



## NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND APPLICATION

### THE AMERICAN LEGION INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

#### INSTRUCTIONS & NEF GRANT APPLICATIONS

**For assistance in completing this application, or for contact information, contact your department at <https://www.legion.org/about/organization/departments>.**

**INDIVIDUAL (LEGIONNAIRE) GRANT (Application – Page 3):** An individual (Legionnaire) NEF grant may provide immediate emergency assistance to current members of The American Legion in areas devastated by a declared natural disaster, such as floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and related adverse weather events. The Legionnaire must have been displaced because of damage to the primary residence (or evacuated due to official government order and unable to return to the residence because of unsafe conditions or damage) and had out-of-pocket expenses for food, clothing, and shelter. If evacuation shelters available, they should be used, unless there is a valid reason that the shelter was not utilized. The NEF grant is not designed to replace items covered by insurance or to cover losses from a business, structures such as barns and storage sheds, equipment, landscaping and/or vehicles. Only one grant is available per household for each disaster and cannot exceed \$3,000. Members should also apply for assistance from federal or state disaster relief programs by visiting [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

**POST GRANT (Application – Page 4):** The Post NEF grant application is prepared by a post officer and must derive from a declared natural disaster causing damage to the posts building and restricting use of the facilities for programs. Applications must indicate how the post will cease to perform existing and ongoing American Legion programs in the community due to damages sustained. A written report from a district or department officer outlining losses and the impact on the community is to be included with the application. The NEF is not a replacement for insurance and is the responsibility of the post to have adequate business insurance to recoup lost revenue or inventory. Post grants are not to exceed \$10,000 for each disaster.

**REQUIRED APPLICATION INFORMATION:** The application must be filled out completely and accurately to prevent delay in processing. The department headquarters and national headquarters must have enough documented information to justify and approve the grant. Attach all supporting documents such as photographs, copies of receipts, work estimates and government agency statements. If emergency/evacuation shelters are available but not utilized, reasons must be provided. Grant requests must be submitted through the department headquarters and reach national headquarters within 90 days of the date of the disaster. Receipts for food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other expenses dated more than 30 days after the disaster are not emergency related but may be considered with an appropriate explanation and documentation. Mandatory evacuation orders from an area are not considered to be emergencies unless damage to the home prevents a safe return after an evacuation order has ended.

**DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES:** The Legionnaire or American Legion Post will forward the application and all supporting documentation to the department headquarters for processing. All grant requests must be reviewed and signed by the appropriate department headquarters officer before being sent to national headquarters. Please be sure to retain a copy for your records. Department headquarters contact information is located at <https://www.legion.org/about/organization/departments>.

**RECOMMENDATION/SIGNATURE OF NEF GRANT APPLICATIONS:** Upon review by department headquarters, if additional information is needed the department headquarters will contact the Legionnaire or American Legion Post. If the application is properly completed the department headquarters officer will endorse the application, recommend an appropriate amount, and forward to national headquarters. After review and approval by the National Adjutant a check will be issued and forwarded to the department headquarters to disburse to the Legionnaire or American Legion Post.

If any of the above steps have not been taken, the application may be returned to the department headquarters for amendment or further clarification. Applications not approved will be returned to the department headquarters with reasons for disapproval who will then notify the Legionnaire or American Legion Post. In some cases, a partial payment may be approved, and additional funds may be granted (not to exceed \$3,000.00 for Legionnaires and \$10,000.00 for posts) if complete documentation is later provided within 90 days of the disaster.

## **ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. This form provides for two applications in one set. Page **three** is to be used by Legionnaires. Page **four** is to be used by an American Legion Post. Only one of the two forms are required to be completed: either for an American Legion member, or an American Legion Post.
2. Written statements from post officers, a service officer or FEMA/local authority officials are valuable for both the member and post applications.
3. NEF is strictly for the basic needs of Legionnaires immediately after a natural disaster, including shelter, utilities, food, clothing and other expenses related to immediate health and safety. Receipts for food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other expenses dated more than 30 days after the disaster are not emergency related but may be considered with appropriate explanation and documentation. Mandatory evacuation orders to identified places of safety (such as school shelters or county/city storm shelters) are also not considered to be emergencies unless damage to the home precludes a safe return after the weather emergency. If emergency/evacuation shelters are available but not utilized, reasons must be provided.
4. NEF does not take the place of homeowners/rental insurance or auto insurance.

**NEF will not pay for landscaping, loss of business, loss of inventory, internet services, insurance, taxes, transportation (except during evacuation and recovery), previous debt or any expense that does not contribute to the immediate emergency needs of the Legionnaire or American Legion Post.**

5. The following documents and attachments will speed the NEF application process:
  - ▶ Receipts and other supporting documentation of emergency expenses immediately following the disaster.
  - ▶ A description and documentation of damages sustained, especially if forced to find temporary shelter.
  - ▶ Copy of mandatory evacuation order, if so ordered, and circumstances preventing a safe return to home.
  - ▶ All expenses and documents that you may wish to be considered.
  - ▶ **Post applications only** – include a copy of the most recent Consolidated Post Report (CPR).

Ensure all sections of the application are complete and the appropriate signatures are obtained.

6. Applications must be sent to the department headquarters for approval. All applications sent directly to national headquarters will be returned to the appropriate department headquarters without review or action. For contact information for the department headquarters, visit <https://www.legion.org/about/organization/departments>.

### **Before sending a NEF application to the American Legion Department Headquarters, did you:**

- ☐ Pay your current membership before the date of the disaster and before the date of the application?
- ☐ Complete all sections of the application and attach all required documents?
- ☐ Sign and date the application?
- ☐ Make a copy for your records, including all receipts and forms?
- ☐ **For post grant applications only** – did you include the district/department headquarters officers written report and a copy of the posts most recent Consolidated Post Report (CPR)?

**Other forms of assistance are available.** For state, local and federal assistance programs go to <https://www.disasterassistance.gov>. If minor children are in the household (ages 17 and younger) and may temporarily be in the need of food, clothing and shelter, The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Program (TFA) may also be available to provide a one-time grant up to \$1,500. For information about Temporary Financial Assistance, visit <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/temporary-financial-assistance>.

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National Emergency Fund**  
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