

CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

DATE: 07/26/2016

REQUESTED ACTION: Board of County Councilors approval of recommended revisions to the Clark County Code 2.29, Veterans Assistance.

___ Consent X Hearing ___ County Manager

BACKGROUND

The Department of Community Services manages the Veterans Assistance Program and provides support to the Veterans Advisory Board. The Advisory Board reviews and recommends updates to the Veterans Assistance Program policies and procedures, and occasionally requests updates to Clark County Code 2.29 (Veterans Assistance). The Board recommended changes that update the code to reflect current terminology and procedures. The Board also requested changes to income eligibility for veteran's seeking housing assistance through the fund. The current income limit for assistance is 150% of poverty, and the VAB is seeking an increase of this limit to 200% of poverty. The VAB unanimously approved the following recommended changes to the code at their monthly board meeting on June 9, 2016.

The Committee's recommended changes require approval by the Board of County Councilors. The Veterans Advisory Board developed the changes, which are shown in bold in the attached Code 2.29. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved the changes.

Change "Resource Committee" to "Advisory Board"
Change "relief" and "aid" to "assistance"
Update RCW definition of veteran from 41.04.005 and 41.04.007 to 73.08.005
Allow housing assistance to households earning up to 200% of poverty

Based on census income data for the county population as a whole, it is estimated that there will be approximately 50% more veteran households eligible for housing assistance. Looking at housing assistance in the first six months of 2016, \$43,000 was invoiced or \$86,000 annually in housing assistance. With the increased eligibility, if 50% more households are served, an additional \$43,000 (or a total of \$129,000) in housing assistance would be needed for 2017.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no known BOCC policy implications.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This action will modify an existing policy.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The changes were developed by a subcommittee of the Veterans Advisory Board and were discussed and approved at the VAB's June 9, 2016 open meeting.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

YES	NO	
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity.
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
X		Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the County Council with a recommendation from the County Manager.

BUDGET DETAILS

Local Fund Dollar Amount	\$0
Grant Fund Dollar Amount	\$0
Account	N/A
Company Name	N/A

DISTRIBUTION:

Board staff will post all staff reports to The Grid. <http://www.clark.wa.gov/thegrid/>

For questions please contact Michael Torres at 360-397-2130


 Michael Torres, Program Manager


 Vanessa Gaston, Director

APPROVED: 
 CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
 BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS

DATE: Aug. 9, 2016

SR# _____



APPROVED: _____
 Mark McCauley, County Manager

DATE: _____

Requesting Department: Community Services

Package number: COS-02

Package Title: Increase in revenue and expenditures for Veterans Fund

Contact: Harold Rains, Harold.Rains@clark.wa.gov, x7819

Justification: Department of Community Services (DCS) is requesting \$236,936 biennial levy rate increase in Fund 1019 for ongoing Veterans assistance and new Veterans housing assistance for the 2017-2018 biennium budget. This request includes the payroll obligations associated to this fund. The Veterans Assistance Fund was developed to provide assistance to indigent veterans and their families. Eligible Veterans may receive assistance with housing, utilities, food, transportation, prescription coverage, burial or cremation, clothing/tools/licensing, auto repair and dental care. This program is mandated through RCW 73.080. DCS, on behalf of the Veteran's Advisory Board, contracts with the Veterans Assistance Center and the Free Clinic for the provision of emergency services to eligible veterans.

worksheet	stage	Program code	fund	prog	dept	basub	obj	rptg	Object_Des c	2015_Adopted Annual	2016_Adopted Annual	2017_Budget			Adjustments	2017 Dept Submit	2018 Dept Submit	2017-2018 Dept Submit Total	Type	Operati ng/Capit al	Capital Proj Code	Notes	
												2017_Budget	2018_Budget	2017-2018 Total									
Baseline_Exp_2017_6913	Budget Office Distributed	PC050006	1019	000	450	565200	310	000000	Office Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	Ongoing			
Baseline_Exp_2017_6914	Budget Office Distributed	PC050006	1019	000	450	565200	410	000000	Professiona l Services	\$547,500	\$547,500	\$1,095,000	\$547,500	\$547,500	\$1,095,000	\$148,066	\$621,533	\$621,533	\$1,243,066	Ongoing			
Baseline_Exp_2017_6915	Budget Office Distributed	PC050006	1019	000	450	565200	419	000000	Other Prof. Services	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$52,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$52,000	\$0	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$52,000	Ongoing			
Total										\$574,500	\$574,500	\$1,149,000	\$574,500	\$574,500	\$1,149,000	\$148,066	\$648,533	\$648,533	\$1,297,066				

