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1. The awarded grant should be paid directly to the business or entity that the veteran in financial distress owes, not paid directly to the veteran. This should be something that the Commission must approve.
2. There should not be income limitations. The veteran must show pay stubs, bank statements, taxes, and assets along with a letter explaining their situation and have proof of the need. All the information is available to the Department to see if a true need is presented. Income limitations will deter veterans in need from applying and a working family can have an emergency they need help with and may not ask for help because of these limitations.
3. The wording for a dependent is vaguely written. Does it mean Spouse of vet and dependent children are all eligible? Can they all get 2500? If a vet isn't able to apply for themselves, they will have a POA that can do it for them. I don't believe this criteria is even needed.
4. We need it clearly stated that Indiana National Guard(ING) service IS qualified military service. IDVA keeps deny our ING.
5. A veteran in receipt of disability compensation due to being medically separated should be eligible for the fund. There needs to be a statement in the rules about this issue. This may need done legislatively.
6. What is the appeals process? What is the timing?
7. The Hardship Criteria makes it so an IDVA staff member has to make a judgment call. They have turned these rules into a bureaucratic nightmare. It should be that the rules are clear so you either qualify or you don't, but not having humans in the department making judgment calls. It sets the fund up for misuse and being applied unequally.
8. Why on the application does it ask for VA Disability Compensation information, but the rules refer to your Gross income on veteran's federal taxes? Think about what requiring a veteran to disclose their VA disability compensation would do to their eligibility with the income limitations that that are being proposed.

These issues will need to be changed via legislation:

Remove

12 Months Military Service

War Time Service