

Union County Military Family Support Group Educational Assistance Fund

Grant Application Cover Letter for Grant Year 2024

General Information

The Union County Military Family Support Group (UCMFSG) is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501 (c) (3) public charity, and community service organization within Union County that aids and supports local, actively-serving military members and local military units of the United States Armed Forces, regardless of Branch or Component; supports local veterans who have served since September 11, 2001; and supports the immediate family members of our local military service members and of our local, recent veterans. The UCMFSG uses its operating funds to provide appropriate public recognition, financial aid, social activities, and other forms of support for our local military service members, military units, recent veterans, and their respective families. For Union County military service members, recent veterans, and their respective immediate family members, who are pursuing post-high school education and/or technical training/technical certification, the UCMFSG also provides annually the opportunity to qualify for financial aid grants (which are free/non-repayable) from the organization's Educational Assistance Fund. Membership in the UCMFSG, while encouraged, is not a requirement for these grants.

Each year the UCMFSG will determine the total amount allocated for EAF Grants. **Individual educational assistance grants may be awarded in varying amounts; however, an individual grant will not exceed \$1,000.** This Cover Letter (3 pages) and the Grant Application (6 pages) contain information regarding the eligibility criteria, application process, and the annual schedule for the UCMFSG Educational Assistance Fund (EAF) Grant Program. Grants provided by this fund may be awarded to qualifying individuals, who are pursuing post-high school education with the goal of earning an Associate Degree and/or a Baccalaureate Degree from an institute of higher learning. Grants may also be awarded to qualifying individuals who are pursuing technical training which would result in a specific Technical Certification. **Grant funds may be used for tuition, books, educational/training materials, fees, room and board, or any other costs associated with participation in such educational and training programs.**

Grant Eligibility

To be eligible for UCMFSG Educational Assistance Fund Grants, an individual must fulfill one of the following requirements:

- a. Be a military service member, from Union County, who is currently serving on active duty, regardless of duty station location.
- b. Be a military service member currently living in Union County, who is actively serving in a Reserve Component Unit, regardless of the unit's location.*
- c. Be a military service member within the Inactive Reserve, who is currently living in Union County.
- d. Be a college-level ROTC Cadet from Union County, who has a military obligation upon leaving college.
- e. Be a military veteran living in Union County, who has served in the United States Armed Forces since September 11, 2001.
- f. Be an immediate family member** of an active duty military service member, *who either resides in Union County or with the active duty member.*
- g. Be an immediate family member of a military service member currently serving in a Reserve Component Unit, *who resides in Union County.*
- h. Be an immediate family member of a veteran, who has served since September 11, 2001, and *who currently resides in Union County.*

**The term "Reserve Component" includes National Guard forces.*

*** An immediate family member is defined as a spouse or child.*

Grant Application Process

The UCMFSG Secretary will have the updated Grant Application Forms available beginning **October 1st** each year for the next annual grant cycle beginning in January of the following year. The UCMFSG Secretary will accept completed applications beginning **January 1st** of each calendar year. The deadline for submission of completed applications and supporting documentation is **March 31st**. Applications received after March 31st **will not** be considered; therefore, early submission is highly recommended.

Each year in March, the UCMFSG Chairman will designate an Education Assistance Fund Grant Selection Board. **The EAF Grant Selection Board will consist of five members**, and will be comprised as follows: one UCMFSG Trustee (will be Board Chairman), one representative from the Marysville Knights of Columbus, one representative from the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 55 (Marysville), one representative from American Legion Post 248 (Plain City), and one representative from one of the local Ohio National Guard units located in Marysville. If any of these fore-mentioned organizations cannot provide a representative, then a representative from one of the other veteran organizations within Union County will be asked to participate on the Grant Selection Board.

The Educational Assistance Fund Grant Selection Board will convene in **early April** to consider all completed applications received by March 31st. The Grant Selection Board may conduct personal interviews with applicants as a part of the selection process. Recommendations from the Grant Selection Board will be submitted to the UCMFSG Executive Committee no later than **April 30th**. Approval of grants will be made by the Executive Committee. Grant decisions made by the UCMFSG Executive Committee are final. Once notifications are made to all applicants, the grant funds will be disbursed as soon as possible by the UCMFSG Treasurer. Efforts will be made to incorporate the awarding of individual grants into local school scholarship assemblies/awards programs, if appropriate. However, grant checks will be issued no later than **May 31st**. The UCMFSG will inform the public through local news media and the UCMFSG website concerning the grant program, grant recipients, and grant amounts.

NOTES:

1. Grant Application Forms may also be downloaded from the UCMFSG website at ucmfsg.com.
2. For further information about the Grant Program, or about other assistance available through the UCMFSG, please contact the UCMFSG Secretary at **TEL: (937) 644-2674**, or at bonnells.suffolks@gmail.com.
3. Send completed Grant Applications to: **Union County Military Family Support Group, ATTN: EAF Grant Selection Board, PO Box 1001, Marysville, Ohio 43040.**

*****Grant Application Form attached*****