

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 National Commission 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, a Post can call upon the National Organization for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of veterans' children. Non-repayable grants are awarded to eligible families over a temporary period when it is determined that a child is in need and all other available resources have been exhausted.



How TFA Helps Children

TFA is specifically designed to assist minor children of eligible veterans through cash grants. In order to maintain a stable home environment for the child or children, grants are awarded to help families meet the costs of shelter, utilities, food, and medical expenses.

Maintenance Grants

Maintenance grants may be used to assist with the basic need expenses such as:

- Shelter ■ Utilities
- Food ■ Clothing

Maintenance grants can not be awarded for previously incurred debt, except to:

1. Prevent disconnection of utilities
2. Prevent 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 can not be awarded for previous medical expenses or care.

Application Process

All TFA applications originate at the local or Post level. A local investigator personally visits with the family to determine the needs of the children. A completed application, with supporting documents and proof of military service, 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 the National Headquarters.

The Americanism and Children & Youth Division reviews all approved cases, and forwards a recommendation to the National Adjutant. Upon approval by the National Adjutant, a check is drawn and forwarded to the Department Adjutant for delivery to the Post or family. In most cases, checks will be two-party checks payable to the veteran and creditor.

Temporary Financial Assistance is a program of:

The American Legion

National Commission on Children & Youth

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