

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

## Military Family Relief Assistance Program Annual Report for FY 2013-2014



Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Major General Wesley E. Craig  
The Adjutant General

July 2014



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DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS  
(MFRAP)

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July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

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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 \$503,000.00 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 \$1,480,000.00 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 takes 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.

**TAB 2**

## MFRAP CONTRIBUTION TRACKING

PERSONAL/CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2005	\$30,746.58
PERSONAL/CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2006	\$25,541.10
PERSONAL/CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2007	\$16,568.50
PERSONAL/CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2008	\$9,443.00
PERSONAL/CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2009	\$3,935.00
PERSONAL/CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2010	\$6,464.08
PERSONAL/CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2011	\$3,228.50
PERSONAL/CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2012	\$4,099.41
PERSONAL/CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2013	\$4,335.89
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL/CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$104,362.06</b>
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2005	\$307.00
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2006	\$2,944.00
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2007	\$24.00
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2008	\$391.00
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2009	\$1.00
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2010	\$21.00
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2011	\$40.00
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2012	\$0.00
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2013	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL CASH CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$3,728.00</b>
TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2005	\$31,060.58
TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2006	\$29,135.25
TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2007	\$16,890.76
TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2008	\$9,864.00
TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2009	\$3,964.25
TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2010	\$6,519.61
TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2011	\$3,278.50
TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2012	\$4,124.41
TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2013	\$6,135.89
<b>TOTAL - PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$110,973.25</b>

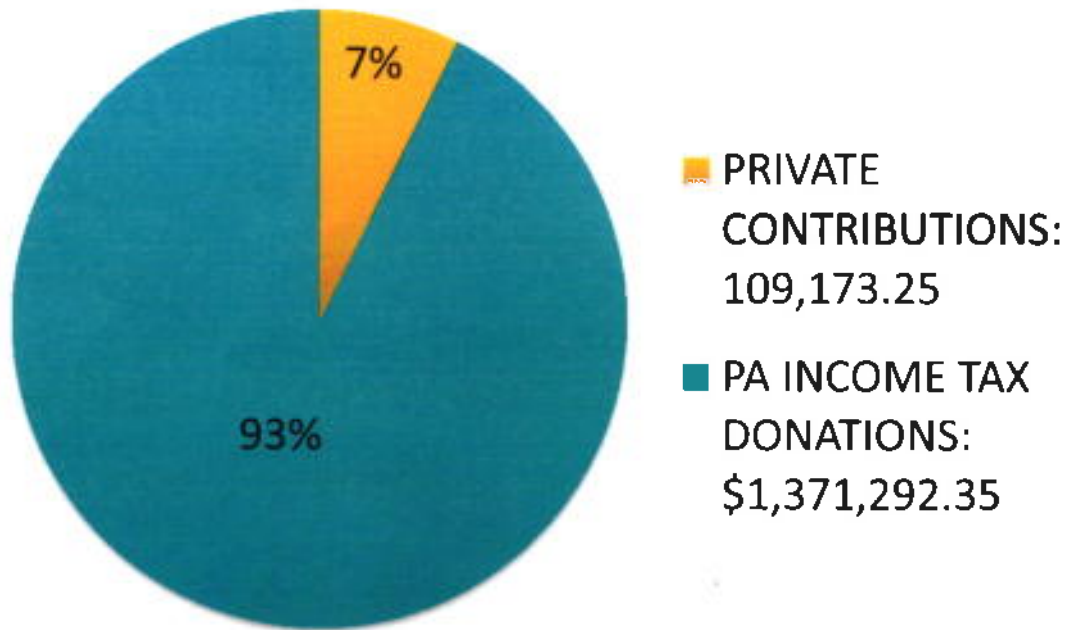
INCOME TAX CHECK-OFF PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS	
DEPT OF REVENUE – PIT DONATIONS RECEIVED FY 2005	\$116,478.57
DEPT OF REVENUE – PIT DONATIONS RECEIVED FY 2006	\$155,480.89
DEPT OF REVENUE – PIT DONATIONS RECEIVED FY 2007	\$141,610.37
DEPT OF REVENUE – PIT DONATIONS RECEIVED FY 2008	\$211,051.83
DEPT OF REVENUE – PIT DONATIONS RECEIVED FY 2009	\$182,574.30
DEPT OF REVENUE – PIT DONATIONS RECEIVED FY 2010	\$168,488.17
DEPT OF REVENUE – PIT DONATIONS RECEIVED FY 2011	\$152,504.54
DEPT OF REVENUE – PIT DONATIONS RECEIVED FY 2012	\$138,259.94
DEPT OF REVENUE – PIT DONATIONS RECEIVED FY 2013	\$104,843.74
<b>TOTAL INCOME TAX DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$1,371,292.35</b>

