ottawa County Veterans Service Commission's mission is to ensure and preserve the basic, human, and constitutional rights and maintenance of the service, benefits and entitlements due any veteran. The Ottawa County Veterans Service Commission offers assistance and/or information under the various programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, State of Ohio, and Ottawa County. Please contact us to receive an informational brochure. As a veteran, you have served your country in the time of need. In your time of need, let us serve you.

Cordially,

Sara A. Toris
Director

Applying for Financial Assistance

Eligibility Requirements

Section 5901.08 of the Ohio Revised Code establishes eligibility for financial assistance from county Veteran Service Commissions. To qualify for assistance, an applicant must demonstrate financial need and unexpected hardship. Additionally, the applicant must be a veteran, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the spouse, surviving spouse (widow/widower), dependent parent, minor child, or ward of a veteran or active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States. The applicant must disclose required information pertaining to everyone in the household. **Applicants must have been a bona fide resident of Ottawa County for at least three (3) months prior to the date of application.**

Required Documentation

To expedite the processing of a claim for financial assistance, all applicants are required to present the below information at the time of application. Failure to produce this required documentation at the time of application may cause delays. Please note, copies of documents will be made and placed in applicants Financial Assistance file. Refusal to submit the required documents will end the appointment.

Basic Information:

- DD-214 or other discharge papers, and/or DD-215; and
- Verification of Ottawa County residency, *i.e.* valid Ohio driver's license or Ohio State Identification, mortgage/lease verification; and
- Social Security card for yourself and all members of your family for whom you are applying for assistance. If a card is lost the applicant must bring in official verification from the Social Security; and
- Marriage certificate, if applicable (marriage license not accepted); and
- Divorce decree or legal separation papers, if applicable. If the applicant claims to be separated, but is unable to provide legal evidence, he/she will be required to submit a notarized statement certifying the separation or a letter from his/her attorney verifying separation; and
- Death certificate, if applicable; and
- Birth certificates or custody papers for all children; and
- Documentation formally verifying any legal names change(s).

Income and Asset Information:

- Payroll check stubs for past 4 weeks for both applicant and spouse; and/or
- Wage report for past 30 days (from temporary employment agencies); and/or
- Current letter from a physician clearly stating the applicant/spouse is unemployable; and/or
- If unemployed, an Ottawa County Job Store Status Confirmation must be completed. The form must be completed by the Ottawa County Job Store verifying the applicant and/or spouse is actively seeking employment.

Income Verification (last 30 days unless noted otherwise):

- VA Pension or Compensation received; and/or
- Social Security income/disability payments received; and/or
- Union benefits received; and/or
- Workers Compensation received; and/or
- Retirement payments received, such as PERS/FERS, military pension, union or company pensions, etc; and/or
- Rental income; and/or
- If self-employed, monthly profit and loss statement for the last 30 days or quarterly estimated payment for federal and state taxes; and/or
- Child support (90 day print out); and/or
- Department of Job & Family Services benefits such as, cash assistance; and/or
- Verification of all other types of income not noted above.

Expense and Liability Verification (last 30 days unless noted otherwise):

- Checking, savings, and/or credit union transaction print out from 60 prior to appointment; and
 - NOTE: Bank statements are not accepted.
- Verification of mortgage payment due; and
- Household Verification Form, W9, and Independent Contractor Form, all completed by the landlord; and
 - NOTE: If a landlord has previously submitted a W9 and Independent Contractor Form, another is not necessary.
- If you are a student, a class schedule must be supplied; and
- All utility bills; and
- Auto payment(s) bills; and
- Credit Card statements; and
- Payday loan balances; and
- Three estimates for requested car repairs; and
- Receipts for car repairs or any unexpected expenses (last 60 days); and/or
- Medical, vision, and dental bills (last 60 days); and
- Police and Fire Department reports if unexpected theft, fire, or other loss (last 60 days).

****We do not assist with security deposits for rent.***

Please understand that the Ottawa County Veterans Service Commission may request additional information to better serve the clients individual case needs.

- ***To better assist you in ensuring your application is done in an efficient and timely manner, all applications are done by appointment only; and***
- ***All information is required; and***
- ***All support data must be provided at your scheduled appointment; and***
- ***Applications will not be done the day of a board meeting.***

A Note on Fraud: *Submission of any false information during the application process may lead to criminal prosecution, as well as automatic rejection of the application for aid. Every applicant seeking financial assistance from the Ottawa County Veterans Service Commission will be required to sign a statement indicating that all information submitted on the application is truthful and accurate. Clients who submit fraudulent case information are prohibited for all future Ottawa County Veteran Service Commission assistance.*