



Auxiliary Emergency Fund



Update: 10/11/2023

From Carley Schutz, National HQ

The National Executive Committee (NEC) approved an increase for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) grants in February. The new grant amount took effect at the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year, Oct. 1. The updated grant award is \$3,000 for ALA members who have been affected by a natural disaster or other crisis and need urgent financial assistance.

The increase from \$2,400 to \$3,000 is a result of the rising cost of living and inflation. These rising costs impact millions of Americans, making it increasingly difficult for them to attain economic security. In July 2023, consumer prices were 3.2% higher than the year before. This has increased the cost of goods and services, making it more difficult for families to afford their basic needs.

The updated applications can be found on the ALA website [here](#). Please distribute them to your units so we can help as many members in need as possible. We will no longer accept outdated applications.

The purpose of the AEF Committee is to raise funds for and promote knowledge about the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Standing Rule 6, National Committees – Member/Organizational Support Key Program Statements:

- The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides hardship and disaster emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary up to \$3,000 as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.
- Disaster funds may be awarded for damage to the interior/exterior of the vital livable portion of the member's primary structure, contents and/or for essential emergency expenses after the disaster based on proper documentation provided.
- Hardship funds may only be awarded for over/past due primary shelter expenses, basic household utilities and/or loss of income based on proper documentation provided.
- Members of the American Legion Auxiliary whose dues are current and who have maintained annual membership for three consecutive years (the current year in which the application is submitted and immediate past two years) and have not been awarded an AEF grant (disaster or hardship) in the previous 12 months are eligible to apply for a grant.



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Awards:

Unit Award: Unit Contributing the Largest Amount (per capita)
Award based on donations received from June 1 – May 31.

Department Award: Department Award: Largest Contributor
Award based on donations received from June 1 – May 31.

Department Award: Department Contributing the Largest Amount
(per capita) Award based on donations received from June 1 –
May 31.

Questions? Contact AEF@ALAforVeterans.org.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

If you have problems or questions with the application, first contact your unit AEF chair, then your department AEF chair or secretary, and then your division chair. These individuals can assist in walking you through the applications.

Please look on our website under www.idahoala.org under programs. The AEF tells about the national assistance and two years ago we started the Idaho AEF Program.

The application and instructions are on our website.



Auxiliary Emergency Fund



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Idaho Auxiliary Emergency Fund Engagement Plan 2024 – 2025

No one ever plans for a disaster, affecting them or their families. However, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is there to help with a monetary donation to get our members through this divesting time in their lives. The AEF is a national based fund, and it grows through generous donations by our members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Every donation counts no matter how large or small. They all add up and become a financial hug in their time of need.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund originated in 1969 starting with a donation from the estate of an auxiliary member by the name of Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. The fund concurs today through generous donations from our auxiliary members. As we know, the AEF is an assistance program that provides temporary assistance to eligible members during a time of financial crisis, a weather-related emergency, and natural disasters. For a member to be eligible for assistance, they must have their current dues paid and they have maintained membership in good standing for three consecutive years, the current and the immediate past 2 years. The application must be completed and sent to National. It no longer needs to go to the Department. Emergency assistance grants may be awarded by the AEF grant committee on a case-by-case basis up to a maximum of \$3,000.00. The funds may be used for shelter, food, and utilities. The funds may not be used for credit card debt. All Units, Districts, and Divisions keep an eye out for anyone you see that may need assistance. They may not know that these funds are available to them. Take the time to assist a member in need. To all of you that have donated this year and, in the past, - I give you a big THANK YOU! Your generosity will assist many.

The National application must be received at National Headquarters within 6 months of the disaster date. Please follow the directions on application.

ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

Let Us as Idaho American Legion Auxiliary Members step up and raise money for this cause. **Let us make this a competition between our units and districts.** The winning units will receive the following:

Department Award:

A beautiful traveling trophy & ALA Merch. -Awarded to the unit that has raised the most money for AEF by Department Convention along with the bragging rights for the next year.

Plaque - To the Unit with the highest contribution to AEF.

Personal Awards:

\$50.00 To the Unit with the highest contribution.

There are multiple ways to raise money for your unit/district raise for the **Auxiliary Emergency Fund**. Some suggestions are as follows:

- Collecting Cans set out along your post
- 50/50 Raffles
- Hold an AEF special fundraiser event
- Bake Sales/Pie raffles
- Be the One to Give one
- ALA recipe books
- Calendars of unit and community dates to remember (birthdays, anniversaries.)
- Auctioning off handmade quilts
- Selling poppy items
- Shake your "can" for ALA AEF dance contest
- Raffle baskets
- Jewelry- make beaded jewelry
- Craft bazar

Please communicate with each other as to when and what each is doing so, we can help support each other.

When suggesting these fun activities to your unit or post, keep in mind that we are "MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS< FAMILY HELPING FAMILY."



Auxiliary Emergency Fund



Resources from National

Log into the National website to access these items:

[Click Here: Auxiliary Emergency Fund](#)

<https://Member.Legion-Aux.Org/Member/Committees/Aef>

- Auxiliary Emergency Fund Application
- Expedited Auxiliary Emergency Fund Application
- Certificate of Appreciation

Helpful Websites

- Operation Homefront (<https://www.operationhomefront.org/>)
- United Way Information and Referral Search (<https://www.unitedway.org/our-impact/featured-programs/2-1-1#>)
- FEMA (<https://www.fema.gov/>)
- Red Cross (<https://www.redcross.org/>)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap>)



Department of Idaho Auxiliary Emergency Fund



American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

Angela Thies, Chairman
Cascade, ID
208-315-3852
ATHIESALAAunit60@gmail.com
2024-2025

Unit #: _____ Unit Name _____ City: _____

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides temporary financial assistance to eligible members during times of financial crises or weather-related emergencies and natural disasters and promotes awareness and knowledge of the program.

Please send the completed form to **AthiesALAAunit60@gmail.com** by May 1, 2025

1. How much has your unit contributed this year to National AEF/State AEF?

2. Tell me of other ways that your unit is helping its members.

3. Please submit a narrative report of how your unit raised money for AEF or other ways your Unit is helping members.
