

New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council

FAMILY GRANTS PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION

The State Family Readiness Council Family Grants Program was created to provide financial assistance to members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, whose immediate families experience financial hardships during the service member's period of mobilization and for up to 18 months following demobilization (TIER I). Also eligible are service members who were on State Active Duty or State missions for more than 20 consecutive days (TIER II). Applications, which are available through Family Assistance Center Coordinators, must be completed in their entirety by the service member or an immediate family member and include copies of all available supporting documentation. For example, documentation would include 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 Grant 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 will be awarded based on eligibility and need as determined by the State Family Readiness Council Grant Committee using the Family Grants Criteria outlined below. Generally, applicants will be notified of the Grants Committee's decision by the coordinator at their local Family Assistance Center within ten working days of the Grants Committee's receipt of the applicant's complete application, including supporting documentation. Upon the issuance of a grant award, the Grants Committee reserves the right to make payments directly to creditors on behalf of the applicant when the Grants Committee deems direct payments to be in the applicant's best interest. To facilitate such payments, names/addresses and account numbers should be included with the application.

CRITERIA

TIER I

(Mobilization Missions) - Mobilized Service Members

To be eligible New Jersey Army or Air National Guard service members must have been on orders in any duty status continuing longer than 45 days, and their immediate family must be experiencing financial hardship caused by, engendered by, or traceable to the service member's mobilization. Proof of such hardship must be provided in writing by the applicant. Qualifying needs might include, but not be limited to, catastrophic emergencies of a personal or household nature, and other events resulting in a significant unanticipated loss of family income or increase in family expenses. It is not intended that grants be awarded to offset reduced family income as a result of a service member's mobilization in the absence of other compelling circumstances. It is not the intent of the program that grants be awarded due to pre-existing or ongoing mismanagement of personal household income, which may be broadly construed by the Council. Eligibility extends up to 18 months following the service member's demobilization. The total amount of any grant awarded to qualifying TIER I applicants may not exceed

\$5000 per family for 24 months from the date of the first grant award. The Council, in its discretion, may waive the 24-month restriction when in its sole judgment extenuating circumstances merit such action.

TIER II

(Other Federal/State Missions) – Non-Mobilized Service Members

New Jersey Army or Air National Guard non-mobilized service members who were on State Active Duty or State missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions, etc.) for more than 20 consecutive days are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1500. Qualifying needs can include, but are not limited to, catastrophic emergencies of a personal or household nature, and other events resulting in a significant unanticipated loss of family income or an increase in family expenses. It is not intended that grants be awarded to offset reduced family income as a result mobilization in the absence of other compelling circumstances. It is not the intent of the program for grants to be awarded due to pre-existing or ongoing mismanagement of personal household income, which may be broadly construed by the Council. Eligibility extends up to 18 months following the service member's termination of orders. The total amount of any grants awarded to qualifying TIER II applicants, who do not qualify for TIER I grants, may not exceed \$1500 per family for 24 months from the date of the first grant award. The Council, in its sole discretion, may waive the 24-month restriction when in its judgment extenuating circumstances merit such action.

Tier III

Exception to Policy – (Non-Mission)

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council recognizes that New Jersey Army or Air National Guard non-mobilized service members have on occasion developed financial hardship due to but not limited to, catastrophic emergencies of a personal or household nature, and other events resulting in significant unanticipated loss of family income or increase in family expenses. It is not intended that grants be awarded due to pre-existing or ongoing mismanagement of personal household income, which may be broadly construed by the Council. Rather, grants shall be awarded to assist the service member and their family due to events deemed to be beyond their control. This grant also is only to be used when all other means of redress or recovery have been exhausted. The grant may not exceed \$5,000 per family for a period of 36-months from the date of the first grant award. The Council in its discretion may waive the 36-month restriction when in its sole judgement extenuating circumstances merit such action. The Tier III Exception to Policy may also apply to mobilized service members who developed financial hardship due to but not limited to, catastrophic emergencies of a personal or household nature, and other events resulting in significant unanticipated loss of family income or increase in family expenses, but whose financial hardship is not caused by, engendered by, or traceable to the service member's mobilization.