

# COWLITZ COUNTY Veterans Relief Fund

2024

Source of Funds: Property Tax



## Where does this funding come from?

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.

**116 Veterans**  
Received  
Assistance  
Totalling  
**\$105,380**

## Assistance to Individual Veterans

Limits listed were in effect as of 9/1/2024

### Food Assistance



**140 Food vouchers**  
**Total Assistance \$40,880**

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

### Utility Assistance



**21 Utility Bills**  
**Total Assistance \$6,487**

Utility Assistance is available for up to \$1000 in a 12-month period. The veteran must have a "72-hour shut off notice".

### Rent Assistance



**20 Veterans**  
**Total Assistance \$15,641**

Rent Assistance is available for up to \$2000 in a 12-month period.

### Housing Assistance



**1 Veterans**  
**Total Assistance \$350**

Housing Assistance is available for up to \$1200 to assist with obtaining new housing in a 12-month period.

### School Supplies/ Tuition



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

Assistance with school supplies/tuition is available for up to \$2500 in a 12-month period.

### Burial/Cremation Expenses



**30 Families**  
**Total Assistance \$29,144**

Assistance is available for families of deceased veterans for up to \$2000 for a burial or \$1,500 for a cremation.

### Medical/Counseling Cost Assistance



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

Assistance with prescriptions, counseling, or vision/dental costs not covered by insurance.

### Misc. Assistance



**20 Veterans**  
**Total Assistance \$12,878**

Assistance is available for up to \$1500 in a 12-month period for clothing to secure employment or emergency car repair for school or work.

### Natural Disaster



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

Available for up to \$1,000 in a 12-month period for veterans who have suffered damages or loss as a result of a disaster or emergency.

### Total building costs paid for 4 veterans service organizations in 2024: \$32,532 year to date

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



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