

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Military Family Relief Assistance Program Annual Report for FY 2016



Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Brigadier General Anthony J. Carrelli
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS
(MFRAP)

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TAB 1

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Military Family Relief Assistance Program is to receive donations and provide financial assistance to eligible service members and eligible relatives of eligible service members when they demonstrate a direct and immediate need for financial assistance related to military service.

THE PROGRAM:

The Military Family Relief Assistance Program (MFRAP) was established in 2005 as one of Governor Rendell's 'Support our Soldiers' initiatives. Its purpose is to provide financial assistance in the form of a grant to eligible Pennsylvania Service Members or their eligible Family members during a time of hardship arising out of active duty service. Since its inception, MFRAP has awarded over \$774,000.00 in grants to those who have experienced sudden and unexpected critical needs. The program has helped Service Members and their Families in a variety of situations ranging from a simple unexpected cost of child care to helping restore the livelihood of a Family during a time of crisis while on active duty service.

The program is a state-level program funded exclusively through the generous donations of public-spirited Pennsylvanians. Through this effort, over \$1,770,000.00 has been raised through a tax-checkoff from tax refunds and privately written checks. Every penny received from donations is utilized to support grants. Grants are awarded up to \$3,500.00.

The outreach efforts are aimed to reach a wide target audience through different venues. Information is presented at every Pre-Deployment Briefing to raise awareness with the Families of the availability of the resource. Additionally, brochures and information are presented at conferences, Family Program meetings, Family Assistance Centers and via Military-oriented Internet portals.

MFRAP was established by Act 65 of 2005, which Governor Ed Rendell signed into law in 2005. This legislation added a new provision to the Pennsylvania Military and Veterans Code, 51 Pa.C.S. § 7319 (related to military family relief assistance). MFRAP was extended by Act 48 of 2009 (tax check-off), Act 9 of 2010, and Act 6 of 2014, which took effect August 18, 2014.

MFRAP is funded by voluntary donations, most of which come from Pennsylvania Personal Income Tax refund check-offs. Direct donations to the program are also accepted.

MFRAP is authorized by Section 7319 of the Military and Veterans Code (51 Pa. C.S. 7319). The Program is administered under guidelines published by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 40 Pa.B.2825 (May 29, 2010).

MFRAP has proven to be a valuable resource to Pennsylvania Service Members and is just one of the many ways we continue to support our Military Families while serving the missions of the Commonwealth and that of the United States.