



# Veterans Relief Fund: 2022

Source of funds: Property Tax

## Where does the money come from for the Veterans Relief Fund (VRF) program?

As allowed in RCW 73.08.080, Cowlitz County collects a property tax not less than one and one-eighth cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, and not greater than twenty-seven cents per thousand dollars of assessed value to operate a veterans' assistance program. Currently, Cowlitz County collects the minimum of one and one-eighth cents per thousand dollars of assessed value.

## How is the VRF used to assist veterans in Cowlitz County?

The Cowlitz County VRF can be used to support local veterans, their families, and nationally-recognized service organizations in Cowlitz County.

The Cowlitz County Board of County Commissioners relies on Cowlitz County Health & Human Services (CCHHS) to administer the fund with input from the Veterans' Advisory Board. CCHHS contracts with local veterans' service organizations to work with veterans to complete applications for assistance.



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

54 Veterans  
Received  
Assistance



## Assistance to Individual Veterans

Limits listed were in effect as of 12/31/2022

### Food Assistance



**50 Food vouchers**  
**Total Assistance \$8001**

Food Assistance is available once within 3 months for an individual or once within 2 months for a veteran supporting a family.

### Utility Assistance



**14 Utility Bills**  
**Total Assistance \$3457**

Utility Assistance is available for up to \$440 in a 12-month period. The veteran must have a "72-hour shut off notice".

### Rent Assistance



**10 Veterans**  
**Total Assistance \$6530**

Rent Assistance is available for up to \$770 in a 12-month period for up to 50% of the amount due.

### Housing Assistance



**6 Veterans**  
**Total Assistance \$5266**

Housing Assistance is available to assist veterans with obtaining new housing once every 3 years.

### Misc. Assistance



**3 Veterans**  
**Total Assistance \$1500**

Expenses such as clothing to secure employment, school supplies or tuition, or emergency car repair for school or work.

### Death Expenses



**11 Veterans**  
**Total Assistance \$10,775**

Assistance is available for families of deceased veterans for up to \$2000 for a burial or \$1,000 for a cremation.

### Medical/Counseling Cost Assistance



**0 Veterans**  
**Total Assistance \$0**

Assistance with prescriptions, counseling, or vision/dental costs not covered by insurance up to \$495 in a 12-month period.

### Natural Disaster



**0 Veterans**  
**Total Assistance \$0**

Available for up to \$550 in a 12-month period for veterans who have suffered damages or loss as a result of a disaster or emergency.

## Assistance to Veterans Service Organizations in Cowlitz County \*



**Building costs for 4 veterans service organizations – Total \$32,379**

- ✦ Longview VFW Post 1045
- ✦ Cowlitz County Veterans Service Center
- ✦ Kalama VFW Post 10345
- ✦ Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 32

\*RCW 73.04.080 authorizes assistance to veterans service organizations for certain costs such as building rents.



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