worksheet	stage	Program code	fund	prog	dept	basub	obj	rptg	Object_Desc	2015_Adopted_Annual	2016_Adopted_Annual	2015_16_Current_Budget	2017_Budget	2018_Budget	2017-2018 Total	Adjustments	2017 Dept Submit	2018 Dept Submit	2017-2018 Dept Submit Total	Type	Operational	Capital Proj Codes	Department Notes
Rev_Forecast_2017_2018	Budget Office Distributed	PCOS0006	1019	000	000	311100	000	000000	Real and Personal Property Tax	\$487,326	\$487,326	\$974,652	\$487,326	\$487,326	\$974,652	\$299,834	\$637,243	\$637,243	\$1,274,486	Ongoing			
Rev_Forecast_2017_2018	Budget Office Distributed	PCOS0006	1019	000	000	317200	000	000000	Leasehold Excise Tax	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	Ongoing			
Rev_Forecast_2017_2018	Budget Office Distributed	PCOS0006	1019	000	000	334040	000	000000	State Grant	\$900	\$900	\$1,800	\$900	\$900	\$1,800	\$0	\$900	\$900	\$1,800	Ongoing			
Rev_Forecast_2017_2018	Budget Office Distributed	PCOS0006	1019	000	000	395101	000	000000	DNR Timber Sales	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	Ongoing			
Total										\$493,226	\$493,226	\$986,452	\$493,226	\$493,226	\$986,452	\$299,834	\$643,143	\$643,143	\$1,286,286				

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-08-01

An ordinance relating to the adoption of amendments to the Veterans' Relief Program, approves the recommended changes to the Clark County Code 2.29, Veterans' Assistance, including changes to the name of the advisory board and expanding the assistance to veterans for housing assistance, to reflect current terminology and procedures for Veterans' Assistance.

1 WHEREAS, RCW 73.08.010 requires counties to provide sums to aid indigent veterans
2 and their families; and

3 WHEREAS, the Veterans' Resource Committee has recommended adoption of clarifying
4 language to the Clark County Code (CCC); and

5 WHEREAS, the Board finds, following a duly-advertised public hearing, that adoption of
6 this ordinance will further the public welfare; now, therefore,

7 BE IT ORDERED, RESOLVED AND DECREED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
8 COUNCILORS OF CLARK COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

9 **Section 1. Amendatory.** Section 2 of Ordinance 1997-05-17, as most recently
10 amended by Section 2 of Ordinance 2006-08-07, and codified as Clark County Code 2.29.025,
11 are each amended to read as follows:

12 **2.29.025 Clark County veterans' (~~resource committee~~) advisory board.**

13 The Clark County veterans' (~~resource committee~~) advisory board shall consist of
14 appointed or elected representatives of nationally recognized veterans' organizations that have
15 registered with the veterans' (~~resource committee~~) advisory board in accordance with
16 Section 2.29.010. The county legislative authority may provide for reimbursement to board
17 members for expenses incurred. The Clark County veterans' (~~resource committee~~) advisory
18 board shall act as an advisory group to Clark County in all matters regarding veterans' relief
19 and/or other assistance approved by the (~~CCVRC~~) CCVAB. The (~~CCVRC~~) CCVAB may
20 enter into contracts with the county, or other agencies, to provide for administration of the
21 Veterans' (~~Relief~~) Assistance Fund as authorized by Chapter 73.08 RCW.

