



## *Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs*

### *Office of the Secretary*

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SECRETARY

August 31, 2023

**To:** The General Assembly ~ MSAR #9631  
**From:** Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs  
**Ref:** Status of the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (HB 1561)

The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF), 2009 Legislative Session Chapter 742, HB 1561, Act went into effect on October 1, 2009, as State Government Article, §§ 9-912 and 9-913, to administer a special, non-lapsing fund to provide grants to veterans and their families as well as to public and private programs that support veterans and their families.

Legislation was passed during the 2013 Legislative Session, HB 1390, Chapter 681, which establishes the Maryland Veterans Trust (MVT) as a new entity to seek nonprofit status under IRS code 501(c)(3) as well as established a Board of Trustees. The Trust Fund applied for 501(c)(3) status in October of 2013 and received the determination letter confirming the 501(c)(3) status on August 15, 2014 (FY15).

The Board of Trustees had new several new appointees during FY23. The Board will be fully appointed after the last vacancy (*member of the Senate*) is filled. We were recently notified that this position will be filled very soon. There are plans for the Board to have 2-3 meetings between the months of September-December 2023.

During this past year, the Trust Fund had a short period of inactivity due to employee turnover. The former Grant Administrator left the position in November 2022. MVT hired Denise Nowlin as a replacement in February 2023.

The Trust Fund has noticed a significant increase in the number of veterans needing financial assistance. Due to the increase in work, the Trust Fund was approved to hire a contractual employee to assist with the Trust Fund. That position was filled in July 2023 and is supported financially by the Trust Fund.

We are excited about the new members that have joined the Board of Trustees as well as the new Grant Administrator. We are looking for great things to happen with the Trust Fund in FY24 and going forward.

**Gross Amount of Gifts and Grants Credited to the Trust Fund:**

The total amount of gifts and grants credit to MVT's General account for FY23 was **\$472,116**. This number includes funds from citizens, veteran service organizations, local businesses, community sponsored fundraisers to benefit the Trust Fund and the Maryland State Lottery.

**The Costs of Administration of the Fund**

The total amount charged for administrative fees is **\$237** which were postal charges for mailing checks and other correspondence related to individual grant applications.

**A Detailed Accounting of the Use of the Fund**

The COVID-19 pandemic has calmed down, but Marylanders are still trying to recover financially. The MVT continues to receive applications from veterans and their families that are experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic. There is an increase in the need for emergency assistance where veterans are facing homelessness or being without gas or electricity.

The Trust Fund receives referrals from many organizations that are not able to assist veterans for various reasons, but most of the time the Trust Fund is able to help.

Although the Trust Fund was inactive for a short period of time, the Application Review Committee was able to approve **\$233,656** in grants for rental and mortgage relief, utilities, car loans, car repairs and more.

The balance available as of June 30, 2023, was **\$704,184**.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Woods". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "W".

Anthony Woods  
Secretary