

Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund



At a Glance

JOHN D. MONAHAN, Administrator

Charles R. Berry, Assistant Administrator

Established - 1919

Statutory authority - CGS Sec. 27-138 and 27-140

**Central office - 864 Wethersfield Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06114**

Number of employees - 9

Recurring operating expenses - \$990,187

Organizational structure -	Administrator	1
	Assistant Administrator	1
	Fiscal Administrative Officer	1
	Veterans Aid Investigator	3
	Secretary II	1
	Secretary I	1
	Clerk Typist	1

The Central Office houses the administrative staff (six employees). Branch offices are located in Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, Norwich, and Waterbury. Veterans Aid Investigators staff the branch offices on a part-time basis, with services available either two or three days a week (three employees). The remaining cities and towns are served by more than 100 American Legion volunteer Fund Representatives.

Mission

The Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund provides temporary assistance to Connecticut's wartime veterans who are in need, and / or to their dependents and survivors.

Statutory Responsibility

The Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund expends the financial resources received by the agency "in furnishing food, wearing apparel, medical or surgical aid or care or relief to, or in bearing the funeral expenses of soldiers, sailors and marines who performed service in time of war, as defined in Conn. Gen. Statutes Sec. 27-103 (a)...who have been honorably discharged... or to their spouses who are living with them, or to their widows or widowers who were living with them at the time of death, or to dependent children under eighteen years of age, who may be in need...(Conn. Gen. Statutes Sec. 27-140)". The Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund is organized as a trust, with the corpus in the custody of the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut. The administrative authority of the Fund is the American Legion Department of Connecticut and is governed under Bylaws of the American Legion. Income from the trust is transmitted periodically to the Treasurer of the American Legion, who utilizes the monies to accomplish the statutory mission. The value of the trust fund corpus (principal) as of June 30, 2011 was \$64,499,754. Total assistance payments during Fiscal Year 2011 amounted to \$1,988,409, representing an increase of \$30,689 from the previous year's disbursements.

Public Service

The Fund provides financial assistance as mandated by statute, and also offers referrals and guidance to veterans regarding other potential sources of assistance such as: Social Security Benefits; Veterans Administration compensation and pension; Aid to Dependent Children; Women, Infants and Children; Title XIX; Workers Compensation; CONNPACE, and Husky Insurance, the Federal Food Stamp Program and the Charter Oak Health Plan. The agency has conducted seminars at local veteran forums in order to disseminate information in cooperation with local and state agencies, veteran service organizations, hospital administrators, labor unions and legislators. The agency has conducted briefings for Connecticut National Guard units (Army and Air Force) redeploying from overseas service in support of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The briefings have focused on expanding awareness among potential beneficiaries of the assistance available. Regional Training seminars were conducted for volunteer Fund Representatives in order to improve their skills in requesting and administering assistance. A statewide training session for Fund Representatives was held in Rocky Hill in January, 2011.

Improvements/Achievements 2010-11

The agency provided assistance during Fiscal Year 2011 as follows:

-Total cases	2,284	
-Payments issued	7,499	
-Amount of assistance provided		\$1,988,409
Assistance provided by category		
-Weekly Assistance		\$155,834
-Shelter /Utilities/Food/Apparel		\$1,330,310
-Medical/Dental Assistance		\$412,479
-Funeral Expenses		\$40,800

-Medical Equipment

\$48,986

- Agency full-time staffing remained at the FY 2010 level of 9 positions. The New Haven office is staffed full-time with one Fund Representative. The remaining offices; Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, and Norwich, are staffed on a part-time basis, with two Fund Representatives splitting their hours between two locations. Emergency requests during hours/days when the field offices are not staffed are directed to the Main Office in Hartford.
- The agency presented an information briefing to the members of the Connecticut General Assembly's Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs in order to expand awareness among legislators of the mission, organization and operations of the agency.

Information Reported as Required By Statute

Conn. Gen. Statutes Sec. 27-140 requires the submission of quarterly reports of activities of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund, including an accounting of the Fund's disbursements, to the Governor and the General Assembly.