



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS STEP UP TO HELP VETERANS OBTAIN COVID19 RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Canton, Georgia – February 10, 2021 – If you are a Veteran there currently are rent assistance funds being made available thru the Supportive Services for Veterans with Families, (SSVF) housing program that is run and managed by HOPE Atlanta. The SSVF Program offers supportive and/or temporary financial assistance to eligible veterans who would **but for** SSVF assistance be homeless or remain homeless. Temporary financial assistance may include: rental assistance, utility payments, security/utility deposits, moving costs, transportation, and general emergency expenses.

Local Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) to include the American Legion Post 45 in Canton, American Legion Post 316 in Woodstock, and Canton VFW Post 5262, are looking to help Veterans in need of rental assistance navigate this and other rental assistance programs noted Jim Lindenmayer, Service Officer for American Legion Post 45. “The SSVF program has a well-defined process for applying and qualifying for this program. Veterans must meet the following criteria:

- Not exceed 2020 AMI Income Limits for “Very Low-Income (50% of Median)

- Be homeless or at imminent risk of losing your housing (veterans at imminent risk of losing housing must also meet the requirements of a secondary screening process designed to prioritize those most at risk).
- Be willing to participate in case management
- Not currently receiving assistance from another agency for the same services
- Have served in the United States Regular Military and do not have a dishonorable or Bad Conduct (with General Court Martial) discharge status from the military. Veterans that served in the Reserves or National Guard must have been called up for active duty by an order of the President.

Our goal for the VSO's is to connect with local Veterans of Cherokee County and help facilitate the documentation gathering and qualification process as soon as possible. "We are working with HOPE Atlanta's intake team to see how we can streamline the SSVF process to identify what type and how much rental assistance can be obtained for Veterans and for their landlords through this program," Lindenmayer went on to add.

"We want all Veterans in need of rental assistance to be able to take care of their families during the COVID crisis and we want them to understand that we are here to help them regardless if the Veteran belongs to any VSO. Veterans have sacrificed so much during their time in service and now it is our time to help pay it forward." mentioned John Bruss, Service Officer for VFW Post 5262.

If you are a Veteran and in need of rental assistance please contact the following; Jim Lindenmayer Service Officer American Legion Post 45, 678.983.7590 or jlindenmayer@gmail.com, Mike Satterly Service American Legion Post 316 Woodstock, 404.680.2412, or John Bruss Service Officer VFW Post 5262 Canton 678.880.6197.

About the American Legion, VFW, and Hope Atlanta

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime Veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

"NO ONE GOES MORE FOR VETERANS" The VFW was chartered by Congress in 1936, with the purpose of serving those serving honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces in a foreign war or overseas operation recognized by a campaign medal. VFW posts have been serving veterans of foreign wars since that time, from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, Somalia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and other smaller campaigns and occupational duty today through 6,000 Posts worldwide, 52 Departments in the 50 states, the Asia/Pacific areas and Europe. Posts form the basic local chapter serving veteran's needs locally.

HOPE Atlanta (formerly Travelers Aid), founded in 1900, is a nonprofit agency dedicated to preventing and fighting homelessness. Its mission is to provide a comprehensive approach to address homelessness and provide solutions that promote lifelong stability.