



EDUCATION

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Children of military servicemen and women make many sacrifices as their parents serve on active duty. Their lives are uprooted, and they are often separated for long periods of time. Finding financial aid can also be another added stress.

The American Legion will be publishing an Education Development Guide which has many resources available. Look for it soon! However, in the meantime, the following sources can be used to inform and help children of the military find financial aid.

Pell Grant – This federal grant does not need to be repaid, and the award amount varies based on a number of factors. The most important of which is a student's income to cost of attendance ratio. For 2015-2016, the maximum award amount is \$5,775.

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html>

Post-9/11 GI Bill – This complex but extremely worthwhile program allows servicemembers on duty after September 10, 2001, to receive money to cover most tuition, fees, books, and living expenses at state's colleges and universities. An applicant for this program should work with a veteran service officer and/or a given school's VA administrator to apply for and receive benefits. http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp

Marine Gunnery Sgt. John David Fry Scholarship – also known as the Fry Scholarship. This program grants the surviving children and spouses of deceased servicemembers to receive up to 36 months of education benefits at the 100-percent level. As with the GI Bill, these benefits should be explored and applied for with the assistance of a VSO or VA administrator.

**A servicemember must make elections to pass on their benefits to a dependent after meeting a certain time-in-service mark. See the Fry Scholarship homepage for more information.

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/fry_scholarship.pdf

Many programs require the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form (www.fafsa.educationconnection.com). Families also may find helpful information at FinAid: The SmartStudent Guide to Financial Aid (www.finaid.org) and Scholarshiphelp.org. Collegescholarships.org offers a comprehensive review of college scholarship websites.

Several scholarships focus on military children. They include scholarships sponsored by:

- Air Force Aid Society. The General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program gives grants to children of active duty Air Force members, as well as some Reservists and retirees. Grants are need-based. See Air Force Aid Society website at www.afas.org for more information.
- Army Emergency Relief. The MG James Ursano Scholarship Fund offers scholarships for children of active duty Soldiers, retirees, or those who died in service. These

scholarships can be used for undergraduate studies, vocational training, or to help a student prepare to enter a military academy. See Army Emergency Relief website at www.aerhq.org for more information.

- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. The Vice Admiral E.P. Travers Scholarship and Loan program provides financial aid to children and spouses of active duty and retired Sailors and Marines. There are also scholarships for the children of those killed in action. See Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society website at www.nmcrs.org
- Scholarships for military children. Every commissary gives at least one scholarship. The scholarships of at least \$1,500 per student are supported by the companies that sell goods to the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). See Scholarships for Military Children website at www.militaryscholar.org

Additional resources:

Department of Education Student Aid on the Web (www.studentaid.ed.gov)

<http://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/E0EDF61B/Military-Children-Education-Benefits/>

http://www.militaryonesource.mil/k-12-and-college-education?content_id=268720