COMBINED – PERSONAL AND INCOME TAX CONTRIBUTIONS:	
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2005	\$147,539.15
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2006	\$184,616.14
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2007	\$158,501.13
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2008	\$220,915.83
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2009	\$186,538.55
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2010	\$175,007.78
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2011	\$155,783.04
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2012	\$142,384.35
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2013	\$109,179.63
<b>TOTAL COMBINED CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$1,480,465.60</b>

APPROVED GRANT AWARDS	
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS FY 2005	<b>\$756.00</b>
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS FY 2006	\$28,900.00
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS FY 2007	\$43,130.00
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS FY 2008	\$32,942.78
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS FY 2009	\$11,350.00
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS FY 2010	\$52,444.65
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS FY 2011	\$67,665.23
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS FY 2012	\$103,571.71
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS FY 2013	\$163,482.40
<b>TOTAL APPROVED GRANT APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>\$504,242.77</b>

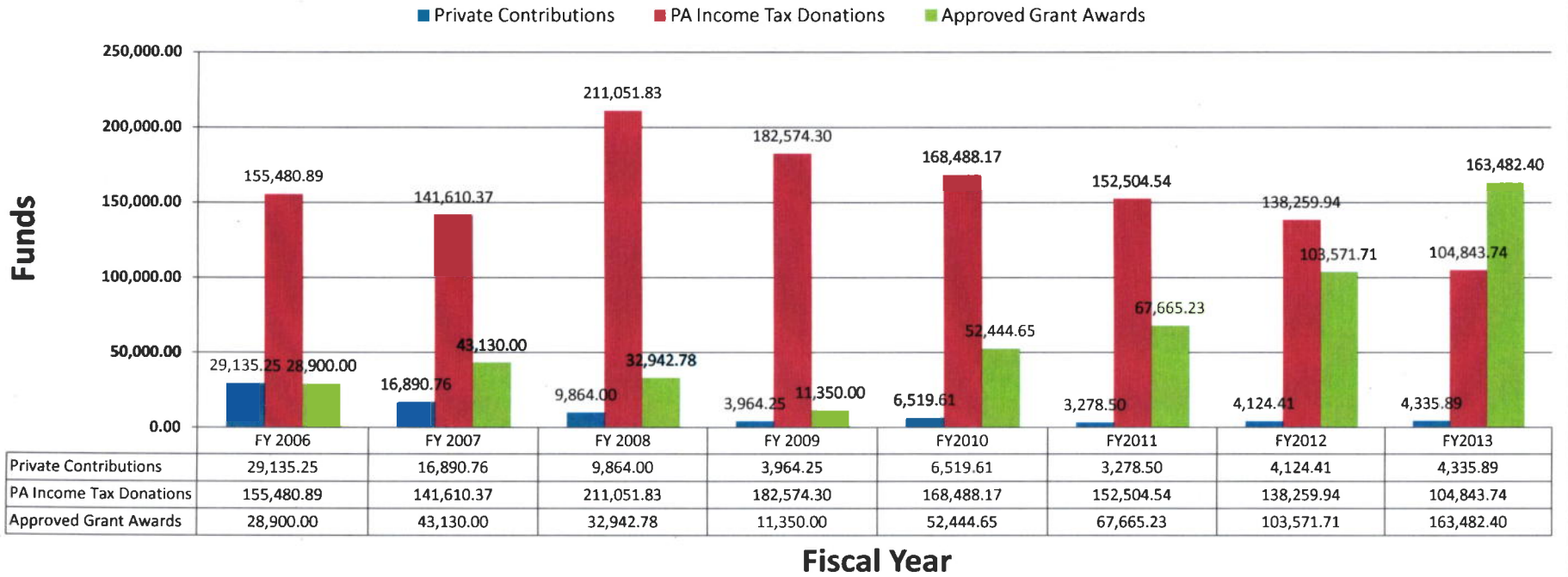
OVERALL INFORMATION	
ACCOUNT TOTALS FOR FY 2005	\$146,783.15
ACCOUNT TOTALS FOR FY 2006	\$155,716.14
ACCOUNT TOTALS FOR FY 2007	\$115,371.13
ACCOUNT TOTALS FOR FY 2008	\$187,973.05
ACCOUNT TOTALS FOR FY 2009	\$175,188.55
ACCOUNT TOTALS FOR FY 2010	\$122,563.13
ACCOUNT TOTALS FOR FY 2011	\$88,117.81
ACCOUNT TOTALS FOR FY 2012	\$38,812.64
ACCOUNT TOTALS FOR FY 2013	\$54,302.77
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE</b>	<b>\$976,222.83</b>

## CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE





### TRACKING BY FISCAL YEAR



TAB 3

## APPLICATION ACTIVITY

### APPROVED:

1. 3 July 2013: Applicant was in an active duty (ADOS) position, and then became injured and was given a temporary profile. The applicant had to file for unemployment compensation, which started the family's financial hardship. The applicant was soon given a permanent profile, and waited 6 months to be placed back on active duty orders for medical evaluation & determination. The applicant should have been removed from active duty orders for an injury sustained while on orders. The applicant was unable to apply for any positions while in the Medical Evaluation Board process. Assistance was needed to pay overdue bills and household necessities. Grant awarded \$3,100.00.
2. 19 July 2013: Applicant and family lost their home and all of their belongings due to a fire; it was a complete loss. The family did not have insurance and needed to replace everything and find a new place to live. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
3. 19 July 2013: Applicant had just separated from a very difficult relationship and was left with nothing but a vehicle and a few personal items. Applicant was temporarily staying with co-workers and needed assistance to find an apartment, set up utilities, and pay for food and necessities. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
4. 24 July 2013: Applicant was medically discharged with disabilities from a deployment. The family had fallen behind on their bills since the applicant's discharge from the military. The applicant has a spouse and 3 children to support. The family needed assistance until the spouse could find employment and the family could get back on their feet financially. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
5. 30 July 2013: Applicant was medically retired with a spouse and 2 children. The applicant's father passed away and the applicant could not afford to fly or drive to the funeral services, which were more than 1,900 miles away. Assistance was requested for travel expenses for the family to attend funeral services and assist the applicant's mother during this difficult time. Grant awarded \$2,220.00.
6. 16 September 2013: Applicant is a single parent, had been unemployed, and had difficulty locating a full time job since returning home from a deployment. Already having financial problems, the applicant then had to help pay for a family member's funeral expenses and this caused more financial hardship. The applicant was going to be evicted in a few days unless overdue rent was paid immediately. Assistance was needed to avoid eviction, and for necessities for the child. Grant awarded \$2,000.00.
7. 25 September 2013: Applicant had injuries from a deployment, and after the deployment could not return to work due to those injuries. The applicant's temporary LOD ended on July 8, and the applicant was unaware of this until August 28. It took NGB 99 days to approve the final LOD. Since the family had no other source of income during that period, the household bills fell behind. The family asked for assistance to get back on their feet financially. Grant awarded \$3,200.00.

