

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Department

of

Veterans Affairs

State Soldiers Assistance Program

(S.S.A.P)

Minimum Qualifications

- **Must be a veteran as defined by MN Statute 197.447: Minnesota Statute 197.447 Veteran, defined.**

The word “veteran” as used in Minnesota Statutes, except in sections 136F.28, 196.21, and 243.251 means a citizen of the United States or a resident alien who has been separated under honorable conditions from any branch of the armed forces of the United States after having served on active duty for 181 consecutive days or by reason of disability incurred while serving on active duty, or who has met the minimum active duty requirement as defined by Code of Federal Regulations, title 38, section 3.12a, or who has active military service certified under section 401, Public Law Number 95-202. The active military service must be certified by the United States Secretary of Defense as active military service and a discharge under honorable conditions must be issued by the Secretary.

Minimum Qualifications continued.

- **Must be a Minnesota Resident as defined by MN Statute 197.05 (b):**

“Resident means a person living in Minnesota for at least 30 days with the intention of residing in the state and not for any temporary purpose. An applicant may verify a residence address by presenting a valid state driver’s license, a state identification card, a voter registration card, a rent receipt, a statement by the landlord, apartment manager, or homeowner verifying that the individual is residing at the address, or other form of verification approved by the commissioner.”

- **Must have income and assets below the Schedule of Maximum Monthly Allowances as published by the MN Department of Veterans Affairs.**

Optical and Dental Assistance:

Veterans and their dependents who are Minnesota residents and who meet the income and asset limitations may qualify for optical and dental assistance.

Optical Assistance

- Limited to once per year.
- Veterans and dependents who qualify may receive **up to \$400** for an eye exam and prescription eyewear.
- Veterans and their dependents applying for optical assistance must provide the name, address, and telephone number of the optical clinic where they will seek treatment, and the Optical Assistance letters will be addressed to one specific optical provider.
- MDVA pays the optical provider directly once we have received an itemized notice.

Dental Assistance:

There are three separate dental assistance programs:

1. **ROUTINE:** Maximum assistance is \$1000 per eligible person per year. Covers basic & routine services, normal tooth extractions, crowns and bridges.
 2. **EXTRACTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR DENTURES:** Up to \$2000 lifetime limit(pre-approval required by MNDVA). Covers extractions in preparation for dentures.
 3. **DENTURES:** One time use up to \$3000 lifetime limit (pre-approval required by (MNDVA). Covers initial or replacement dentures.
- Veterans and their dependents applying for dental assistance must provide the name, address, and telephone number of the dental clinic where they will seek treatment, and the Dental Assistance Letters will be addressed to one specific dental provider.
 - MDVA pays the dental provider directly once we have received an itemized notice.

The following items are required for optical & dental applications:

- A completed application, (MDVA-1)
- Two (2) signed Releases of Information (ROI) forms (page 5 & page 6 of the MDVA-1)
 - Verified service information
 - Proof of residency
- Proof of income (such as pay advices) and assets (most recent bank statement)
- A recommendation from the County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) taking the application

Subsistence Assistance (Temporary Disability)

- The subsistence program provides cash assistance to veterans and their dependents when the veteran is disabled. This program is intended to assist veterans who have become temporarily disabled and unable to work for at least 30 days, or veterans who have become permanently disabled and have filed for long term assistance (such as social security and VA Benefits) and are awaiting a decision on their claim. In addition to personal needs, the department may pay shelter costs, utilities and health insurance premiums.
- In addition to the minimum qualifications listed above, the veteran must have a disability that prevents them from working for at least 30 days as verified by a physician.

A Chemical Dependency Completion Grant is also available. To qualify for this, a veteran must have successfully completed an approved in-patient chemical dependency program and had no income while in treatment. Instead of a medical disability statement, we require a letter stating that the veteran successfully completed an in-patient chemical dependency program. The letter must also include the date the veteran entered treatment and the date they were discharged.

To be considered for this grant, applicant must be made within 30 days of completing the in-patient program.

Subsistence Assistance is limited to 6 months.

The following items are required for a subsistence application:

- A completed application (MDVA-1)
- Two signed releases of Information (ROI) forms (pg. 5 & pg. 6 of the MDVA-1)
- Verified service information
- Proof of residency.
- Proof of income (such as pay advices) and assets (most recent bank statement)
- Medical disability statement (MDVA-4) signed by a physician which clearly states that the veteran is unable to work for at least 30 days (or a letter if applying for the CD Completion Grant)
- A completed Shelter Expense and Residence Form (MDVA-5). If the veteran is requesting assistance paying shelter while they are in treatment, they will also need to provide proof that they were paying rent prior to entering treatment and they must return to that address upon completing treatment.
- A recommendation from the County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) taking the application.

Education Assistance

A one time grant is available for Minnesota veterans who have exhausted their federal resources. The grant may be used only for accredited institutions in the state. There is also a state War Orphan education benefit available to children of Minnesota residents who were killed in action or died of a service connected condition.