

New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council

BUSINESS GRANTS PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION

The National Guard State Family Readiness Council Business Grants Program was created to provide financial assistance to members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard who were self-employed business owners at the time of being deployed. Such grants are for the purpose of helping to sustain the business during the service member's deployment or helping to resume business operations following deployment.

Applications, which are available through Family Assistance Center Coordinators must be completed in their entirety by the service member or other responsible individual and include copies of all available supporting documentation, for example a proof of need statement and copies of current billing statements to which the grant, if awarded, would be applied.

Completed applications should be submitted to the nearest Family Assistance Center for preliminary review and forwarding to the State Family Readiness Council Finance Committee. Applicants desiring assistance in preparation of their application are encouraged to contact the Coordinator at their local Family Assistance Center.

All grant applications will be reviewed and grants awarded based on need as determined by the State Family Readiness Council Finance Committee using the Business Grants Criteria below. Applicants ordinarily will be notified of the Finance Committee's decision by the Coordinator at their local Family Assistance Center within ten working days of the Finance Committee's receipt of the applicant's properly prepared application including supporting documentation.

Upon awarding grants, the Finance Committee reserves the right to make payments directly to creditors on behalf of the applicant when direct payments are deemed to be in the applicant's best interest. To facilitate such payments, names/addresses and account numbers should be included with the application.

BUSINESS GRANTS CRITERIA

To be eligible New Jersey Army or Air National Guard service members must have been self-employed business owners at the time of being deployed and have been on orders in any duty status continuing longer than 90 days, and their business must be experiencing financial hardship traceable to the service member's deployment. Proof of such hardship must be provided in writing by the applicant.

Qualifying needs might include, but not be limited to, expenses associated with restarting the business once the service member has returned or extraordinary expenses associated with maintaining a business presence for a sole practitioner during the service member's deployment. Eligibility extends up to one year following the service member's demobilization. Grants awarded may not to exceed \$10,000 per business during any 24 month period.