

HOUSING FOR MILITARY VETERANS

Qualification Criteria

Criteria for extra parliamentary military veterans

Persons who wish to benefit from the housing subsidy scheme under this programme, (in keeping with the National IRDP and amended qualification criteria for military veterans), must be:

- A military veteran as defined in terms of this policy;
- A South African citizen or permanent resident;
- Legally competent to contract;
- Benefiting from the housing subsidy and/or state funded or assisted housing subsidy scheme for the first time; and
- Assessed against the income qualification criteria, as set out in the IRDP programme (i.e. currently the income must not exceed R3500 per month to benefit from the full subsidy, and between R3501 and R7000 for finance linked individual subsidy (FLISP)
- Able to submit the following proof:
 - proof of service ; and
 - details of social services received (e.g. the war veterans grant, as defined in the Social Assistance Act, Act No 13 of 2004).
 - In the context of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements policy, proof of service will be extended to proof of membership as a military veteran of recognized organizations such as MKVA, APLA, and AZANLA as the absolute minimum requirement.

Military veterans can be single and without financial dependents, provided they are able to submit the aforementioned documents. Where a veteran is unable to submit these documents, the normal provisions and qualification criteria will apply as defined in terms of the IRDP programme, as set out in 2.2.1.2, below.

Whereas war veterans were actively involved in service prior to the transitional government (pre 1994), the recommended age criteria for will be that the extra parliamentary veteran has to be at least 30 year of age.

Qualification criteria for dependents of extra-parliamentary military veterans

Dependents of South African military veterans will be required to comply with the generic IRDP qualification criteria set out above. Where housing is to be accessed by a foreign dependent (spouse or child), however, South African residency must be obtained through the Department of Home Affairs.

Where housing was accessed previously, however, and such housing does not comply with the current norms and standards, an assessment will be made to assist military veterans in this regard, in the context and spirit of the Department's rectification programme.

Qualification criteria for beneficiaries of deceased military veterans

It is acknowledged that there are instances where military veterans had passed away prior to deriving benefits from the state for their services and that beneficiaries of the estate may have claims to secured benefits e.g. agreement of sale or subsidy application approved prior to the beneficiary being deceased). The subsidy may be accessed where such rights have been secured. The following criteria should apply:

- Death certificate of military veteran
- Certificate of proof of service and/or membership as a veteran of a recognized organization
- Proof of the nature of the rights secured, such as a sale agreement, approved subsidy application
- Proof of relationship with the deceased (birth certificate or, marriage certificate)

Subsidy instruments and programmes

The Department of Human Settlements has a wide range of subsidy mechanisms that could be accessed by military veterans and/or their dependents, provided they qualify in terms of the criteria set out in 2.2. above. The standard implementation mechanisms for each of these mechanisms (individual subsidy, consolidation, subsidy, transitional housing and institutional subsidy, project linked and credit linked subsidy, etc.) will apply.

Likewise, the standard implementation guidelines for all programmes (such as social and rental housing, rural housing, integrated residential development programme and finance linked individual programme) will apply. The only exception would be that the MEC has the authority to provide preferential allocation of housing in rental housing schemes. Individual ownership should be encouraged, where possible to assist in

wealth creation, but rental options may be provided to ensure the most suitable form of housing could be afforded to the individual.

Military veterans, therefore, will be afforded a choice in the manner in which their rights to housing are realized, such as:

- Choosing a house in the market and accessing the individual subsidy to acquire, or assists with the financing of the unit;
- Establishment of long term rental accommodation initiative through a housing institution through the social housing, rental, community residential units programme (CRU), and/or conventional institutional housing subsidy mechanism;
- Establishment of short term rental accommodation through the provincial department's transitional housing programme, aimed at special needs and vulnerable groups;
- Participation in a rural housing project;
- Developer driven project through the department's developer driven individual subsidies in which a group of veterans can be accommodated on a small project basis;
- Establishment of a sectional title development in partnership with a developer where the rules of the body corporation can determine participation and preferential allocation of the units to military veterans and/or their descendents;
- Establishment of a freehold and/or sectional title project specifically for war veterans through the IRDP and/or People's Housing Processes, including the formalization of brigades to construct houses to maximise the benefits of the subsidy and in terms of the requirements of the enhanced People's Housing Programme; and
- Accessing housing materials through the KZN voucher system, as used in the context of emergency housing, it being noted that this will have to be in relation to a site to which the veteran is able to secure a recognized form of tenure, in terms of any housing instrument.

Skills development and employment opportunities

Military veterans will be included, where possible, in capacity programmes and skills development initiatives, including, but not limited to EPWP in housing delivery. The department supports the use of military veteran contractors and suppliers for low income housing that provide quality goods and services.