



## **Auxiliary Emergency Fund Program Engagement Plan**

2025-2026

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Our goal this year is to raise funds for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) and to increase awareness about its programs. We aim to educate members on the application process, who qualifies for the grants, and which grant to apply for. The AEF was established in 1969 through a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. It was her wish that the AEF help members who face significant financial hardship due to natural disasters or personal crises.

There are two types of applications: Disaster Assistance and Hardship Assistance. To qualify, the applicant must be a current member of the American Legion Auxiliary and have maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years, including the current year and the two previous years. Only one AEF grant (disaster or hardship) will be awarded in a 12-month period. Applications are available online at [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) under the Committee program AEF. Both grants may be awarded up to \$3,000.

**Disaster Assistance Grant:** The grant provides immediate emergency assistance to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members in areas devastated by natural disasters, such as fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, and/or other severe weather. Applications must be received within 6 months of the disaster. The applicant must provide documentation, such as proof of damage to the primary residence (exterior, interior, and contents), itemized receipts for emergency expenses, and receipts for damage repairs. FEMA/insurance documents, current driver's license, and other information requested.

**Hardship Assistance Grant:** This grant provides temporary assistance to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members during times of financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to cover past-due expenses related to their primary residence and/or basic household utilities. Applicants must be able to provide copies of past-due bills for shelter (mortgage statements or landlord letters), basic household utilities (electric, gas, water, sewer, trash), documentation for loss of income, and other information as requested.



## **AEF Department Awards 2025-2026**

AEF Awards Given by the North Carolina Department Chair

1. A \$100 donation to the National AEF made in honor of the unit that donates the most money to the AEF Fund. (This must be donated through the Department.
2. Certificates will be awarded to all units that make a donation to the AEF.
3. A drawing from all the units that donate to the AEF. The winning unit will have \$50.00 donated to AEF in honor of their unit.

### **National Awards**

**Unit Award:** Unit and Unit Members Contributing the Largest Annual Amount (per capita)  
Award based on donations received from June 1 to May 31.

**Department Award:** Department Contributing the Largest Annual Amount. This award includes donations made by the department, and units and members of that state.  
Award based on donations received from June 1 to May 31.

**ALL AEF donations must be received by May 31 at the National Headquarters to be counted toward the annual AEF awards.**

### **Resources**

[www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF)

[www.Facebook.com/group/AuxEmergencyFund](https://www.Facebook.com/group/AuxEmergencyFund)

[www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate)

### **Ways to Raise Awareness among ALA Members**

Meetings, newsletters, social media, individual discussions with a member experiencing a personal crisis, after a local disaster strikes, or encourage members to visit the ALA website or join the AEF Facebook group.

Extra Information