



Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Arizona



Policy Number: 2025-005

Subject: Welfare and Disaster Support Policy

Policy Statement: This policy applies to all current and future Chapters within the Department, as well as the Department as a whole.

1. **Purpose:** To provide guidance on the use of Chapter and Department resources (funds, time, manpower) to support Members and their families, other Veterans and their families, Gold Star Members and their families, and communities adversely affected by natural disaster or financial hardship.
2. **Scope:** While not all inclusive, natural disasters include hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and tornados. Financial hardships are personal fund shortages, which may have been caused by home fires, job loss, extended medical costs, primary car repairs, or other circumstances.
3. **Responsibilities:**
 - a. All Members and Associate Members have an inherent responsibility to be aware of Veterans, families, and Communities that might need our help ranging from a one-time "hand-up" or more extensive and longer-term support.
 - b. Chapter Commanders are responsible for approving and managing requests for assistance identified by or submitted to their Chapter. Requests beyond the Chapter's internal resources may be referred to the Department.
 - c. The Department Executive Committee (DEC) is responsible for approving and managing requests for assistance submitted to the Department that are beyond or outside Chapter capabilities to support.



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d. A needs assessment will be made documenting the circumstances and actions taken for each request received and before any assistance is provided. The needs assessment will be recorded in the next meeting minutes. An example assessment is Appendix 1.

4. **Donation Strategy:** Our resources are limited, and we need to prioritize our assistance efforts. Our general priority is to support inside of Arizona. Monetary support should be provided to the agency or agencies that need to be paid for services and as a last resort, to the individual experiencing the need.

- a. 1st priority is to Purple Heart Recipients and their immediate family.
- b. 2nd priority is to other Veterans and their immediate family.
- c. 3rd priority is Gold Star families.
- d. 4th priority is to communities.
- e. 5th priority is to the non-Veterans.

Approved by the DEC:
November 19, 2025

Cody Phipps

Cody Phipps
Commander
Department of Arizona

Attachment: Appendix A (Example Welfare and Disaster Support Needs Assessment Form)



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Appendix 1 to Policy 2025-005: Example Welfare and Disaster Support Needs Assessment Form

1. Is the need for a:
 - a. Veteran?
 - i. Must provide copy of DD-214.
 - ii. Type of discharge? Other than Honorable discharges to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
 - iii. Purple Heart recipient?
 - iv. Member of the Order?
 - b. Family member of a Veteran?
 - i. Is it a Gold-Star family?
 - c. Community?
 - d. Non-Veteran?
2. What individual or agency reported the need?
3. What is the nature of the need? (Get as much information as possible).
4. Has support been requested/received from other organizations for this need? If so, who and when?
5. Point of Contact for Additional Information?
6. Decision. Include details of any funds or other support provided.