

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 - \$1,044,426

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). Regional offices are located in Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, Norwich, and Waterbury. One full-time Fund Representative staffs the regional office in New Haven. Two full-time Fund Representatives staff the remaining regional offices on a part-time basis, with services available either two or three days a week. Many other municipalities are served by volunteer American Legion Fund Representatives, who number more than 100.

Mission

The Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund provides temporary assistance to Connecticut's wartime veterans who are in financial need, and to their spouses and minor children, or to surviving spouses and minor children.

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 the operation of the Fund is governed under the Bylaws of the American Legion. Income from the trust is transmitted periodically to the Treasurer of the American Legion, who disburses the monies to accomplish the statutory mission. The value of the trust fund corpus (principal) as of June 30, 2012 was \$66,633,627. Total payments disbursed during Fiscal Year 2012 were \$1,996,939, representing an increase of \$8,530 from the previous year's assistance payments.

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 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. The briefings have focused on increasing 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, 2012.

Improvements/Achievements 2011-12

The agency provided assistance during Fiscal Year 2012 as follows:

-Total cases	2,368
-Payments issued	7,680
-Amount of assistance provided	\$1,996,939

Assistance provided by category

-Weekly Assistance	\$137,191
-Shelter /Utilities/Food/Apparel	\$1,305,474
-Medical/Dental Assistance	\$467,738
-Funeral Expenses	\$44,940
-Medical Equipment	\$41,596

- Agency full-time staffing remained at the FY 2011 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 implemented the initial phase of a systematic review of records of deceased veterans, principally of World War II, in cooperation with the State Library, with the object of identifying extraneous records for destruction and identifying and retaining those of potential historical value for eventual transfer to the State Archives.
- 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.
- The agency simplified /streamlined the process of providing weekly assistance by eliminating the requirement for submission of documentation of job search activities.
- The agency conducted a study of the cost/benefit of employing the courier service. The results of the study demonstrated that cost savings could be achieved with a modest increase in internal workload by eliminating the service. Courier service has been discontinued.

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.