

Military Family Relief Trust Fund General Information

PURPOSE: The Military Family Relief Trust Fund was established to provide short term, emergency financial assistance in the form of grants to Arkansas National Guard and Reserve members and/or families impacted by active duty service. All funding is received from the Treasury of the State. This fund provides a valuable means to assist and improve the morale and welfare of Arkansas National Guard and Reserve members.

BACKGROUND: The MFRTF fund was established in 2005 by the State of Arkansas to assist the Arkansas National Guard and Reserve members and families in times of crisis caused by active duty service, when the situation can reasonably be expected to be remedied with a one –time grant.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES: The Adjutant General sets policy and has the responsibility to oversee the operation of the program and approve all grants. Funds are administered through an account maintained by the Arkansas State Treasury. The Military's Directorate of State Resources will maintain all appropriate administrative files and information concerning the operation and processing of the business of the fund.

ELIGIBILITY: Any member or veteran of the Arkansas National Guard and Reserves who is a resident of Arkansas and who has been released from active duty within two years is eligible to request assistance. The requestor's unit/service must verify that the applicant is currently serving or has served thirty days of active duty.

FUND ADMINISTRATION: The requested financial assistance must be to solve a crisis situation. A crisis is defined as "an event beyond the control of the member or family member that requires assistance that is not available from any other reasonable source." Additionally, the financial assistance should remedy a one-time problem, not an ongoing situation. If an applicant's monthly cost of living notably exceeds their income, no one-time infusion of financial assistance will solve the problem. A large percentage of available funds are designed to provide immediate cash to members/families who are waiting to receive military pay or reimbursements that have been delayed. All payments from the Funds are handled in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated Section 26-35-1301 et seq.

PLEASE NOTE: Because the terms of fund administration stipulates that the fund is to be used only "...if assistance ... is not available from any other reasonable source" *applicants are requested to first explore/exhaust all other possible resources (family, community service organizations, churches, etc.) before making application for emergency assistance through this fund.*

Applicants can also be referred to a financial counselor or representative from the State Family Readiness Program office for additional financial counseling based on the recommendation of The Adjutant General while reviewing the request.