

Date: August 16, 2021

From: Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations (15)

Subj: Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) Updated Employee Deployment – Special Contribution Award (SCA)

To: Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Directors (10N1-23)

1. Veterans Health Administration (VHA) employees continue to mobilize to answer the call of assisting with COVID-19 efforts across our Department of Veterans Affairs community and on Fourth Mission assignments with partners from our communities and other agencies. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updated information for SCAs associated with employee deployments to support COVID-19 efforts from August 16, 2021 – September 30, 2021.
2. As COVID-19 efforts continue to address emerging hotspots, other natural disasters and events are occurring simultaneously and creating concurrent emergencies across the country. VHA will continue to recognize employees who complete a 14-day physical deployment to these areas with awards of up to \$7,500, commensurate with employee contributions. The increased SCA amount is effective for deployments that occur between August 16, 2021 – September 30, 2021.
3. Awards for eligible employees who complete deployments should be funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The awards should be processed by their home station with approval from their Medical Center Director. However, travel and per diem are not to be paid from CARES funding. Other expenses associated with natural disasters or hurricane deployment to include travel and per diem will be funded from general purpose funds.
4. Previously, the Office of Workforce Management and Consulting (WMC), processed these awards centrally. Effective October 26, 2020, qualifying awards for Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) deployments should be coordinated by VISN DEMPS Coordinators and processed by VISN Human Resource Offices of the employee's home Network. Award justifications should include the superior accomplishments or special acts or service in the public interest, performed by the employee.
5. For policy-related questions and concerns, please contact WMC at wmc@va.gov.


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