

Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is BNA?

A: Beginning January 2023, the BNA is a monthly allowance for active duty Sailors with dependents whose gross household income from the previous calendar year falls below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines for their household size and duty station location for same year.

Q: How do I know if I qualify for BNA?

A: All Sailors will be screened monthly by MNCC to determine potential eligibility. If found to be potentially eligible, Sailors will be notified by their chain of command and may apply for BNA. Final determination of eligibility is made by MNCC.

Q: I see the coversheet on the N130C page, but where is the actual application?

A: The coversheet can be used as the application if all the data is filled and submitted. As long as your application contains all the information outlined in the application cover sheet, there is no official form.

Q: Why can't I receive BNA until I am complete with initial entry training (IET)?

A: DoDI 1341.15 specifies that Service members must be complete with IET to be eligible for BNA. IET is complete upon arrival at your first Permanent Duty Station (PDS) after you depart your final training location, regardless of the scheduled duration of the training locations.

Q: Can I apply for BNA even though my command has not been informed by MNCC that I screened as potentially eligible and/or I have not been officially notified by my chain of command?

A: Yes, anyone can apply for BNA. However, applications cannot be properly completed (or adjudicated by MNCC) without publication of the federal poverty guidelines for the current calendar year.

Q: If I am receiving BNA and gain a dependent, how do I ensure my BNA payment considers my new household size?

A: Sailors are responsible for ensuring that DEERS is up to date as well as their record of emergency data and dependency application (RED/DA) in NSIPS. If a dependent is not listed in DEERS, the dependent is not considered a dependent for purposes of BNA.

Q: If I am certified as eligible for BNA, when do I get paid?

A: Sailors will be paid monthly that are certified by MNCC-422. The start period for payments is the date of certification by MNCC-422.

Q: Why is my BNA payment considered taxable income?

A: It was determined by the Office of the Secretary of Defense that BNA is taxable income in line with statute (26 U.S.C. 61)

Q: What types of income are excluded when calculating gross household income?

A: The glossary of Department of Defense Instruction 1341.15 – Basic Needs Allowance, defines gross household income (GHI) and specifies all the *exceptions* that are not included in GHI.

Q: If I am certified for BNA and my spouse loses her job, why does my BNA payment not increase?

A: BNA payments are calculated based on current year FPG and the member's previous year GHI. A decrease in current income won't increase current BNA payment amount.

Q: MNCC has not sent the BNA eligibility list for my command via eCRM, where can I find the list for my command?

A: MNCC completes monthly screenings and all potentially eligible Sailors and their TRIAD are notified via email. Sailors who believe they are potentially eligible, per para 7 of the NAVADMIN, can be notified by the command via page 13 and submit an application whether or not they were screened by MNCC. Please review the BNA section of our website that provides the application template and additional information.