8. 15 October 2013: Applicant was injured while deployed and then sent to a Warrior Transition Unit. The applicant was unable to work until after getting surgery and then weeks of therapy. The applicant's spouse is also unable to work; they have 2 young children at home and 1 of them is a special-needs child. The roof of their home was badly damaged and unsafe, and needed immediate repairs. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
9. 21 October 2013: Applicant is the spouse of a deployed soldier. During the deployment the spouse had to leave her job because she was not earning enough to cover the amount childcare would cost for 3 children. The roof on their home was leaking and the family's vehicle also needed repairs. The applicant did not have the funds for these unexpected expenses. Grant awarded \$1,550.00.
10. 25 October 2013: Applicant had been on long-term ADOS orders and then had to take an unexpected break in orders, which resulted in a significant loss of income. This caused a financial burden on the family. The applicant then had to take a reduction in pay after switching to a new position to prevent this from happening in the future. The unexpected loss of income further aggravated the family's already distressed financial situation. The family needed temporary assistance until they could adjust to the loss of income and to avoid problems from delinquent mortgage payments. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
11. 15 November 2013: Applicant returned home from a deployment to find out that his spouse wanted to end the marriage, had emptied their bank account, and refused to allow the applicant to return to the home. The applicant needed assistance to find an apartment, and for security deposit and first month's rent, and to purchase some necessities to establish a new place to live. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
12. 12 November 2013: Applicant was recently medically retired with combat related disability. The family's recent move back to Pennsylvania and major car repairs had caused a financial setback. It would take considerable time before the applicant received benefit checks, and it would also be at least a month before he received a retirement check. They have 4 children to provide for and needed some assistance until they had income again. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
13. 12 November 2013: Applicant is in the Reserves and had been on deployments about 75% of the time since 2008. The applicant had some unexpected expenses and had fallen behind on vehicle payments and the vehicle would soon be repossessed. The applicant was also unable to afford the heating bill for the home, and the heat had been shut off. The applicant had just found full time work but needed assistance with these items until a regular paycheck was coming in. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
14. 14 November 2013: Applicant was discharged and not yet receiving V.A. benefits for injuries. The family currently had no income at all and the applicant and the spouse were both trying to locate employment. The applicant was struggling with household bills and needed assistance until they could get back on their feet financially. Grant awarded \$2,208.00.

15. 25 November 2013: Applicant was injured during a deployment and has a spouse and 4 children to support. Unable to work right now, the applicant is 3 months delinquent on rent and utilities. It will be quite some time until V.A. benefits begin. Assistance was needed for rent, food, utilities, and necessities for the family. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
16. 26 November 2013: Applicant was unable to locate employment after returning from deployment. The family has been delinquent on household bills for some time, and has not had electricity in their home for over 3 months. The applicant and the spouse are both seeking employment but need help to get electric service back into their home and catch up on other delinquent bills. Grant awarded \$2,595.00.
17. 13 December 2013: Applicant has been struggling financially since returning from a deployment in September. The applicant's spouse had handled all the finances during the deployment and was unable to manage a budget, resulting in delinquency of all of their household bills, to include their mortgage. Both the applicant and the spouse have just started working, but need some help to get caught up on the delinquent bills until they get back on track financially. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
18. 3 December 2013: Applicant was medically retired, and had surgery in April. Unable to work for almost 4 months, the family had a financial setback and they cannot get caught up on rent, utilities and other monthly bills that had fallen behind. Grant awarded \$3,058.00.
19. 4 December 2013: Applicant returned from deployment and then became very ill and unable to work for a period of time. The earnings from the deployment had enabled the applicant to pay off the family's previous debts, but with a spouse and 3 young children to provide for, they were unable to save any of the earnings. They have fallen behind on their rent, electric bill and other household bills. The couple is expecting their 4<sup>th</sup> child and will have more expenses for that. They are looking for a more affordable place to live but need help now to catch up financially. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
20. 11 December 2013: Applicant had been deployed, and after returning from deployment, found out that his spouse wanted to end the marriage immediately and would not allow the applicant to return to the home. The spouse had also taken control over the family's finances during the deployment, so the applicant was left with nothing. The applicant's vehicle needs repairs so he can find employment and a new place to live so he can get control of his finances again. Grant awarded \$1,922.00.
21. 17 December 2013: Applicant's wife was pregnant during the applicant's deployment and developed serious medical issues which caused her to be unable to return to work for 9 weeks. In addition to this setback, the furnace in their home broke down and required major repairs. The family fell behind on mortgage payments and household bills and needed help to get back on track financially. Grant awarded \$3,500.00.
22. 17 December 2013: Applicant had been on ADOS orders was then deployed. Due to the government shutdown the applicant could not return to the ADOS position and could not find full time employment. The family was then forced to move out of their apartment because they could no longer afford it. They stayed with a friend temporarily until the