



Americanism and Children & Youth eBulletin



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March 2020

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) procedures and the coronavirus

The nature of the coronavirus pandemic is unprecedented in our lifetimes. And as such, everything within our communities, state and nation is very fluid right now. As the leaders and health experts of this country are vigilantly working to get the latest information out to the public, the safety and well-being of our American Legion members and Legion Family is of the utmost importance during this time.

To safeguard the health of American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) investigators, we ask that all home investigations/site visits for TFA applications be suspended during this time. Because the investigation is an integral part of the TFA process, we seek to implement innovative ways of validating an investigation. During this time a TFA investigator may still complete a TFA investigation by conducting a phone interview with an applicant and may also seek to obtain any documentation necessary via fax, scanned documents in an email, or by receiving photographs of documents via text messaging or email.

The Legion is also aware that some government offices or community organizations may be closed during this time and as a result, it may be difficult to verify that all other forms of assistance having been exhausted. If government offices or community organizations that provide forms of assistance in your area are closed, please note that on page 2 of the TFA application form under the “reasons” section. It is important to complete all the boxes on page 2 which provide the status for seeking additional assistance in order to be considered a fully complete TFA grant application.

It is important to note that staying home from work or experiencing any type of quarantine does not in and of itself necessarily mean that a household’s finances are being negatively impacted or that a child’s basic needs cannot be met. For example, an employee may be taking paid time off while quarantining, the employer is supplementing financially with paid time off, or the employee may simply be telecommuting by working from home. For those applicants that are employed but whose work has been financially impacted due to issues related to the coronavirus pandemic, it is standard practice for employers to provide their employees a letter or some type of communication stating their company’s actions/intentions. That communication will typically include options that are available to the employee with regard to work scheduling, pay and/or benefits. This statement, along with an employee’s pay stub, may serve as verification of impacted wages.

The above TFA guidance should be in place until such time that local authorities in your state and community have deemed the need for coronavirus prevention measures have passed. Please do not hesitate to contact Stacy Cope, Youth Welfare Program Manager, at (317) 630-1323 or Americanism@legion.org should you have any questions.

The American Legion National Headquarters continues to put the health and well-being of its members and citizens of local communities throughout the nation at the forefront. As National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford noted in his [statement on the coronavirus](#), we have been an organization of flexibility, resilience, proven toughness and strength throughout our first 101 years and that is what will get us through this as well. Our best wishes to all as we “weather the storm” together.