

New Category: Special Needs Assistance

**ARMY
EMERGENCY
RELIEF**

Intent: To provide financial assistance to Active Duty and Retired Soldiers who are faced with increased financial requirements because they have military Identification card holding dependents with special needs.

Guidelines: Assistance will not exceed the documented costs of the special needs equipment and is limited to a cap of \$3,000.

Assistance can be provided when the costs are not covered by other sources such as TRICARE or other insurance programs. Partial costs such as co-pays, deductibles and amounts above insurance coverage caps will also be considered. The equipment should be medically necessary as verified by someone of competent medical authority.

The target audience for assistance are dependents who have the following Special Needs:

- a. Autism
- b. Down Syndrome
- c. Dyslexia
- d. Anxiety
- e. Tourette Syndrome
- f. Asperger's
- g. Brain Injury
- h. Processing Disorder
- i. Learning Difference

AER assistance considerations:

The cost of adaptive equipment items such as –

- a. Specialized Strollers
- b. Specialized Wheel Chairs
- c. Specialized Comfort Blankets
- d. Bath Chairs
- e. Bathroom Safety Equipment (Grab Bars, Rails, Shower Rails)
- f. Specialized shoes
- g. Specialized Beds
- h. Portable Wheel Chair Ramps

The cost of Assistive Technology Devices such as –

- a. Communication devices
- b. Hearing Aids
- c. Specialized computer software

2019 Category of Assistance Changes

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The current categories of assistance will change as follows effective 1 January 2019

- **Dental Care for Dependents:** Assistance will start as a 50/50 Loan & Grant for Active Duty and Retired Soldiers.
 - Retired Soldiers must carry supplement insurance and the 50/50 policy would apply to cost shares and deductibles.
 - The 5K category cap is eliminated and the 50/50 floor will be applied to the total valid need.
- **Child Car Seats:** Assistance will be provided as “grant only” to purchase Car Seats for immediate minor children of Active Duty and Retired Soldiers. Valid need is determined by AER Officer or Unit Chain of Command.
- **Cranial Helmets:** Assistance will be provided as “grant only” to purchase a Cranial Helmet for immediate minor children of Active Duty and Retired Soldiers. Valid need is determined by AER Officer or Unit Chain of Command with supporting documentation from competent medical authority.
- **Funerals for Dependent/Non-Dependent:** “Bridge Loan” cap for a dependent spouse funeral will increase from \$10K to \$15K to account for transportation costs.

New categories of assistance effective 1 January 2019

- **Passport, Immigration and VISA Fees:** Assistance will be provided as “grant only” for Passport and Immigration fees for a foreign born spouses of Active Duty and Retired Soldiers. Valid need is determined by AER Officer or Unit Chain of Command.
- **Special Needs Assistance:** Assistance will not exceed the documented costs of the special needs equipment and is limited to a cap of \$3,000. Assistance can be provided when the costs are not covered by other sources such as TRICARE or other insurance programs. Partial costs such as co-pays, deductibles and amounts above insurance coverage caps will also be considered. The equipment should be medically necessary as verified by someone of competent medical authority.