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February 25, 2013

**WDVA Bulletin No. 987**

**TO: County Veterans Service Offices**

**SUBJECT: Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant (ANVG) – Subsistence Aid**

This bulletin is published to provide some best practices as it pertains to the ANVG – Subsistence Aid Grant.

Over the past few months, there have been a number of examples where the timeliness of submitting required documents has negatively effected the veteran applying for the grant. This bulletin provides some excellent tips to assist you and the applicant.

It is important when submitting an application for the Assistance to Needy Veterans Subsistence Aid grant to submit the application as soon as possible following the injury, illness or natural disaster. Do not wait until all supporting documents are gathered to submit the application. The grant may only be paid for the period of time after receipt of application and for a maximum of 90 days after the date of verified income loss. Required documentation must be sent in within 30 days from the date of the request for that information.

Subsistence aid shall be limited to the difference of the amount of earned and unearned income available before the date of the injury/illness/natural disaster that caused the loss of income and the earned and unearned income available after the date of injury/illness/natural disaster. Please see Wisconsin Administrative Code VA 2.01 (1) for the definition of earned and unearned income. The maximum grant amount is \$3,000 in a consecutive 12- month period, and \$7,500 per lifetime.

For injury and illness applications a WDVA 2045 ‘Verification of Illness or Disability’ form is required, and needs to be signed by a licensed physician, dentist, optometrist, or audiologist.

Currently, all veterans enrolled in the federal VA health care system have access to yearly vision and hearing exams through the VA. All veterans that have a service-connected disability rating of 10% or greater are eligible to receive VA care for *all* hearing and vision services. It has come to our attention that the federal Department of Veterans Affairs has loosened their restrictions regarding hearing and vision care and have been providing hearing/visions services to veterans that have less than a 10% rating. Please encourage all hearing and vision care applicants to seek care with the USDVA prior to submitting for a grant.

For questions regarding the ANVG, please call 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387) and ask to speak with Melissa Hermann, or submit an email to [VetsBenefitsGrants@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:VetsBenefitsGrants@dva.wisconsin.gov).