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A
PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON
VETERANS ASSISTANCE
IN
MULTNOMAH COUNTY

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON VETERANS ASSISTANCE IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY

These findings are based upon a review of the 1964-65 fiscal year budget request, the Oregon Revised Statutes, and an interview with the Assistant to the Board of County Commissioners during a meeting of the Sub-Committee on Welfare.

A review of the Veterans Assistance program reveals an activity employing nine full time personnel with a 1964-65 fiscal year budget in excess of \$290,000. It is headed by a Program Supervisor who is an appointed official serving directly under the Board of County Commissioners and reporting to the Board through the Assistant to the Board.

The character of the program is the assistance for resident war veterans of Multnomah County who have resided in the State of Oregon for three years and have lived in Multnomah County for one year. The aim of the program is immediate help for those veterans without the means of procuring the necessities of life. They work with veterans in providing medical services, counselling, legal aid, suitable housing, claim service, and work placement where possible. They do not duplicate other areas of welfare for they serve two groups of veterans predominately composed of single men and alcoholics not otherwise eligible for welfare from other agencies.

The department employs six social workers who do not necessarily have training in social work as a requirement for their employment.

Appended hereto are copies of the statutes pertaining to Veterans Assistance.

BENEFITS TO INDIGENT VETERANS

408.710 Indigent war veteran defined; effect of property ownership. (1) As used in ORS 408.710 to 408.750, "indigent war veteran" means any war veteran who is without means of procuring the necessities of life.

(2) No person shall be deprived of the benefits provided for in ORS 408.720 to 408.750 by reason of the fact that he owns property which is not of such a character that it may be used to give him assistance, or owns a home which is not disproportionate to the needs of such veteran and his family. No person shall be deprived of such benefits until he has ceased to be domiciled in the county for a period of one year.

408.720 Indigents entitled to relief; method of financing program. (1) The county court or the board of county commissioners is authorized to levy, in addition to the taxes now authorized to be levied by law, a tax not exceeding one-eightieth of one percent (.000125) of the true cash value of all taxable property within the county, computed in accordance with ORS 308.207, to be levied and assessed as now provided by law for the assessment and collection of taxes, to create a fund to defray the funeral and last sickness expenses of persons described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection and of the indigent wives, widows and minor children of such persons, and for the relief of the following:

(a) Indigent war veterans who have resided in Oregon for three years and in the county for one year.

(b) Indigent soldiers and volunteers who served not less than 10 days in any of the Indian wars, or who received a permanent disability while in such service, and who have resided in Oregon one year and in the county for three months.

(c) Indigent widows and minor children of such war veterans, soldiers and volunteers.

(2) If no levy is made by the court or board for any year for the objects specified in subsection (1) of this section, all expenses incurred under ORS 408.720 to 408.750 shall be paid from the general funds in the treasury of the county the same as though such levy had been duly made.

[Amended by 1963 c.9 §24]

408.730 Procedure when indigent veterans are cared for by veterans organizations. (1) The commander or executive head of any veterans organization organized under a charter issued by an Act of Congress, proposing to undertake the relief provided for in ORS 408.720, shall file with the county clerk of the county in which the veterans organization may be situated, the names of its commander or executive head and its relief committee, if any. He shall also file a notice in writing that such veterans organization will undertake the relief of the indigent persons provided for in ORS 408.720, and by the fourth Monday in January of each year shall file with the county clerk a similar notice, and render and file a detailed statement of the relief furnished during the preceding year, including the amount thereof, the names of the persons to whom furnished and on whose recommendation, and such other facts and suggestions as are deemed material.

(2) He shall also file a bond, with one or more sureties, to be approved by the county court or judge thereof, or board of county commissioners, in a sum not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000. The amount of the bond shall be fixed by the court, judge or board. It shall run to the county, and be conditioned by stating that if said commander or executive head faithfully applies all funds that come into his hands for that purpose, to the relief of the indigent persons named in ORS 408.720, it is void. If the bond is enforced there shall be recovered from the principal and sureties thereon the amount which is found to be misappropriated, which shall be paid into the county treasury.

(3) If the county operates on a fiscal year ending on June 30, the notice, statement and bond required by this section may be filed on the fourth Monday in July of each year rather than on the fourth Monday of January. If the statement required by subsection (1) of this section is filed at the time provided in this subsection, this statement shall cover the preceding fiscal year.

(4) On the approval and filing of the bond, and on the recommendation of the relief committee of any such veterans organization, orders shall be drawn in favor of the commander or executive head in the same manner as orders are now drawn for the relief of the poor. The orders shall designate thereon the names of the persons for whom the relief is intended and, in like manner, a sum not exceeding \$100 may be drawn to pay the funeral expenses of an indigent war veteran, and the indigent wives, widows and the minor children of such war veterans.

[Amended by 1955 c.56 §1]

408.740 Appointment and duties of county veterans' relief officer. The relief fund may be disbursed by an officer to be appointed by the county court or board of county commissioners. The commanders or executive heads of the various veterans organizations shall constitute an advisory board to consult and advise with the court or board relative to administration and disbursement of the fund. Such officer shall investigate all requests for relief, and no warrant shall be paid from the fund except upon the order of such officer. He shall give such bond as may be required and approved by the court or board, and may be removed at any time by the court or board. If any vacancy occurs in such office, the court or board shall appoint a successor to such officer. Such officer shall be paid a salary from funds of the county other than the relief fund, to be fixed by the court or board, and audited and paid in the manner that county officers are paid, as provided by law.

408.750 When county court must aid veterans; necessity of veterans organization's consent before sending veterans to poorhouse. (1) If there is no war veterans organization within any county in this state, the county judge thereof shall undertake the relief provided for in ORS 408.720.

(2) The county judge in a county in which there is a war veterans organization, shall not send to the county poorhouse any person for whom relief is provided by ORS 408.720, without first obtaining the consent of the organization's commander or executive head. All the indigent persons named in ORS 408.720 shall be provided for, so far as practicable, at their homes.