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 falls below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines for their household size and duty station location.

Q: How do I know if I qualify for BNA?
A: All Sailors will be screened quarterly 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-422.

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: 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. 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.