22

23 **Section 2. Amendatory.** Section 5 of Resolution 1978-01-79, as most recently
24 amended by Section 5 of Ordinance 2014-10-04, and codified as Clark County Code 2.29.040,
25 are each amended to read as follows:

26 **2.29.040 Veterans' ((aid)) assistance administration.**

27 The regulations set out in Sections 2.29.050 through 2.29.085 are adopted and are to be
28 controlling in the administration of the operational functioning of furnishing assistance through
29 appropriate agencies approved by Clark County and the Clark County veterans' advisory board.

30
31 **Section 3. Amendatory.** Section 6 of Resolution 1978-01-79, as most recently
32 amended by Section 7 of Ordinance 2014-10-04, and codified as Clark County Code 2.29.050,
33 are each amended to read as follows:

34 **2.29.050 Eligibility for veterans' ((aid)) assistance.**

35 (1) No veteran or member of his/her family shall be entitled to receive veterans'
36 assistance unless they and/or their family have been legal residents of the state of Washington for
37 not less than twelve (12) months immediately prior to the application for assistance. Proof of
38 residence qualifications must be made to the satisfaction of the county service officer responsible
39 for providing veterans' ((relief)) assistance and applicants are required to furnish reasonable
40 proof in support thereof.

41
42 (2) The applicant shall furnish documentary evidence showing that the applicant meets
43 the definition of "veteran" as defined in RCW ((41.04.005 and 41.04.007)) 73.08.005, including
44 a veteran who has received a general discharge under honorable conditions or has received a
45 medical or physical discharge with an honorable record.

46
47 (3) Proof that the veteran's and/or their family's income does not exceed one hundred
48 fifty (150) percent of the current federally established poverty level for Washington State
49 adjusted for family size. For urgent dental care and housing assistance only, a veteran's income
50 may not exceed two hundred (200) percent of the federal poverty level.

51
52 (4) For the limited purpose of veterans utilizing a center that provides referral and other
53 information, chaplain services, and social interaction, "indigency" shall include those who affirm
54 they are unable to pay reasonable costs for shelter, food, utilities and transportation because their
55 available funds are insufficient.

56

57 **Section 4. Amendatory.** Section 9 of Resolution 1979-01-78, as most recently
58 amended by Section 9 of Ordinance 2014-10-04, and codified as Clark County Code 2.29.080,
59 are each amended to read as follows:

60 **2.29.080 Rule 4: Applications for ((relief)) assistance and warrants.**

61 (1) No applications for assistance will be honored or warrants issued except to cover
62 emergency need. Each application for assistance shall be signed by the applicant that the
63 application is for emergency need and not to supplement any other pensions, insurance
64 compensation, or public assistance received by the veteran or his family.

65
66 (2) The county service officer is authorized to refuse to approve an application for
67 assistance for any purpose where it has been determined after investigation that the person is not
68 entitled to assistance for any of the following reasons:

69
70 (a) Having remained on homeless prevention assistance for three (3) or more
71 consecutive years;

72
73 (b) Misrepresentation in applying for assistance; or

74
75 (c) Having received assistance from more than one (1) county, veterans' post or
76 organization in a single year.

77
78 **Section 5. Instructions to Clerk.** The Clerk of the Board shall:

79 A. Record a copy of this Ordinance with the Clark County Auditor; and

80
81 B. Transmit a copy of the adopted ordinance to Code Publishing, Inc., to update the
82 electronic version of the Clark County Code.

ADOPTED this 9th day of August, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Attest:

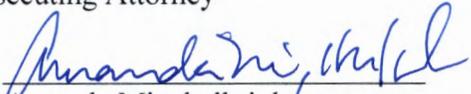

Clerk to the Board


Marc Boldt, Chair



Janne E. Stewart, Councilor

Approved as to Form Only:
ANTHONY F. GOLIK
Prosecuting Attorney

By: 
Amanda Migchelbrink
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

By: _____
Julie Olson, Councilor

By: _____
David Madore, Councilor

By: _____
Tom Mielke, Councilor