



Date: December 17, 2020

To: Legislative Advisory Commission Members

Senator Paul Gazelka
Senate Majority Leader

Senator Julie Rosen, Chair
Finance Committee

Senator Bruce Anderson, Chair
Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy
Committee

Representative Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House

Representative Lyndon Carlson, Sr., Chair
Ways and Means Committee

Representative Rob Ecklund, Chair
Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy
Division

From: Jim Schowalter, Secretary Legislative Advisory Commission

Subject: URGENT REVIEW | AMENDMENT to #74 Coronavirus Relief Fund Request submitted on November 10, 2020 to Legislative Advisory Commission

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) requests an amendment to LAC Order #74, which was originally submitted to the Legislative Advisory Commission on November 10, 2020. While no additional funding is requested, an amendment is needed to reallocate spending between categories line-itemed in the request. This request is submitted under M.S. 3.3005 subd. 4 and 5, which allows for a 10-day review.

In early September, MDVA estimated the amount that would be needed to cover certain categories of COVID-19 related costs for the period of July 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020. These cost categories included staff salary and benefits to cover the cost of employees out on COVID leave, non-salary costs for personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies and services, and the cost for weekly staff testing for COVID-19 in Veterans Homes. Since then, actual costs have been incurred and estimated costs for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year have changed. Therefore, the department is requesting flexibility to shift funds between the identified cost categories. The department will have enough CRF-eligible expenses during this time period to fully expend the \$4,610,000 appropriation from LAC Order #74; no additional funds are being requested at this time.

Please contact MDVA Chief Financial Officer John Powers (john.powers@state.mn.us) if you have any questions about this proposed amendment.

PROCEDURE FOR LAC REVIEW:

The six LAC members have until Monday, December 28, 2020, to provide a recommendation. To expedite the LAC review process, LAC members may respond to this review request directly, recommending their approval or request for further review, instead of waiting the 10-day period.

CC: Bill Marx, House Fiscal Analysis Department
Eric Nauman, Senate Lead Fiscal Analyst
Nancy Conley, House Ways and Means Committee Administrator
Jessica Young, Senate Finance Committee Administrator