

National Emergency Fund (NEF)

The Preamble to The American Legion Constitution sums up the theme of the National Endowment Fund, "... devotion to mutual helpfulness." This phrase is more than just mere words on paper; it's our pledge of support to Legionnaires and their family members. Since the early 1920s, The American Legion has been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual Legion Family members in the wake of disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and wildfires.

The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

NEF helps those affected by well-known disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy and lesser-publicized tragedies such as flooding in South Dakota or Illinois, or wildfires in the southwest.

How to Apply

Eligibility

1. Eligibility open to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members (up to \$3,000) Legion Posts (up to \$10,000).
2. Applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due to a declared natural disaster and provide proof of out-of-pocket expenses.
3. Not meant to replace or repair items, only to meet most immediate needs (i.e., temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.)
4. Does not cover insurance compensation or monetary losses from a business, structures on your property (barns, tool sheds, etc.,) equipment or vehicles.
5. Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

Application Requirements

1. Application must be received within 90 days of disaster.
2. Disaster must be a "declared" natural disaster for Legion Family members.
3. Supporting data (photos, receipts, repair estimates, etc.) should be included if at all possible or statements (testimony) from post/district/department officers attesting to damages.
4. Only one grant per household.
5. Post grants must derive from a declared natural disaster and substantiating documentation must provide that The American Legion post will cease to perform the duties and activities in the community due to losses sustained.

Once the application is properly completed by the applicant the application and all supporting documents are sent to the Department Headquarters for approval and they will forward to the National Headquarters. Upon approval at the National level, a check will be sent to the Department Headquarters for delivery to the Legion Family Member or Post in distress.

How You Can Help

We have an obligation to assist those less fortunate members when the need arises, and we do – through our donations to the National Emergency Fund. All contributions made to this fund are deposited in a special account and are used exclusively to meet our member's most urgent needs. Not one single contribution dollar is used for fundraising, administrative costs or fulfillment. It is given directly to our members in need – not to meet any administrative expenses.

The money in the fund comes by way of generous donations from American Legion Posts, Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members.

Send your tax-Deductible Contributions To:

**The American Legion
National Emergency Fund
P. O. BOX 6141
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206**