

Miami-Dade County Veterans and Active Duty Military Basic Needs Assistance Program Guide

Introduction

In March 2020, Miami-Dade County began experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19. On March 11th, County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez declared a State of Emergency to help in preventing the spread of COVID-19. State and County officials issued orders restricting the activities of businesses and residents to reduce the spread of COVID-19. These orders are targeted to save lives, however the economic impact of these measures has been felt throughout Miami-Dade County.

In response to these economic hardships, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or the CARES Act. On Thursday, July 16th, 2020, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved CARES Act relief funds to be disbursed within our veteran and military communities. The **Miami-Dade County Veterans and Active Duty Military Basic Needs Assistance Program** is designed to help those who are currently serving or have served in the United States military and have adversely been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The program serves active duty, reserve, guard and veterans who reside in Miami-Dade County. The Program is intended to support veterans and active duty military households to remain self-sufficient and support a strong recovery and will be administered by the **Miami-Dade Military Affairs Board**.

Program Benefits

The Miami-Dade County COVID-19 Veteran and Active Duty Military Basic Needs Assistance Program can provide \$1,000 of basic needs assistance cards for single applicants and \$2,000 of basic needs assistance cards for households of two or more. The \$5 million of program funds will be distributed on a first come first serve basis.

Program Eligibility

Any Veteran OR Active Duty Military member may be eligible for basic needs assistance under the program, if the following conditions are met:

- Can prove they are a veteran or active duty military;
- Can show a household loss or reduction of income due to COVID-19;
- Current household income is at or below 120% of Area Median Income (AMI) for Miami-Dade County (see table below). Current income refers to the household's income following any job loss or income reduction due to COVID-19;
- Proof of residency within Miami-Dade County;
- Maximum award per household is \$1000 for single occupants and \$2000 for households of two or greater.

Income Limits for Program	
Household Size	120% of Area Median Income (AMI)
1	\$76,800
2	\$87,840
3	\$98,760
4	\$109,680
5	\$118,560
6	\$127,320
7	\$136,080
8	\$144,840

Documentation Requirements:

All Veteran and Active Duty Military applicants will need to provide the following documentation as part of the application process:

- Copy of Active Duty Military ID; OR Veteran ID; OR Form DD-214; OR DD-215; OR DD-256, etc.
- Proof of loss of income due to COVID-19, which may include:
 - Copy of Layoff or Furlough Notice; OR
 - Evidence of lost wages (partial or full)
 - Copy of Bank statements;
 - Copy of Paycheck records.
 - Proof of Income at or below 120% of AMI
 - Copy of 2019 Tax Return;
 - Copies of Bank statements;
 - Copies of Paycheck records.

How the payments will be made

Once all application materials have been collected, the Program Staff will begin reviewing the documents and, if necessary, contact the applicant for additional information. If approved, the applicant will be notified. Vouchers will be dispersed at one of three (3) fulfillment centers.

If Approved, you will be notified of the location of the fulfillment center where you can pick up your basic needs assistance vouchers. You will need to present a valid government issued ID with a matching name and your application number (which you will receive by email).

Application Process:

To apply for the Miami-Dade COVID-19 Veteran and Active Duty Military Basic Needs Assistance Program, veterans and active duty military are encouraged to apply through the online at www.miamidadecovidrelief.org (which is mobile accessible), OR, for those unable to do so, paper application instructions are available below.

The applicant will create an account, enter household information, and upload supporting documents.

Once all documentation has been uploaded, Program Staff will review the documents, and contact the applicant if any further information is required. If approved, the applicant will be notified of the location of the fulfillment center where they can pick up their cards, and the hours for that location. The closest location will be chosen based on the applicant’s address. The applicant will need to present a government issued ID that matches the information in the application, along with their application number, in order to receive the basic needs assistance cards.

