

## Our Impact

### Free service for 750,000+ veterans

You see it in the news right now – toxic exposure to Agent Orange or burn pits, invisible wounds of war, unexplained illnesses and other conditions related to military service. These veterans who fought for our country now fight for care and accountability from the government they swore with their lives to defend. Navigating the VA benefits system can be complex. Veterans often give up, leaving them with debilitating conditions; or worse, they die before their claims applications are decided. This is where more than 3,000 American Legion service officers make all the difference.

Accredited American Legion service officers receive special training to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to any veteran or family member of a veteran looking for answers. They help veterans apply for VA disability benefits and assist with critical information, referrals and resources on education, training, employment, business, death benefits and more.

American Legion representatives secured an estimated \$14.25 billion in VA disability compensation and other benefits for veterans and their families in 2020 alone. Without service officers, these benefits would have gone unrealized.



### \$500K-\$1M distributed annually in Temporary Financial Assistance



The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program awards hundreds of cash grants a year to help minor children of military personnel and qualified veterans. These grants help families in crisis with needs like food, shelter, utilities and medical costs, to stabilize homes.

During the 2019 federal government shutdown, members of the U.S. Coast Guard went over a month without paychecks. The American Legion stepped in, delivering over \$1 million

in Temporary Financial Assistance to more than 1,700 junior enlisted personnel who had young children at home.

### Be there for a service member or veteran in need

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation directly provides:

- Necessary training for service officers who provide vital, free support.
- Grants that help active-duty military and veteran families with children during their time of need.
- Hope when it seems there is nowhere else to turn.

### About the Foundation

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation funds a vast network of service officers who provide free assistance to veterans applying for disability benefits they earned through military service. The foundation also extends a financial safety net for military and veteran families with children, who are facing unexpected financial hardships that threaten the stability of their homes.

*The American Legion delivers more than hope for America's veterans and military families. We deliver results.*

### Cases in Point

**Tennessee Legionnaire Walter Culberson lost his job when the pandemic hit.**

The American Legion responded by providing him with a one-time grant that paid for two months of utilities, food and gas. It was the lifeline he needed until he got a new job and could provide for his family once again.

**From June 2020 to April 2021, Oklahoma American Legion Post 88 anticipated the need for benefits assistance during the pandemic.**

The post's team of service officers maintained regular socially distanced office hours and worked tirelessly from home on claims.

The result: nearly \$1.1 million in benefits for disabled veterans and their families in the local community.

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Join your fellow American Legion members who support the Veterans & Children Foundation