

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> Military Family Advisory Network		<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 46-3173337		<b>501(c)(3) Public Charity</b> 509 (a)(1)	
<b>Address:</b> 22015 W. 66th Street, Box 860635		<b>City:</b> Shawnee		<b>State:</b> KS	
				<b>Zip Code:</b> 66286	
<b>Website:</b> www.militaryfamilyadvisorynetwork.org		<b>Fax:</b> (202) 821-4195		<b>United Way Funded:</b> No	

**Fiscal Year:**

January 01 to December 31

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> Shannon Razsadin		<b>Title:</b> Executive Director	
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> shannon@militaryfamilyadvisorynetwork.org		<b>Phone:</b> (210) 485-9613	

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Shanna Smith		<b>Title:</b> Strategic Partnerships & Development		<b>E-Mail Address:</b> smith@militaryfamilyadvisorynetwork.org		<b>Phone:</b> (210) 485-9613	
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**Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?**

No

<b>Grant Amount Requested \$:</b> \$75,000	<b>Total Project Budget \$:</b> \$700,026	<b>Organization's Annual budget \$:</b> \$1,861,513
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**Mission Statement:**

The authentic voice of the modern military family & the bridge that connects military families to the resources, people, & information they depend on to successfully navigate all phases of military life.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Program / Project Title:**

To support the Texas Regional Response Initiative - Tackling Military and Veteran Family Hunger

### PROJECT TIMELINE

<b>Start Date</b> 12/01/2020	<b>End Date</b> 12/01/2021
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**Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:**

Food, Shelter and Clothing

**Program / Project Description:**

The Military Family Advisory Network (MFAN)'s research found that one in eight respondents nationally experienced food insecurity. And in Texas, that number was higher. One in six respondents was food insecure, according to the USDA's Short Form Food Security Scale. For those respondents with five or more people in their households, they were more likely to be experiencing hunger, as opposed to low food security. Respondents shared stories of skipping meals, limiting food, filling up on water or ice, eating less nutritious foods, or refusing to eat until other family members are fed. One number was lower among Texas respondents -- those seeking assistance when they were experiencing food insecurity. More often, they were going hungry instead. Many military families, especially those in lower-to mid-enlisted ranks, access free and reduced lunches for their children. MFAN's research showed a statistically significant relationship to rank and the use of free and reduced meals for children: the lower the rank, the more likely the families relied on the meals. With schools closed or meeting in person fewer days per week due to COVID-19, that necessary nutritional supplement may be missing. The effects of food insecurity on children can be lifelong - they have poorer nutrition, but they may also have emotional and behavioral issues to manage. Add to the equation the fact that military service is considered a legacy service, meaning that the children of military families today are most likely to be the servicemembers of tomorrow, and we can see the effects of hungry military families are far-reaching. With 260,495 actively serving military families and 1,584,844 veterans, Texas is home to one of the country's largest active duty military and veteran populations. Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio is home to 15,303 active duty service members and 26,121 active duty family members. To support these families and work to ensure none go hungry, MFAN's Texas Regional Response Initiative includes a multi-phased approach. With support from the Najim Charitable Foundation, MFAN will: Convene a Texas Advisory Council to connect with Texas-based resources and provide localized advice, support, and community-based solutions; Obtain a deeper understanding of the underlying causes, gaps, and barriers of food insecurity among military families in Texas and identify those at greatest risk for hunger in the future through a detailed research study; Provide urgent response and resources to active duty and veteran families experiencing food insecurity; Advise leaders at the local, state, and national levels about the needs and perspectives of military families so that they can create services, solutions, and policies that best serve their military family constituents; Measure impact and continue to refine the strategy for success and scalability in additional need-based markets. The first phase of the initiative will be to conduct research. There are a variety of factors that bring a family to the threshold of hunger, but research has not yet established what they are. Currently, no one has explored the factors that cause U.S. military and veteran families to become hungry, and therefore service providers are unable to accurately measure the success of food security outcomes. Until individuals' basic physiological needs for survival are met, they cannot thrive. And until the causal factors are determined, families cannot be served most effectively. Without understanding the whys, solutions with the maximum potential for impact cannot be built. Qualitative data collection can provide the answers to why respondents are food insecure. MFAN seeks to utilize a portion of the proposed funding to develop journey maps of military and veteran respondents in Bexar County and the surrounding areas. Journey maps are a data collection method in which research participants share their lived experiences, describing the factors that led them to become food insecure. Understanding both the contributing factors identified by those experiencing food insecurity and the financial implications will provide a holistic look at actively serving military families' experiences. MFAN will recruit active duty and veteran family members in Bexar County and the surrounding areas in Texas for the qualitative journey mapping, beginning with our own established network and existing contact list of families experiencing food insecurity. Collecting data in food pantries can contribute to families' avoidance for fear of being identified, a harm that must be avoided. MFAN proposes a paradigm shift. The norm is to evaluate support response success by the pounds of food given. Instead, there must be a process to repair factors that bring clients to food care centers, avoiding hunger in the first place. MFAN's researchers will determine the factors that led to food insecurity for each population and build a model pathway to show where assistance is necessary before a family goes hungry. This model can be used by other communities battling food insecurity among veteran and military families to determine best practices in response, as well as for military leaders and policymakers in determining necessary support. The second phase of the initiative will be to respond based on what the findings are from the research. MFAN seeks to utilize a portion of the proposed funding to create a program or partnership where participants experiencing food insecurity can obtain urgently needed resources stigma-free. Based on the findings and outcomes of the research, this could include partnering with a local grocer and / or food service provider to provide a pre-approved list of food items to help stock the pantries that military families struggling with food insecurity in Texas would

