

Grant money available for Vets in need of adaptive equipment for vehicles

I am pleased to announce that the Solano County Veterans Service Office is well prepared to help Solano County vets apply for grant funding to help them purchase a new or used automobile to accommodate certain injuries or disease as a result of active military service.

Administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the one-time grant for special automobile adaptive equipment is paid directly to the seller of the automobile for the total price of the car up to \$20,174. Please note, a veteran may only take advantage of this program once during his or her lifetime.

In order to qualify for grant funding, veterans must have at least one of the following disabilities – a disability that is a direct result of or aggravated during active military service, including:

- Loss, or permanent loss of use of one or both feet
- Loss, or permanent loss of use of one or more hands
- Permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to a certain degree
- A severe burn injury
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Veterans who have ankylosis (an abnormal stiffening and immobility of a joint due to fusion of the bones) of one or both knees or hips resulting from an injury or disease incurred or aggravated by active military service may also qualify for the adaptive equipment grant.

The grant funding provides special adaptive equipment in automobiles, including, but not limited to:

- Power steering, windows and seats
- Special equipment to help assist the eligible person in and out of the vehicle

I encourage all vets to visit our office to see if they qualify for this benefit or any other benefit services we offer, as our staff is happy to answer any questions you may have. We can even help you complete the DMV Veteran Status Verification Form for the new California Veteran Designation on your driver's license and veteran's ID card if you like – it's a great benefit!

Call, email or drop on by, we're here to help!

Ted Puntillo is Director of Veteran's Services for Solano County. Reach him at (707) 784-6590 or tepuntillo@SolanoCounty.com. The Solano County Veteran's Services Office, 675 Texas St. in Fairfield, is open from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.