



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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MCCHORD FIELD AIR FORCE AID SOCIETY OFFICERS: Diana Burr (253)982-7027;
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AMERICAN RED CROSS: Air Force members who need emergency financial/travel assistance during non-duty hours or who are not near a military installation should contact the American Red Cross at: 1-877-272-7337.

ON-LINE APPLICATION: Members can now apply for Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) assistance on-line at <https://my.afas.org/memberportal/login>. Once the on-line application is completed, call (253) 982-7027 to schedule an appointment with an AFAS representative. Note: It is not mandatory to complete the application on-line. Members may walk-in to apply for assistance.

TRAVEL EXPENSES: The AFAS provides funding for travel requirements that are triggered by emergencies or other unique circumstances. When authorizing assistance for travel, AFAS is meeting a genuine need, normally funding travel only for those persons necessary to handle the situation. Assistance is provided either as a loan or a grant depending on eligibility.

BASIC LIVING EXPENSES: Help with short-term problems paying for everyday living necessities. However, assistance is not designated to permit members to live beyond their income, nor to provide them frequent help over financial rough spots. A sudden emergency or unforeseen circumstance warrants AFAS assistance. Obvious poor money management and frequent distress require chain of command involvement and "Personal Financial Readiness" (PFR) counseling. **Basic living expenses include: Food, Rent/Mortgage, Phone and Utilities.**

VEHICLE EXPENSES: AFAS does not provide emergency assistance for routine maintenance such as oil changes and tune-ups, but does assist with loans for necessary repairs, which could not otherwise be paid for. Assistance is provided to repair an essential vehicle to enable the member or family to commute to work, go to medical appointments, and run errands. AFAS is prepared to be the first stop in solving a car repair problem, provided the case has merit.

DENTAL EXPENSES: Assistance can be provided when the member does not have sufficient funds to cover dependent dental care payments required in advance or patient's share of charges not covered by dental insurance. Assistance is provided for essential care only.

FUNERAL EXPENSES: AFAS will provide a bridge loan for the cost of a modest, dignified funeral when a member's *spouse, child or a dependent parent* dies. Intention is to help initially stabilize the member pending the payment of the SGLI, and to provide visible support and comfort during a particularly emotional period. AFAS makes checks payable to those providing services based on actual expenses.

MEDICAL EXPENSES: AFAS offers limited assistance for health care since all categories of eligible members have access to U.S. Military Treatment Facilities or are authorized care under the TRICARE provisions. Assistance is available to help solve short-term problems such as paying the patient's share of covered expenses, or assisting with the purchase of special equipment not covered totally by TRICARE.

MOVING EXPENSES: AFAS assumes that expenses for Air Force moves are covered by official sources. However, unique circumstances demand a flexible response to both PCS costs and subsequent local relocations. AFAS does not fund permissive PCS moves, SWAP moves, or the upfront cost of DITY moves. Member is normally able to cover costs associated with the move by using the dislocation allowance and/or taking advance pay. However, there may be unexpected expenses such as a car repair or a prolonged stay in temporary housing that may cause a need for AFAS help with initial rent and/or deposits.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS

Bundles for Babies: Expecting? Have a newborn? Join us for this free class for parents-to-be & parents of infants under six months old. Learn about Babies First Years, the cost of raising a child and a free special gift for your new baby! Classes are offered quarterly. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Please call 982-7027/2726 for more information or to sign up.

Car Care Because We Care: This program allows spouses whose active duty AF sponsor is deployed over 30 days to receive a \$38 voucher towards an oil change for the family's primary vehicle. Bring a copy of the sponsor's deployment orders to the AFAS office to receive your certificate today. This program is also available to FTAC students who sign up for a budget review with PFR. (Oil Change voucher is good at the Firestone on McChord Field Only)

Child Care for PCS: This program is intended to help relieve some of the stress felt by AF families in the process of a PCS move. Families with PCS orders receive a voucher good for 20 hours of free child care per child provided by a certified Family Child Care provider on base, or affiliated homes off base. Bring a copy of the sponsor's PCS orders to the AFCS to receive your certificate today. The child care is available 60 days before departing a base and 60 days after arriving at a new base.

General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program: Recognizing that higher education costs were rising, the Society created an Education Grant Program in 1988. The program provides education grants to eligible applicants by assisting in the payment of tuition, books and fee's or other direct education expenses. Go to www.afas.org to check eligibility requirements and to apply.

Give Parents A Break: Free child care program for AF families experiencing stressors such as deployments, PCS, new birth or other family difficulties. The program offers 4 hours of care per month when referred by your unit commander, first sergeant or chaplain. For referral or more information, please call (253)982-7027/2726.

ASSISTANCE NOT NORMALLY PROVIDED:

*To pay for a member's personal obligations (rent, electric, etc) when the member has chosen to give, loan or send their money to family or friends.

- * Overdrawn Bank Accounts
- * Adoptions
- * Non Essentials

- * Taxes or Legal Expenses
- * Credit Card Payments
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