



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

National Chapter Grant Program

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Table of Contents

Program Overview	1
Purpose of the Chapter Grant	1
Eligibility Criteria	1
Grant Budget	2
Application Process	2
Reporting Requirements	2
Conclusion	3
Chapter Grant Summary & Sample Application Form	Appendix

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. National Chapter Grant Program

Program Overview

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. (BSMA) aims to provide financial assistance to its subordinate chapters operating across the country. This grant supports the overall mission of the organization, which focuses on:

- ★ Active duty, Guard and Reserve military assistance
- ★ Veteran assistance and recognition
- ★ Support for members and Gold Star Mothers affected by loss due to military engagement, conflicts, or war.

This program is to be overseen and administered by the National BSMA Finance Committee.

Purpose of the Chapter Grant

The grant's purpose is twofold:

1. Empower newly chartered chapters to begin operations by lessening the burden of start up expenses, and
2. Assist existing chapters with financial resources to implement initiatives that align with the BSMA mission.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the grant, a chapter must meet one of the following conditions:

- **Newly Formed/Chartered:** The chapter must have been established within the current fiscal year or the fiscal year immediately preceding the year of application, and hold an active charter status.
- **Existing:** The chapter must be an active chapter in good standing, must not have received a grant under this program from BSMA within the current or previous fiscal year, and must have complied with the Reporting Requirements for any Chapter Grant received in earlier years.

Grant Budget

Each grant to be awarded will be in the amount of \$250.

The overall grant budget will be determined annually as part of the National BSMA comprehensive budget planning/approval process. The available fund allocation for each fiscal year will be communicated to the chapters within 30 days of the conclusion of each annual national convention.

Application Process

1. Application Submission:
 - Eligible chapters must submit the Chapter Grant Application form to the Chairwoman of the Finance Committee (FC).
 - The application should indicate the status of the applying chapter: New or Existing
 - The application should include a detailed description of the proposed use of funds, alignment with the BSMA mission, and a time-line for the use of grant funds, if received.
2. FC Review:
 - The Finance Committee will review each application for alignment with the BSMA's mission and the outlined objectives.
 - The review process will consider the proposed use of funds, its potential impact, and feasibility of the project.
3. Approval Process:
 - Following the review, the FC will present the qualified applications to the National Executive Board (NEB) for approval.
 - The NEB will make final decisions based on the recommendations of the FC.
4. Grant Disbursement:
 - Approved grants will be disbursed to the recipient chapters only when they have fulfilled all annual compliance requirements and are confirmed to be in good standing.
 - Compliance requirements are specified in the BSMA Financial policies and Compliance Guide.

Reporting Requirements

(For Existing Chapters only - Newly Chartered chapters are exempt.)

Following the utilization of grant funds, recipient chapters are required to:

1. Document submission:
 - Submit a short report detailing the use of funds, including qualitative and quantitative impact assessments.

- Provide photos showcasing the funded activity/event or initiative that highlights the BSMA mission.
2. Report Deadline:
- The report and accompanying photos must be submitted within 60 days following the completion of the funded project or initiative.

Conclusion

This grant program serves as a vital tool to empower newly established chapters and subsidize existing chapters, enabling them to better serve active military personnel, veterans, and those affected by the realities of military engagement. By adhering to the outlined guidelines, chapters can effectively utilize these resources to foster community support and advance the mission of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

APPENDIX



Chapter Grant Program Summary

(Annual maximum set by Approved Budget)



- Eligibility:** New and Existing chapters.
- Amount:** \$250 grant.
- Purpose:** Assist in offsetting chapter start-up expenses, or upcoming program/event or operational expenses.
- Frequency:** May apply/receive a grant only once every two fiscal years.
- Requirements:**
- 1) Complete and submit Grant Application Form to Finance Committee (via FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us).
 - 2) If awarded, provide a report and pictures documenting the use of the grant funds (for other than start-up expenses.) **NOTE: Use of grant funds must match the purpose described in the application.**



APPLICATION FOR BSMA CHAPTER GRANT PROGRAM

Chapter Name, State and Number _____

Chapter Address _____

Chapter President _____

Chapter President Phone Number _____

Chapter President Email _____

Check One: New Chapter Existing Chapter

REASON FOR GRANT – Please be specific – i.e. chapter start-up, coats for veterans.

This application is to be submitted to the Chairman of the Finance Committee for approval.

FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us

Upon approval, a check will be forwarded to the address listed above.

Other than chapter start-up grant, please furnish a picture and short report to the Finance Chairman at FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us **upon completion of your grant project.**

For Finance Committee Use Only:

Approval Date: _____

Date Check Sent: _____

Date Pictures Received: _____