Paper Application Instructions:

All information requested must be completed accurately and legibly. Requested information and supporting documents are required to verify the applicant meets the Program’s eligibility requirements, and any errors or omissions could delay release of grant funds. Do not submit any original supporting documents as no documents will be returned to the applicant. Only copies of original documents should be submitted.

Once all required fields have been filled and the necessary documents have been obtained, please paperclip all documents and place inside a large yellow manila envelope, and write COVID-19 VETERAN AND MILITARY PROGRAM in large letters on the outside.

The envelope can be dropped in the 24/7 book drop box at any of the locations listed below. We will confirm receipt of your application by email and/or phone once it is received. This may take 1-5 business days.

- **North Dade Regional Library**
2455 NW 183rd Street
Miami Gardens, FL 33056
- **South Dade Regional Library**
10750 SW 211 Street
Cutler Bay, FL 33189
- **Main Library**
101 West Flagler Street
Miami, FL 33130
- **Westchester Regional Library**
9445 Coral Way
Miami, FL 33165

Program staff will review the application and contact you if additional information is required and/or to advise your application status.

Fraud Prevention

Miami-Dade County will prosecute any applicant who commits fraud to the fullest extent of the law. Please report any suspicious activity at:

<https://www.miamidade.gov/global/report-fraud.page>

FAQ

Q: What is the Miami-Dade COVID-19 Veteran and Active Duty Military Basic Needs Assistance Program?

A: The Miami-Dade COVID-19 Veteran and Active Duty Military Basic Needs Assistance Program is administered by the Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board and was developed to provide relief to veterans and active duty military households who have experienced economic hardship due to COVID-19.

Q: How is the Miami-Dade COVID-19 Veteran and Active Duty Military Basic Needs Assistance Program funded?

A: The program receives its funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which was passed by Congress in March 2020. Specifically, funding is granted through the Florida Coronavirus Relief Fund, which was created as a provision of the CARES Act. On July 21st, 2020, County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez and the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners approved \$5 million to be used in aiding veterans and active duty military personnel and their families who may be having difficulties in obtaining necessary basic needs, such as food, due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Q: What documentation is eligible to be used as proof of veteran or active military status?

A: Applicants may provide one of the following to document their veteran or active duty military status:

- 1. Active Duty Military ID; OR*
- 2. Veteran ID; OR*
- 3. DD Form 214; OR*
- 4. Other government forms proving veteran status*

Q: How will cards be distributed?

A: *Basic Needs Assistance cards will be distributed from a physical fulfillment center within Miami-Dade County. Approved applicants will be notified of the nearest location where they can receive their cards upon approval of the award.*

Q: What is 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for my specific household size in Miami-Dade County?

A: *See below. Note that the income limits refer to current income (i.e., after a job loss or other loss of income due to COVID-19).*

Income Limits for Program	
Household Size	120% of Area Median Income (AMI)
1	\$76,800
2	\$87,840
3	\$98,760
4	\$109,680
5	\$118,560
6	\$127,320
7	\$136,080
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Q: What stores will the basic needs assistance cards be accepted at?

A: *Basic needs assistance cards are intended to be used to procure items that fulfill basic needs, such as food, toiletries, medicine, pampers, etc. Cards are currently available for one of the following stores based on your election during the application process:*

- *Publix*
- *Winn Dixie*
- *CVS (or similar)*

Q: Will there be an option to fill out and submit a paper application? If so, where would I be able to do so?

A: Paper applications are available in English, Spanish, and Kreyòl. Completed applications can be submitted at any of the following locations:

- **North Dade Regional Library**
2455 NW 183rd Street
Miami Gardens, FL 33056
- **South Dade Regional Library**
10750 SW 211 Street
Cutler Bay, FL 33189
- **Main Library**
101 West Flagler Street
Miami, FL 33130
- **Westchester Regional Library**
9445 Coral Way
Miami, FL 33165

Q: Who can I contact if I still have an unanswered question?

A: For further assistance, please call at 305-374-5370 or go to our website www.miamidadecovidrelief.org to message program staff directly.