Eligibility

Prior to the completion of an investigation and application at the local level, it must be determined if the minor child is eligible for TFA. The minor child is under 18 years of age if the youth remains in high school, however, Temporary Financial Assistance may be extended to youth over the age of 18 until their completion of high school, provided the child is unmarried and has not reached 21 years of age.

The minor child must be the biological child, stepchild, or in the legal custody of a qualifying veteran. A qualifying veteran is defined as:

- A member of the United States armed forces serving on federal orders current under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components; or
- A veteran possessing an active membership in The American Legion.

Active-duty military applicants can be considered for a TFA grant without being a member of The American Legion.

A single one-time non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to $1,500 will be permitted for the minor child(ren) of a qualifying veteran.

When all other possible resources have been utilized, contact your local American Legion post, department (state) headquarters or department Children & Youth chairman.

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation

Funds for the operation of the TFA program are provided from a share of the earnings of The American Legion Endowment Fund, now named The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

In 1925, World War I had been over for six years, but veterans, their spouses and children continued to struggle to adjust to the war's aftermath. The members of The American Legion, aware of the grave responsibility entrusted to them by those who had served, knew the time had come to take action.

More than 900,000 Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and other American citizens joined the campaign, raising nearly $5 million and establishing The American Legion Endowment Fund.

Since those early days, tens of millions of dollars have been distributed to disabled veterans and children of those who served our great nation, some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice.

To help us continue this proud tradition of service with a tax-deductible contribution, or to request more information about The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, contact:

American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation
c/o The American Legion National Headquarters
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 630-1203

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AMERICAN LEGION

Temporary Financial Assistance

Helping children since 1925

Temporary Financial Assistance

Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth

Since 1919, The American Legion has remained committed to the health and welfare of our nation's veterans and families. Born out of this desire to serve, the Committee on Children & Youth established a form of direct aid to veterans' children in 1925 — Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA). This landmark program continues to be unique in the field of social work today.

Through TFA, an American Legion post can call upon the national organization for financial assistance to help maintain the basic needs of children of active-duty servicemembers or American Legion members. Non-repayable grants are awarded to eligible families with a child in need when all other available resources have been exhausted.

How TFA Helps Children

TFA is specifically designed to assist minor children of eligible active-duty servicemembers or eligible American Legion members through financial grants, which contribute to a stable home environment. These grants help families meet the costs of shelter, utilities, food and medical expenses.

Maintenance Grants

Maintenance grants may be used to assist with expenses for basic needs such as:

- Shelter
- Utilities
- Food
- Clothing

Maintenance grants cannot be awarded for previously incurred debt, except to prevent disconnection of utilities or stop eviction or foreclosure.

Medical Grants

Medical grants for a child may be used to assist with healthcare expenses such as:

- Medical care
- Dental care
- Surgery
- Hospitalization
- Medications
- Dietary needs

Medical grants require a written statement from a physician outlining the problem, treatment and estimated costs. This type of grant must be approved before services are rendered. Medical grants cannot be awarded for previous medical expenses or care.

Application Process

All TFA applications originate at the post (local) level. A two-party investigation team visits the home or whereabout of the child to verify the needs of the child. A completed application with supporting documents and proof of current military service or active American Legion membership is forwarded to the department Children & Youth chairman or department adjutant. The designated department representative reviews each case, makes a recommendation and forwards the approved application to National Headquarters.

The Americanism Division reviews all approved cases and forwards recommendations to the national adjutant. Upon approval, checks are forwarded to department adjutants for delivery to posts or families. In most cases, checks will be two-party checks payable to the veteran and creditor(s).

Temporary Financial Assistance is a program of:

The American Legion

Americanism Commission's
Committee on Children & Youth

P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

(317) 630-1203

americanism@legion.org

legion.org