



# COUNTY OF BECKER

*Administration*

915 Lake Avenue • Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
218-846-7201

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 8, 2020**

**BECKER COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE HAS RECEIVED OVER 50 INQUIRIES REGARDING THE \$6.2 MILLION IN COVID-19 GRANTS AVAILABLE TO MINNESOTA VETERANS**

**Detroit Lakes, MN**– The purpose of the COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant is to mitigate the negative effects and economic impact COVID-19 has had on Veterans and their families by providing a one-time relief grant in the amount of \$1,000. The purpose of the COVID-19 Special Needs Grant is to provide a one-time financial grant, up to \$3,000, to a Veteran or surviving spouse who needs assistance due to a COVID-19 related event.

According to Becker County Veterans Service Officer, Lauri Brooke, “We are already seeing a tremendous response to the COVID-19 Disaster Relief and Special Needs Grants. The application period opened Monday, April 6, and we received more than 50 inquiries regarding both grants.” Within the first few days the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has received more than 300 applications.

As a reminder, eligible applicants must be:

- A Veteran or the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran as defined by MN Statute 197.447;
- A Minnesota Resident, and;
- Negatively financially impacted by COVID-19.

It is estimated that Becker County is home to more than 3,000 veterans. Becker County Veterans Service Office assists in filing claims for veterans' benefits to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans and their dependents may be entitled to benefits and services through both federal and state programs.

For additional eligibility criteria and supporting documentation requirements and to apply, please contact the Becker County Veterans Service office at 218-846-7312 or [lauri.brooke@co.becker.mn.us](mailto:lauri.brooke@co.becker.mn.us), [marylou.schmit@co.becker.mn.us](mailto:marylou.schmit@co.becker.mn.us).