



Veterans Relief Fund: 2023

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

85 Veterans

Received a Total of

\$59,910

in Assistance



Assistance to Individual Veterans

Limits listed were in effect as of 12/31/2023

Food Assistance



87 Food vouchers
Total Assistance \$18,893

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

Utility Assistance



19 Utility Bills
Total Assistance \$ 4,959

Utility Assistance is available for up to \$600 in a 12-month period. The veteran must have a "72-hour shut off notice".

Rent Assistance



18 Veterans
Total Assistance \$ 15,009

Rent Assistance is available for up to \$1200 in a 12-month period.

Housing Assistance



0 Veterans
Total Assistance \$ 0

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

Misc. Assistance



5 Veterans
Total Assistance \$ 2,302

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

Death Expenses



16 Families Assisted
Total Assistance \$ 18,747

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.

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.

Assistance to Veterans Service Organizations in Cowlitz County *



Building costs for 4 veterans service organizations – Total \$35,922

- ✦ 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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1952 9th Ave.
Longview, WA



Veterans Relief Fund: 2023

Source of funds: Property Tax



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

**Number of Veterans
Receiving Assistance**

85
Veterans

2023



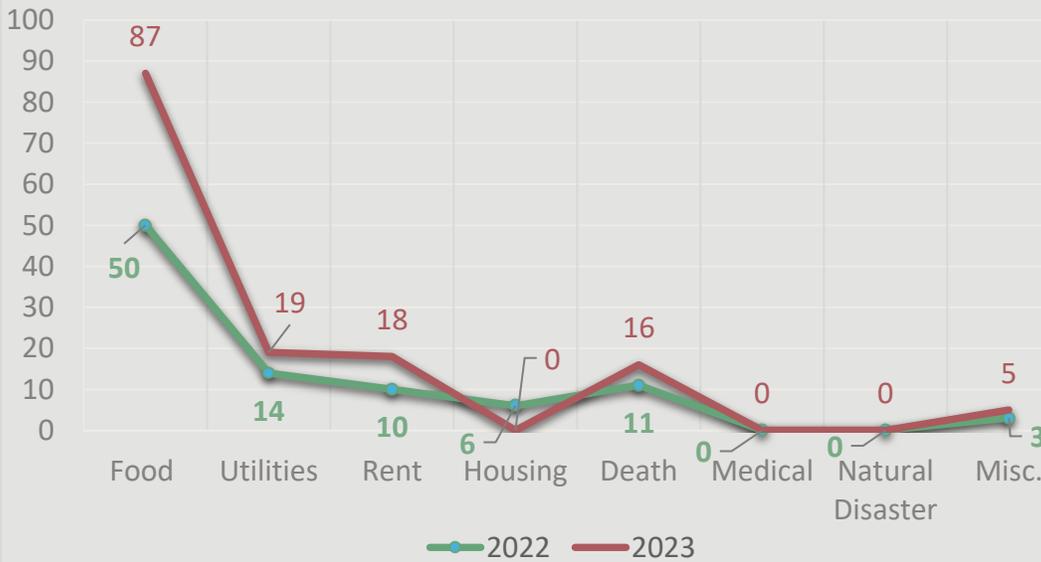
VS.

2022

60
Veterans



Applications Processed*



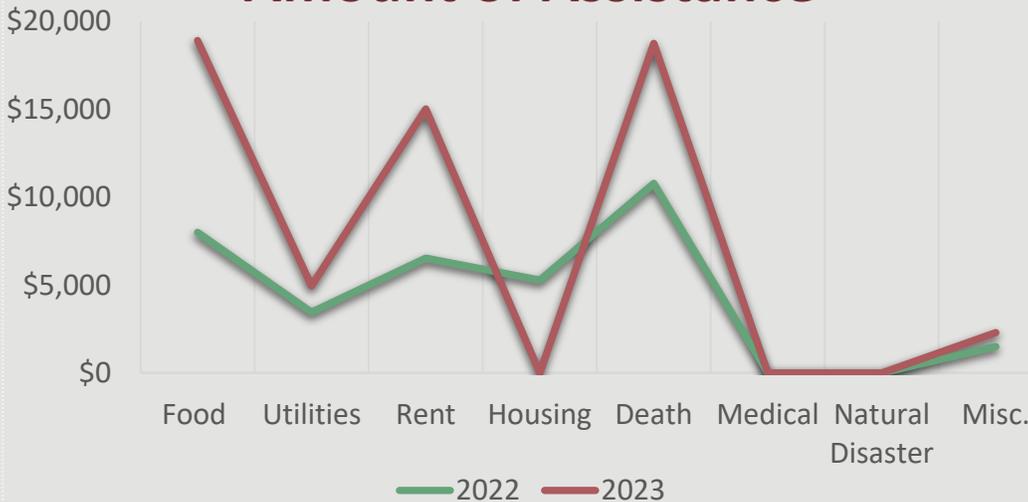
**Number of
Applications*
Processed**

In 2023 **EXCEEDED**
the total processed
in 2022 by

54%

*One type of assist equals one application. If two requests were submitted from the same person, at the same time, (food and rent) then that would count as two applications.

Amount of Assistance



**Amount of
Assistance
Provided**

In 2023 **EXCEEDED**
the total provided
in 2022 by

69%



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