



# CLARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

225 West Main Street, P.O. Box 438 Harrison, MI 48625  
Ph: (989) 539-7436 Fax (989) 539-2588

District 1: DALE MAJEWSKI District 2: SAMANTHA PITCHFORD District 3: LEONARD STROUSE  
District 4: JACK KLEINHARDT District 5: MARK FITZPATRICK District 6: DAVID HOEFLING District 7: JEFFERY HASKELL

## RESOLUTION NO. 19 - 12 VETERANS SERVICES FUND GRANT FUNDING

### VETERANS SERVICES FUND GRANT FUNDING

WHEREAS, MCL 35.623a(5)(a), as amended, establishes a "base amount" of \$50,000 per County for "veterans services operations;" and

WHEREAS, MCL 35.623a(5)(b) provides for a "per capita amount" for the "number of veterans residing in each county;" and

WHEREAS, the plain language of MCL 35.623a(5) provides that disbursements to counties are to be determined by "combining" these amounts; and

WHEREAS, the distinction between a "base amount" of \$50,000 per year and a variable "per capita amount" strongly suggests that the base amount may be interpreted as being fixed; and

WHEREAS, the statute can reasonably be interpreted to mean that the \$50,000 base amount would be ongoing, and would thus sustain County initiatives, provided the County complied with the provisions of MCL 35.623a; and

WHEREAS, the Clare County Department of Veterans Services has taken all steps prescribed by Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to achieve the eligibility requirements established in MCL 35.623a and thus to qualify for continued funding into the new fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has a long history of promoting an increase in the number of US Department of Veterans Affairs-accredited representatives to serve Michigan veterans; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to disbursing the statutorily mandated funds for FY 2019, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency briefed the Michigan Association of County Veterans Service Counselors that the grant funding is programmed to be reduced to a \$25,000 "base amount" for FY 2020 due to funding constraints; and

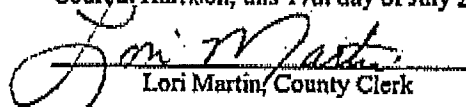
WHEREAS, this reduction contravenes the plain language of the statute and will undermine steps taken by Clare County to provide services for our veterans; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Clare County Board of Commissioners urges compliance with the plain language of MCL 35.623a, and calls upon the State Legislature and the Governor to fully fund the County Veterans Service Fund Grant in FY 2020 and beyond; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Whitmer, Senator Outman, Representative Wentworth, the Michigan Association of Counties, and Veterans Services Offices in all Michigan counties.

I, Lori Martin, Clerk of said County of Clare and Clerk of the Circuit Court thereof, the same being a Court of Record, do hereby certify that the above Resolution #19 - 12 was adopted by the Clare County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting held on July 17, 2019 as appears of record in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Harrison, this 17th day of July 2019.

  
Lori Martin, County Clerk

