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# Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

- September 9, 2013
  - Webinar: Emergency Grant Program for eligible wartime service veterans
  - Collaboration between the MI Community College Association and the MI Veterans Affairs Agency
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# MVTF - Program History

- The Fund was established by Public Act 9 of 1946 with \$50 million set aside by the MI legislature to administer the program and fund the grants.
  - The Act states that “revenue earned” can be spent on grants and additional amounts over the \$50 million corpus.
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# MVTF - Program History

- The Act further outlines that the Governor appoints a 7 member Board of Trustees of Veterans to oversee the program and define policy guidelines for grants.
  - It continues to state that the Board of Trustees will appoint county or district committees to determine grants.
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# MVTF - Program Requirements

- Eligible veterans apply in the county in which they reside – proof: Drivers License/ID
  - Proof of Military service is required – a copy of the DD-214 will be taken
  - Veterans will need to bring to an application appointment proof of income and expenses to complete a financial statement.
  - They will need to bring the current statement of the assistance they are requesting.
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# MVTF Grants: Discretionary

- The grants are discretionary (not an entitlement) and therefore criteria was established to determine “Emergent Need”
    - An unforeseen circumstance causes a temporary or short term financial emergency or hardship that a grant will resolve.
    - Key Factor: the ability of the applicant to manage the obligation after a grant is made
    - Hardship – (not truly unforeseen): Will be considered
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# MVTF - Eligibility Requirements

- Meet **one** of three criteria:
    - 180 “wartime” days - Honorable discharge
      - Last Wartime Discharge period
      - Must be for active duty “other than for training”
    - Less than “180” days wartime – with separation due to physical/mental disability
    - 180 days of honorable service (one day wartime)  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal required
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# Committee Grant Decisions

- County/District committees make decisions on all applications.
    - They have authority to approve grants up to a certain dollar limit.
    - If the grant request is over that amount and they want it considered for approval they must recommend approval and send the application to the State Board for final decision.
    - They must approve, recommend approval or disapprove (any amount) all applications.
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# Grant Decisions – continued.....

- If a grant is disapproved the applicant receives a notice of decision which explains how to appeal the local decision to the State Board of Trustees.
  - The Board meets monthly to review policy, examine financial information and determine applications for large amounts recommended approval from committees & review appeals.
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# MVTF Program Metrics – YTD FY 2013

- Total Applications: 2,324
  - Applications approved: 1,568
  - Approval Rate: 67%
  - Grant Dollars: \$1,843,010
  - Types of Assistance: Mortgage, Rent, utilities, car payments, car insurance or car repairs and others.
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# MVTF – Contact Information

- It is best to have veterans call the State office and we'll get them to the right county office based on where they reside.
  - Main line: 517-284-5299
  - The veteran – in any case – should make an application and let the committee determine their eligibility and circumstances!
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