access. Based on the findings and outcomes of the research, this could also include partnering with the Independent School Districts (ISD) in and around Bexar County to bolster the free and reduced lunch programs that military families receive. The stigma associated with military family food insecurity will be reduced as food resource providers learn how to reach these community members in new and innovative ways.

**Evaluation Plan:**

Data-informed determinations of what elements military families attribute as causes for the lack of sufficient food and nutrition are necessary to provide a model for support providers to most effectively meet the needs of those they serve. Ultimately, a decrease in demand from a food pantry should be an indicator of positive impact. Success will be defined as knowing the causal factors and understanding the reasons military families don't have enough food.

**Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:**

MFAN has developed the Military Family Food Insecurity Coalition. This coalition brings together stakeholders in the food care space with military family service organizations. This collaborative effort will ensure that information and resources make it into the hands of those who seek additional support. Success will also be defined by adoption of the results and outcomes by military leadership; local, state, and federal policymakers; food care providers; and military and veteran support organizations as a guidance system for eradicating military and veteran family hunger. Through this coalition and the Texas Advisory Council, MFAN will continue to connect with Texas-based resources and provide localized advice, support, and community-based solutions.

**Children Impacted:**

<b>How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?</b>	<b>How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?</b>
24,381	24,381

**Please provide the percentage of each group below that will be served by the project in which funds are being requested. Do not leave any area blank. If that specific group will not be served, include zero. The percentage should total 100%.**

<b>A. Population Served Age</b>		<b>B. Population Served Ethnicity</b>	
Infants (0-5)	36%	African American	17%
Children (6-13)	34%	Asian American	3%
Young Adults (14-18)	30%	Caucasian	61%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	Hispanic/Latino	16%
		Native American	3%
		Other and Define	0%
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:**

District1, District2, District3, District4, District5, District6, District7, District8, District9, District10, Outside San Antonio

**Counties applicant is in:**

Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina, Wilson

**Line item Budget:**

<b>Line Item Description</b>	<b>Total Project Funds Allocation</b>	<b>Najim Funds Allocation</b>
Research re: Root Causes of Military Family Food Insecurity	\$377,718	\$50,000

Urgent Response re: Military Family Food Insecurity	\$91,308	\$25,000
Total Other Direct Costs	\$231,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$700,026</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

## **OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES**

**For Project being Requested: Funding sources and amounts, pending and committed.**

### **PROJECT - PENDING**

<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
Najim Foundation	\$75,000
H-E-B	\$100,000
Moody Foundation	\$250,000
Kendra Scott	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$445,000</b>

### **PROJECT - COMMITTED**

<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
Hunt Military Homes	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

**Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.**

### **ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING**

<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
Humana Military	\$5,000
Wells Fargo	\$60,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>

### **ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED**

<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
Anschutz Foundation	\$25,000
Association of Military Banks of America	\$10,000
Bank of America	\$10,000
Cerner	\$100,000
Deloitte	\$25,000
FINRA Foundation	\$25,000
USAA	\$22,500
USAA Foundation	\$50,000
Wounded Warrior Project	\$50,000
Amazon Smile	\$126
Individual Donors	\$10,026
Network for Good	\$3,463
Small Business Administration	\$62,493
YourCause LLC	\$240

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$393,848</b>
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?**  
57%

**If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?**  
MFAN has a "give - in time or treasure - or get" policy. We do this to maintain board diversity because the ability to give varies.

**How are board members expected to participate in your organization?**  
Board members are to approve donations over a certain threshold, set executive director's compensation, and attend MFAN events. Board members are also asked to "give or get" \$5,000 annually.

**LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

<b>Name &amp; Office Held</b>	<b>Corporate Affiliation</b>
Jack Benson	Partner, Reingold
Rory Brosius, Vice-Chair	Military Families Advisor, Biden Foundation
Joseph Kopser	Special Advisor for Military Leadership & Strategy Policy, The University of Texas at Austin
Kevin Miller	Partner, Reingold
Tammy Moore	Advisor to President & CEO, American Red Cross
Erin Ward	Chief Operating Officer, Military Spouse Corporate Career Network / Operations Manager, Corporate America Supports You
Rosemary Williams	Specialist Executive, Deloitte Consulting

**Signature**  
Shanna Smith