



STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STATE BENEFITS DIVISION

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COVID-19 K-12 DISTANCE LEARNING SUPPORT GRANT (DLSG) OVERVIEW

Benefit Provided

The purpose of the COVID-19 K-12 Distance Learning Support Grant is to mitigate the negative financial impact a family experiences by implementing their school district's distance learning or hybrid learning plans by providing a one-time grant in the amount of \$3,000.

Eligibility Period

Applicants for the COVID-19 K-12 Distance Learning Support Grant must demonstrate a negative financial impact on or after August 1, 2020. A closing date for the K-12 Distance Learning Support Grant will depend on the availability of funding, but not later than June 30, 2021. Status updates on the program will be posted on <http://MinnesotaVeteran.org/CovidRelief>.

Eligible Applicant

1. A veteran as defined by [MN Statute 197.447](#), or the surviving spouse (who has not remarried) of a deceased veteran, **and**
2. A Minnesota resident,

Note: Two veterans married to each other are each authorized to apply for and receive a grant.

******Applications must be submitted through a CVSO or MDVA Field Operations Representative******

Basic Grant Eligibility

For the purposes of this section, applicant means a Veteran or surviving spouse.

Eligible applicants must be able to demonstrate meeting **all** the requirements below.

- 1. Have a child who is enrolled in the State of Minnesota in:**
 - a. Grades K-8 or;
 - b. Grades 9-12 with an IEP (Individual Education Plan), Section 504 Plans are not eligible.
- 2. The child must attend a school that has implemented distance learning or a hybrid program or have newly enrolled (school year 2020-2021) in private school or homeschool option as an alternative to the implementation of distance learning or hybrid program.**
- 3. Provide evidence that your family has been negatively financially impacted as defined by one of the following scenarios:**
 - a. A parent had to reduce or eliminate work in order to accommodate the implementation of distance learning or hybrid program for the child.
 - b. The child was newly enrolled in a daycare setting or similar business in order to accommodate their parent's employment and to facilitate the school district's distance learning or hybrid program for their child.
 - c. The parent has newly employed a tutor, nanny, non-parental adult family member, or other similar arrangement to coach, mentor, and implement distance learning or hybrid program for their child.

- d. Newly enrolled in homeschool or a private school but was previously (2019-2020 school year) enrolled in a public school district.

Note: Incurring “normal school expenses” such as school lunch costs, school supplies, etc. does not constitute a “negative financial impact” for the purposes of this grant.

How to Apply

******Applications must be submitted through a CVSO or MDVA Field Operations Representative******

An eligible applicant may attain an application, MDVA-1B (Application for K-12 Distance Learning Support Grant) from their County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO).

Complete the application and gather the required supporting documentation.

An eligible applicant can submit their application in one of two ways:

1. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO): any applicant may find their CVSO by going to <https://www.macvso.org/find-a-cvso.html>.
2. If your County Veterans Service Office is unable to assist you during this State of Emergency please contact MDVA’s Field Operations Team, who can assist you with your application, by contacting FO.MDVA@state.mn.us

Below is a checklist of items that should be included in your application:

- Completed MDVA-1B (K-12 Distance Learning Support Grant Application) to include the Substitute W9 Form
- Copy of the veteran’s DD-214 or military discharge papers or equivalent.
- Proof of MN residency (i.e. MN Driver’s License/ID Card, Voter Registration Card, or Utility Bill).
- Documentation showing a child’s enrollment in grades K-8 or 9-12 with an IEP (see below for examples of acceptable documentation):
 - Letter from school **or** printout of enrollment portal **and**,
 - Verification that your child’s school is implementing a distance learning or hybrid model (i.e. letter or email from the school district) **and**,
 - Copy of IEP **or** a letter/email from school district confirming status of an IEP if applicable
- Documentation supporting homeschooling or private school
 - Proof that the child was enrolled for in-person schooling at a public school district for the school year 2019-2020 **and**,
 - Proof that the child was newly enrolled into a private school for school year 2020-2021 **or** a copy of your submitted “Initial Registration Form for Unaccredited Nonpublic Schools” form to show the child is engaging in a homeschooling option for school year 2020-2021.
- Documentation demonstrating a negative financial impact as defined in the Basic Grant Eligibility section (see below for examples of acceptable documentation):
 - Letter from employer confirming reduction, termination or leave approval to accommodate the implementation of distance learning

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This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529

- Invoice or enrollment confirmation letter from private school, daycare, or similar business showing child's enrollment for any period after 8/1/2020
- Invoice, contract, or written agreement from a tutor, nanny, non-parental adult family member, or other similar arrangement showing that the parents are paying a sum of money for that individual/organization to coach, mentor, and implement distance learning for the child.

For surviving spouse applicants (who have not remarried): Copy of the death certificate confirming the veteran's spouse at the time of death if the Veteran passed away somewhere other than Minnesota.

Documents verifying dependents:

- Copy of the birth certificate of the affected child showing the parental relationship to the applicant if the child was born outside of Minnesota (staff can independently verify Minnesota born dependents).
- Copy of the marriage certificate if the marriage took place outside of Minnesota and you are applying because you are a surviving spouse or the dependent is a step-child of the Veteran.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the Distance Learning Support Grant please contact your County Veterans Service Officer or LinkVet at 1-888-Link-Vet.