"It is the duty of all those on the homefront to support the families of those who bear the battle. When the brave men and women of Illinois answer the call to duty, they should not have to worry that their families are suffering financially at home. All of us in the Land of Lincoln can help our military families by donating to the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund."

Governor Pat Quinn
The Illinois Military Family Relief Fund (IMFRF), signed into law in 2003 by Governor Rod R. Blagojevich, provides monetary grants to Illinois National Guard members and Illinois residents serving in the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Components and their families who were called to active duty as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

IMFRF grants are intended to help Service Members and their families defray the costs of food, housing, utilities, medical services, and other expenses that become difficult to afford when a wage-earner has temporarily left civilian employment to be placed on active military duty.

Beginning in 2004, donations are accepted through a voluntary checkoff on Illinois individual income tax returns, through illinoisepay.com or by mail to: IMFRF, PO Box 8889, Springfield, IL 62791-8889.

To apply for a grant:

- Attach copies of all required documentation - applicants omitting required information will be sent a letter explaining missing items.
- All Status and Needs grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis (Casualty based grants are given daily priority).
- Timeliness of payment will be determined by the amount of funds available at time of application.
- Complete the entire form, sign and date; make a copy for your records; then send the original signed application to:

  Illinois Department of Military Affairs
  Attn: IMFRF Coordinator
  1301 N. MacArthur Blvd.
  Springfield, IL 62702-2399

  QUESTIONS? CALL THE IMFRF PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

  Toll-Free in IL: (866) 524-ILNG (4564)
  or 217-761-3452

  Illinois Department of Military Affairs
  1301 N. MacArthur Boulevard
  Springfield, Illinois 62702-2399
  www.il.ngb.army.mil

  December 18, 2009
Status based grant: $500
Based solely on member’s military status

Requirements for Eligibility:

- Grant applicant is a member of the Illinois National Guard or an Illinois resident serving in a US Armed Forces Reserve Component, or is a family member of the Guardsman/Reservist and is enrolled in DEERS or has a Power of Attorney for the Service Members Affairs.
- Military member was/is on active duty for a minimum of 60 days as a result of the terrorist attacks on 9/11/01.
- Military member holds a pay grade no higher than O-3, W-3 or E-8.
- Soldiers, regardless of marital status, may apply for this grant.
- Effective 1 January 2008, Service members deployed for a consecutive (not cumulative) period of duty of more than six months are eligible for additional status based grants for each consecutive six month period. After the end of the seventh, thirteenth, etc, months, applicants may reapply. The subsequent application must include sufficient documentation (LESs and orders) to validate that the continuous duty is/was performed as a result of September 11, 2001. (Members on active duty on 1 January 2008 became eligible once they completed six months on or after 1 January 2008.).

Need-based grant: $2,000

Requirements for Eligibility:

- Grant applicant is a member of the Illinois National Guard or an Illinois resident serving in a US Armed Forces Reserve component, or is a family member of the Guardsman / Reservist and is enrolled in DEERS DEERS or has a Power of Attorney for the Service Members Affairs.
- Military member was/is on active duty for a minimum of 60 days as a result of 9/11/01.
- Military member holds a pay grade no higher than O-3 or W-3 or E-8.
- Military salary (including BAH) is at least 30% less than civilian salary plus Reserve Drill Pay.
- Service members without dependents cannot apply for this grant.
- Service Members or their families may apply for and receive a $2000 Need Based Grant each six month period of continuous deployment. Applications will not be approved unless at least six months have elapsed from the date of receipt of the previous application. (This change is effective 1 January 2008. Members on active duty on 1 January 2008 became eligible once they completed six months on or after 1 January 2008). For deployments of less than six months service members or their families may apply as long as six months have elapsed from the beginning date of each deployment.

Casualty-based grant: $5,000 Based on injury

Requirements for Eligibility:

- Grant applicant is a member of the IL National Guard or an IL resident serving in a US Armed Forces Reserve component, or a family member of the Guardsman/Reservist and is enrolled in DEERS or has a Power of Attorney for the Service Members Affairs.
- Military member was/is on active duty for a minimum 60 days as a result of 9/11/01.
- Applicant must include: “Proof that the service member sustained an injury as a result of terrorist activity; sustained an injury in combat, or related to combat, as a direct result of hostile action; or sustained an injury going to or returning from a combat mission, provided that the incident leading to the injury was directly related to hostile action. This includes injuries to service members who are wounded mistakenly or accidentally by friendly fire directed at a hostile force or what is thought to be a hostile force.
- Service Members regardless of marital status may apply for this grant.
- Service Members regardless of Rank/Pay Grade may apply for this grant.
- NOTE: For Injuries occurring September 11, 2001 – November 22 2009 – NG and Reservists were Eligible for $2000. For Injuries occurring on or after November 23, 2009 – The grant is $5000 and IL Residents who are AD Service Members are also eligible to apply.

1. The following Illinois National Guard / Reserve component members are ineligible for status based and need based grants: All commissioned and warrant officers with pay grades of O-4, W-4 or higher or E-9; Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) or similar full-time program personnel unless called to Title 10.

2. Military members who are unmarried and have no family members in DEERS are ineligible for the Needs Grant.

3. Members who receive a punitive discharge, or an administrative discharge with service characterized as Under Other Than Honorable Conditions will not be paid.

4. This brochure only summarizes eligibility - the administrative rules must be reviewed for grant requirements and restrictions.