

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 deployment and 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 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 Family 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.

CRITERIA

TIER I (Deployment Missions) - *Deployed 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 90 days, and their immediate family 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, 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 to offset reduced family income as a result deployment in the absence of other compelling circumstances. It is not the intent of the program that grants be awarded due to pre-existing mismanagement of personal household income.

Eligibility extends up to 18 months following the service member's demobilization. The total amount of any grants (TIER I or TIER II) 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, at its discretion, may waive the 24 month restriction when in its judgment extenuating circumstances merit such action.

TIER II (Other Federal/State Missions) – *Non-Deployed Service Members*

New Jersey Army or Air National Guard non-deployed 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 might include, but not be 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 to offset reduced family income as a result of deployment in the absence of other compelling circumstances. It is not the intent of the program for grants to be awarded due to pre-existing mismanagement of personal household income.

Eligibility extends up to 18 months following the service member's demobilization. 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, at its discretion, may waive the 24 month restriction when in its judgment extenuating circumstances merit such action.