



## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Guide Sheet 2023-2024

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Veterans & Family Support-Michigan

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***National Theme: Banding Together for our Veterans***

***Department Theme: Our Veterans, The Angels Among Us***

This year we will be Banding Together to support Our Veterans, the Angels Among Us by offering helpful resources, offering guidance about acquiring VA benefits, supporting higher education goals, and supporting our veterans when life doesn't seem to be measuring up. This year, our primary points of focus will be Veterans and Military Support Programs, National Veterans Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.

### **VFW National Veterans Service (NVS)**

NVS is a nationwide network of nearly 300 highly skilled VFW Service Officers (VSO) who help veterans (member or not) navigate the Veteran Affairs (VA) system to get the benefits they and their dependents deserve. NVS also work tirelessly to ensure veterans receive accessible and timely VA health care. Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW National Headquarters earmarked for NVS.

### **VFW Veterans & Military Support Program**

These are programs that support and serve active duty and recently discharged military.

- **Military Assistance Program (MAP):** MAP helps VFW and Auxiliary support their local military units by providing financial assistance for Posts, Districts, and Department to sponsor morale-boosting send-offs, homecomings, and casual get-togethers. Post and Auxiliaries participating in **Adopt-a-Unit** and Family Readiness Group events can also receive assistance. For guidelines to apply for MAP funds, contact VFW Veterans & Military Support office at 816-756-3390.
- **Unmet Needs:** Unmet Needs provides grants up to \$1,500 to active-duty service members and their families to assist with basic life needs, like mortgage or rent payments, home or auto repairs, food, and clothing to name a few. To learn more, visit [vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants](http://vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants).
- **VFW "Sport Clips® Help A Hero Scholarship"**- This is scholarship to our nation's hero as a way of thanking them for their dedicated service to our nation. Scholarship awards of up to \$5,000 are distributed to qualifying veterans and service members to help them complete their educational goals while incurring excessive student loan debt. To learn more, visit [vfw.org/student-veterans-support](http://vfw.org/student-veterans-support).

### **Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness**

Everyday veterans die by suicide and the VFW and VFW Auxiliaries are committed to helping change the conversation and stigma surrounding mental health. Make a difference in the life of a veteran or service member by educating yourself and others about the warning signs of suicide.

- Five Warning Signs: Personality Change, Agitation, Withdrawal, Poor Self-Care, and Hopelessness.
- The Veterans Crisis Line Connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through confidential support

that is available 24/7. Veterans and their loved ones can:

- Call 1-800-MyVA411 to access all VA Departments
- Call 988 and Press 1
- Chat online at [www.veterancrisisline.net](http://www.veterancrisisline.net), or
- Send a text message to 838255.
- Wear blue tear drop pin or sticker to show your support available in MALTA or the VFW Store.
- Educate yourself and explore National and Local resources available.

## **NATIONAL AWARDS**

1. Most outstanding activities and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.
  - Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2024, for Judging.
  - The Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024, at [infor@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:infor@vfwauxiliary.org) a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.
  - Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
  - Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that host the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.
  - The Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador by April 30, 2024, for judging.
2. Most outstanding activity and/or event that increases the support of veterans, service members and their families.
  - Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase support of veterans, service members and their families. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.
  - The Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024, at [infor@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:infor@vfwauxiliary.org) a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.
  - Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

## **DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

- Best Veteran & Family Support program in each membership category. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary
- Best Overall activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health. Auxiliary must send in required National form. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary; Citation to the Chairman
- Best Overall activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members and their families. Auxiliary must send in required National form. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

<b>#1 -10-36</b>	<b>#2 -37-50</b>	<b>#3 51-68</b>	<b>#4 - 69-84</b>	<b>#5 - 85-98</b>
<b>#6 - 99-115</b>	<b>#7 - 116-139</b>	<b>#8 -140-166</b>	<b>#9 -167-237</b>	<b>#10 -238-OVER</b>

Achievements	Completed	Reported
Auxiliary utilized the Veterans & Family Support material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources		
Auxiliary promoted, participated, hosted/co-hosted with your VFW Post activities for any of these programs: Disaster Relief, Military Assistance (MAP), National Veterans Service (NVS), Unmet Needs, Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness		
Auxiliary provided direct aid to veterans, service members, and/or their families (i.e., meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.)		
How many Veterans, service members and or their families did your auxiliary help.		
Did your Auxiliary provide monetary donations and / or value donations and good/services provided to veterans, service members and /or their families.		

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