

Military Family Relief Fund FAQ

The following summary of the [Military Family Relief Fund Act](#) is being provided as a courtesy. Current law will take precedence over this summary. The law may change without notice to the member.

Q: What is the Military Family Relief Fund?

A: On October 6, 2004, Public Act 363 of 2004 was signed by the governor to establish the Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. On March 27, 2014, Public Act 62 of 2014 amended the original act. The purpose of the MFRF is to provide assistance to families of certain members of the reserve components of the United States armed forces on active duty.

Q: Who is eligible for the Military Family Relief Fund?

A: A “Qualified individual” means an individual who meets the following criteria:

The individual is or was a member of a reserve component of the United States armed forces or the United States coast guard based in Michigan or is a Michigan resident serving in a reserve component of the United States armed forces or the United States coast guard based in another state and is called to active duty by the president of the United States or the United States secretary of defense as a result of national response to September 11, 2001 or as a response to a national emergency declared by the president of the United States and for which funds are being spent by the federal government.

A reserve component of the United States armed forces is defined as:

- (i) The Army National Guard of the United States.
- (ii) The Army, Naval, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard reserves.
- (iii) The Air National Guard of the United States.

The timeframe for when a grant may be applied for is after a qualified member receives an alert order for active federal service (i.e. Title 10 Orders) or within 6 months after a unit returned from active federal service. Active Guard Reserve (AGR) members are **NOT** eligible to apply.

Applications may be submitted by family members of qualified military members. Family members are defined as military dependents as determined by the qualified individual’s branch of service.

Q: What types of situations qualify for a Military Family Relief Fund grant?

A: The applicant must identify a “need” for the MFRF grant. A “need” is defined as an unforeseen situation that causes a temporary or short-term financial emergency or hardship that a grant under this act will resolve and for which an applicant can demonstrate the ability to meet expenses in the future.

Typical categories that satisfy the need for financial assistance as determined in the MFRF program are: clothing, food, housing, utilities, medical services or prescriptions, insurance payments, vehicle payments, or other related necessities of daily living.

Another relevant factor in determining if something is a “need” is if the need occurred because the military member has incurred a line of duty injury or illness.

The above list is not all-inclusive. If military members or their families are experiencing hardship (“need”), they are encouraged to submit an application for a grant with the proper supporting documentation.

A qualified individual or the individual's family may apply for more than 1 grant in any year. The maximum total amount that any qualified individual and that qualified individual's family can receive in any 1 calendar year is \$2,000.00. If the department determines that the qualified individual or the qualified individual's family is in an emergency situation or their needs are extreme, the department may waive the maximum amount.

Taxes and credit card pay off's will not be considered by the board.

Q: What documentation do I need to submit with my application?

A: The following items are **required** in the application packet:

1. Michigan Military Family Relief Fund Application (DMVA Form 10-1, May 2023)
 - a. Military member and/or family member’s contact information
 - b. Itemized monthly expenses
 - c. Itemized requested assistance
 - d. Total monthly military and civilian salaries
 - e. Military unit POC information: Typically this is the Commander, Family Support POC or First Sgt.
 - f. Applicant signature/date
2. Military member’s Federal Title 10 Orders
3. If the applicant is a military dependent, provide proof of dependency (Mil Connect printout).
4. Personal statement from the military member that describes the situation and how/why the need is considered an emergency/hardship. This would be a good area to communicate if you have experienced a family emergency or an increase in the necessities of daily living. This is typically one paragraph.

The following items are **required** depending on the type of financial assistance is requested. If your area of need is not addressed below, please include the appropriate documentation for your situation. The board may decide to request additional information from the applicant if the financial need isn’t obvious or well documented in the application.

1. Quotes for services that will resolve your need/hardship – One quote is acceptable however, two or three quotes will increase your chances of getting the amount you requested.

2. Quotes for purchasing the items that will resolve your need/hardship – One quote is acceptable however, two or three quotes will increase your chances of getting the amount you requested.

3. Mortgage Statements

4. Utility bill