AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

October 2026 Issue #1

FROM THE 2026-2027 AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND PROGRAM

AEF Grants 101

By Northwestern Division Chair Janelle Mendelson

When Hard Times Hit, Members Help Members

Life can change in a single day. A storm can damage your home. A lost job can make it hard to pay the bills. When that happens, the American Legion Auxiliary can help. It is called the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, or AEF. Since 1969, the AEF has given more than $6 million to over 6,500 members in need.

The AEF offers two kinds of grants. Each one can pay up to $3,000.

Disaster Grants



A disaster grant helps members hurt by a fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, or other bad weather. You may qualify if your home was damaged, you had to leave, or you paid for emergency needs because of the disaster. You must apply within three months. Be ready to share photos of the damage, receipts, repair estimates, insurance or FEMA papers, and your driver's license.

Hardship Grants



A hardship grant helps members who have fallen behind on rent, a mortgage, or basic utilities like electric, gas, and water. You will need copies of your past-due bills and proof that you recently lost work income. This grant does not pay medical bills or credit card debt.

Who Can Apply

You must have paid your ALA dues by December 31 for three years in a row, including this year. Junior members cannot apply. Each member can receive only one AEF grant in a 12-month period.

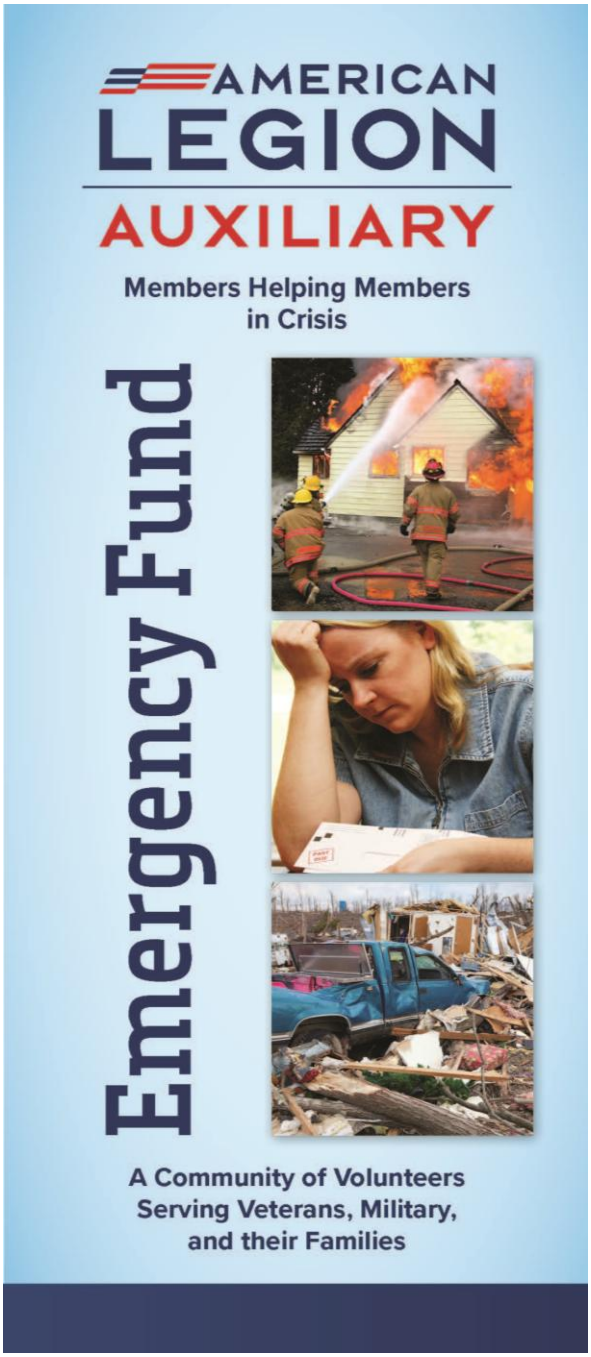
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How You Can Help

Applications and answers to common questions are at legion-aux.org/aef. You can also donate there to keep this fund strong for the next member who needs it. Members helping members is Service Not Self in action!



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Produced in the USA

Southern Division Spotlight

The Southern Division has been impacted by many major disasters over the last few months. Units and Departments have been working together to support their members and the communities that they live in. Disasters in your area can be found using the FEMA website and searching at www.fema.gov/disaster/current

We can't wait to see all of the Units and Departments in action. Please post your pictures on our AEF Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/AuxEmergencyFund to showcase what you are doing. We would love to see your fundraiser activities, our members in action helping clean up, and those who are assisting with the grant process. Contact your Divisional Chairman with any questions.

Remember to keep sending in those donations to the AEF and raising money to help our members get their lives back after a disaster.

Quarterly Zoom Meetings

Save the Date!
Links to register will also be sent out in an email.

Q1 Wednesday, October 28th
https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/aef_qtr_1_mtg_oct_28_2026

Q2 Wednesday, January 27th
Q3 Wednesday, May 5th

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM
Eastern Time

Our final Zoom will be our pre-convention meeting, day & time to be determined.

If you haven't registered yet, please do so. These Zooms are for the Department AEF Chairman to attend and share what they are doing in their Department. We hope to see you all there!