

## COVID-19 Impact on Military Community

JAX PSA – Community Resources



### MILITARY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**United Way** – <https://unitedwaynefl.org/>

United Way has activated the Florida’s First Coast Relief Fund and has begun distributing funds to local area nonprofits assisting families impacted by the Coronavirus epidemic. To get information and referrals to COVID-19 social services, including testing, community clinics, unemployment benefits and more. Individuals can learn more or get a referral for help by calling or following the link 211 (or 904-632-0600) [211 online database](#). 211 provides a list of local community resources such as financial assistance for utilities or rent and food pantries, housing assistance, crisis counseling, and utility payment assistance. Right now, 211 is mostly focused on access to food, shelters and emergency financial assistance

Veteran Care Coordinator, Chris Scales, is available to help any veteran or family member navigate and access community resources. He is a wealth of knowledge and also a veteran himself. Chris can be reached through 211, and is available M-F 8-5pm.

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**Feeding North East Florida Food Bank** – <https://www.feedingnefl.org/covid-19-updates/>

Feeding Northeast Florida is actively responding to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. They created a page to keep the community up-to-date with how they are adapting to the changes in our food supply and how we are adjusting our normal operating procedures.

Below are some of the current COVID-19 impacts and updates.

The quantity of food donated by retailers through our normal weekly food recovery programs and processes is diminishing. Just as consumers are experiencing empty shelves at their local grocery stores, those same stores, therefore, are reducing the amount of product to pull from their shelves at night for donation to the food bank.

As a solution in the near-term, FNEFL is sourcing paid products to replace any potential shortfall.

Updates and impact on Network partner agencies and programs:

To reduce possible exposure amongst staff, agency personnel, and volunteers—and to allow for a maximum number of volunteers in our warehouse and staying within the Mayor’s guidelines for social distancing—agencies will no longer utilize the “Agency Sharing Floor” in the warehouse. Instead, agencies will be receiving pre-packaged “Family Meal Kits.”

Family Meal Kits are the best solution in this public health crisis because:

- Each Family Meal Kit contains shelf-stable food items, produce, and meat when available
- They follow Feeding America’s optimal “low-touch or no-touch” model of food distribution
- This solution maximizes the efficiency of FNEFL staff and volunteers in the preparation of one type of kit only



Agency partners will shift to a “drive-through” model of distribution to keep consistent with social distancing guidelines.

The below link shows which agencies are open:

<https://www.feedingnefl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Response-FNEFL-Agencies-Open-as-of-3.20.2020.pdf>

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### **Military Heroes Fund**

#### COVID-19 Emergency Financial Relief Program

The COVID-19 Emergency Financial Relief Program was created to provide financial assistance to all Veterans, Active Duty, Reserves and National Guard who are experiencing a financial setback due to the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant amount will support 1 month of payment up to \$1500 in the following areas:

- Rent
- Mortgage
- Auto Loan/Lease
- Utilities (Electric, Water, Heat)

All checks will be sent directly to the creditor or landlord after the grant is approved. The Foundation can only support one emergency financial request per household.

#### What You'll Need

- DD214 or LES
- A bill or statement for the requested expense
- An explanation of how the financial setback is related to the COVID-19 pandemic (for example, loss of job due to quarantine and/or public health policies)

#### Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for this program you must be in one of the following categories:

- A Veteran that has been honorably discharged
- A current active-duty service member
- Currently active in the Reserves
- Currently active in the National Guard

#### Additional Information

Due to the high volume of application inquiries, the quickest and easiest way to reach us for questions is by emailing [vaheroes@penfed.org](mailto:vaheroes@penfed.org)

Source: <https://penfedfoundation.org/apply-for-assistance/coronavirus-emergency-financial-assistance/>

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## ADC and Blue Star Families Join Forces to Support Military Communities and Families through COVID-19 Stimulus- <https://defensecommunities.org/covid-19/>

The Association of Defense Communities (ADC), Blue Star Families, and participants of the White Oak Collaborative are joining forces to create a united, national platform for sharing information, maintaining engagement, developing best practices and policy approaches to ensure our military receives the support it

deserves. The COVID-19 Military Support Initiative (CMSI) will provide resources and expertise to support communities, states and military families through this crisis, including:

- Providing comprehensive coverage of the crisis through a new daily publication that will build on ADC's widely-read On Base daily newsletter.
- Hosting Virtual Town Halls on the key issues impacting our military, defense communities and military families during the crisis.
- Convening Military Community and Family Organizations and experts to identify and advance best practices and policy solutions.
- Create a repository to capture and document best practices and lessons-learned.

