



For Immediate Release

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Help for Coast Guard families impacted by baby formula shortage
Coast Guard Mutual Assistance launches new grant program

Arlington, VA – The [nationwide shortage of baby formula](#) has left parents scrambling to find formula to feed their babies. Military families are not immune to the problem. In fact, the shortage places an additional financial burden on junior enlisted members who often already operate household budgets with slim margins, sometimes including support from the SNAP or WIC benefits. For many Coast Guard members, their remote duty station locations present an additional hurdle to accessing formula.

In response to these challenges **Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA)** quickly established a temporary program to reimburse personnel who need to ship baby formula from other parts of the country. Now through November 30, 2022, CGMA will reimburse clients up to \$750 for any costs of the shipment of baby formula, whether from a retail purchase or a family or friend contact.

Active Duty member Commander Emily Reuter expressed her gratitude for the program:

“I wanted to send my thanks for this timely and important program. As an active duty mother of two little ones, I have both nursed and used formula. My youngest is 9 months and finding formula is hard, even in the San Francisco Bay Area. I was actually at a point a couple of weeks ago where I was going to take a day of leave to search for formula, but my mom found some where she lives and shipped it. I’m an O5, so I can imagine that if finding formula is stressful for me in a metropolitan area, it is even more so for junior members in remote locations. Thank you for providing help across the spectrum of feeding options and thus supporting and respecting parents who serve.”

“We are grateful to know that we can make a difference for the parents who are serving,” said Rear Admiral (Ret) Cari B. Thomas, CGMA CEO. “We are very focused on being agile and able to shift focus based on what the Coast Guard women and men and their families need. From providing \$3.5 million in pandemic grants for educating kids at home, to tripling our PCS/Housing related support last year, to delivering nearly \$2 million in assistance after Hurricane IDA and so much more --Coast Guard members can count on CGMA as a key pillar in their support network.”

To apply for the Formula Shipment Grant, members should [contact their local CGMA representative](#). Donations can be made at www.cgmahq.org/give.

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About Coast Guard Mutual Assistance

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) is a 501(c)(3), headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. Serving as the official aid society for the United States Coast Guard, CGMA provides essential financial aid to the entire Coast Guard community through interest-free loans, grants, and financial counseling. Since its inception in 1924, CGMA has provided over \$221 million in direct assistance. Its work is performed by collateral duty Coast Guardsmen at 168 local Coast Guard units. For more information: visit www.cgmahq.org, or find CGMA on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CGMutualAssist) @CGMutualAssist

KEY PHOTO:

CGMA Baby Formula Shipment Grant Graphic