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### Blue Star Families- <https://bluestarfam.org/>

Blue Star Families knows this is a stressful time, and there's a lot of anxiety in our military community right now. There's not much we can do to fix COVID-19 mayhem impacting your MilLife, but we want to lend a helping hand with your well-being while practicing social distancing.

Here are four membership-based subscriptions that you can use from home. All of which are **complimentary** to you to Blue Star Family members:

- **Caribu** - Scheduling Caribu video calls with loved ones to read, color, or play games together can help ease the isolation blues. Stay connected to friends and family by registering [here](#).
- **Thrive Market** - Using Thrive Market to fuel your family can help you access healthy and affordable food without leaving the house. Secure your membership [here](#).
- **Headspace** - Meditating with Headspace can help with anxiety, stress, focus, and sleep during uncertain times. Subscribe and get started [here](#).
- **Tinkergarten** - Incorporating DIY activities into your daily routine can help your littles (and you!) stay focused and lower anxiety. Subscribe to receive weekly activities in your inbox [here](#).

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### Military OneSource -<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus>

Primary goal is to ensure the well-being of the entire military community, and to assist in force readiness for the national defense as well as current worldwide military missions.

Some programs, facilities and services on your installation may close due to the global outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019. There may be little to no notice and no mention of a reopening date. The reason:



the secretary of defense has asked installation commanders to take necessary precautions to keep people safe and help slow the spread.

The Department of Defense's first priority is our people and we are closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on programs and services for the military community. The department is committed to providing you the most reliable, trustworthy and up-to-date status on what is happening on your installation. We recommend taking advantage of the following official Department of Defense sources:

The MilitaryINSTALLATIONS website- <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/>

Want to find the phone number for your installation's child development center, housing office or military and family support center? You can find them and more on the MilitaryINSTALLATIONS website, an online information directory for military installations worldwide. The website provides contact information for many of your installation's programs, services and more. You can search for information by installation, program or service, or by state. National Guard members can use the National Guard Bureau filter for a list of locations and additional information and resources.

**For Department of Defense updates for the military community regarding the virus that causes COVID-19, visit [Defense.gov](https://www.defense.gov), follow Military OneSource's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms, and continue to visit the Military OneSource website coronavirus page.**

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**Duval County Schools** -<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/>  
Virtual Learning Page- <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/duvalhomerom>

The Big Yellow Lunch-and-Learn!

For all elementary, middle, and high school students, school buses will deliver school meals to elementary school bus stops using neighborhood elementary boundaries and bus routes.

For elementary students, buses will also deliver educational packets for those who don't have access to technology for online classes and for those who want the packet as a supplement.

- All students/children, no matter the grade level, will be able to receive a lunch at any school or lunch-and-learn bus stop.
- Secondary students will be served by the routes listed under their neighborhood Elementary school.

Click the link below for Big Yellow Lunch-and-Learn Bus Routes. Schools are in alphabetical order at the top of each page.

<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/cms/lib/FL01903657/Centricity/Domain/4424/MealsOnWheelsPDF.pdf>

To find the bus stop nearest you, locate your nearest neighborhood elementary school using our school locator. Type in your address, select elementary, and it will tell you your nearest neighborhood elementary school.

<https://www.myschoollocation.com/duvalcountypublicschools/>

Call your school for any questions regarding meals and educational packets. Call transportation for questions on bus stops in use for delivery. Transportation Department (904) 858-6200

**Clay County Schools-** <https://www.oneclay.net/>

#### Food Distribution

At this time, we will NOT be providing meal service during the regularly scheduled Spring Break (March 23rd - March 30th) per federal restrictions.

Meal services will resume on the following dates:

- March 31st - April 2nd (no meal service on March 30th or April 3rd)
- April 6th-9th (no meal service on April 10th)

Meals will be available at the following sites:

- Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High
- Charles E. Bennett Elementary
- W.E. Cherry Elementary
- Ridgeview Elementary
- Wilkinson Elementary
- S. Bryan Jennings Elementary
- Middleburg Elementary

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#### Miscellaneous

- COVID-19 Call Center available 24/7 +1 (866) 779-6121 or email [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov)  
<http://duval.floridahealth.gov/>
- [The IRS is extending the tax date to July 15th](#) to give taxpayers / businesses additional time
- For the most recent updates regarding the number of COVID-19 cases in Florida and health and safety tips, please visit the Florida Department of Health's COVID-19 website: [www.floridahealth.gov/covid19](http://www.floridahealth.gov/covid19)



\*\*\*Resources are up to date as of 3.25.2020

