



# **ASSISTANCE GUIDE** **FOR COMMANDERS,** **FIRST SERGEANTS,** **AND SUPERVISORS**

February 2023

Incorporated in 1942, Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) is an official charity for the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force. AFAS works to support and enhance the United States Air Force and the United States Space Force missions by providing emergency financial assistance, educational support, and community programs to Airmen, Guardians, and their families.

In 2022, AFAS provided **\$12.5 million in direct support** to **17,000** Air Force and Space Force families. For every \$1 donated, Air Force Aid Society dedicates \$3 to help Airmen, Guardians, and their families.

[WWW.AFAS.ORG](http://WWW.AFAS.ORG)



# HELPING YOUR AIRMEN & GUARDIANS

As a Commander, First Sergeant or Supervisor in the U.S. Air Force or U.S. Space Force, responsibility for assuring the well-being of the Airmen and Guardians at your base installation rests squarely on your shoulders. In this leadership position, we want you to understand how the Air Force Aid Society can be a powerful ally in assisting you help your Airmen and Guardians cope with personal emergencies, as well as daily active duty life.

This Assistance Guide is designed to provide a general overview and highlight AFAS assistance available to your Airmen and Guardians.

If you find you need more information, your installation's AFAS Officer will be happy to refer to their AFAS Operations Guide. As always, HQ AFAS is here to support if you have questions or need answers. You can reach our Emergency Assistance Casework Team directly at (703)972-2604.

Gen Hap Arnold founded the Society on the belief that no one soars to victory or achievement alone – all Airmen and Guardians are connected and must support each other as a family. We want you to know that AFAS is part of that extended family and we are here to help you and your Airmen and Guardians.

**Kaleth O. Wright**

18th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (Ret)

Chief Executive Officer

Air Force Aid Society

**WHENEVER, WHEREVER AND HOWEVER NECESSARY  
AIRMEN AND GUARDIANS WILL TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Background</b> .....	5
<b>Air ForceAid Society’sRelationshipWith USAF andUSSF</b> .....	6
<b>The AFAS Support Chain: AdministrativeResponsibilities</b> .....	7
<b>Summary of EmergencyAssistance Guidelines</b> .....	8
<b>Financial Assistance</b> .....	9
Eligibility	
Basic Operating Principles	
Typical Requests For Financial Assistance Covered By Society Policies	
– Basic Living Expenses	
– Medical Care	
– Dental Care	
– Funeral Expenses	
– Respite Care	
– Special Needs (EFMP)	
– Vehicle Repairs	
– Assistance With TravelEmergencies	
– Pay/Allotment Problems	
– Pet PCS Transportation	
– Pet Emergency Surgery/Emergency Treatment	
– Dorm Relocation	
– Medically Retired/Separated by PEB	
– Child Care	
– Disasters	
– Assistance ToSurvivingDependents	
<b>How To Apply For EmergencyAssistance</b> .....	18
<b>Falcon Loans—Streamlined Emergency Assistance</b> .....	19
<b>Typical Examples ofWhen AFAS Cannot Help</b> .....	20
<b>Community and EducationAssistance Programs</b> .....	21
Community Programs	
– Bundles For Babies	
– Give Parents A Break	
– Child Care For PCS	
– Car Care Because We Care	
– Spouse Employment	
Education Assistance Programs	
<b>How You Can Help</b> .....	25

## BACKGROUND

**The Air Force Aid Society (AFAS)** is a private organization, but we are known as the “official charity” of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force. The Society promotes the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force missions by helping to relieve financial distress of Air Force and Space Force families, as well as helping them achieve their education goals. The Society’s mission is rooted in the original Army Air Corps and the World War II Army Air Forces, whose members wanted to “take care of their own.”

Incorporated in 1942, AFAS has helped countless members of the Air Force and Space Force community. Strong support for AFAS programs and objectives is reinforced each year by the substantial personal contributions made by the Total Force through the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign. These contributions are used solely for support of Airmen, Guardians, and their families.



# AIR FORCE AID SOCIETY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH USAF

---

The Air Force Aid Society maintains a small Headquarters Office in the Washington, D.C. area, but the great majority of our assistance work is executed on a decentralized basis by the active Air Force through your Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC). The Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services issues the Air Force Instruction, which establishes requirements for the operation and administration of AFAS assistance. (AFI36-3111)

AFAS is governed by a Board of Trustees, which includes key Air and Space Force leaders and distinguished civilians. The Board provides oversight and policy direction for AFAS operations and for control and disposition of AFAS property and funds.

Board members include active duty representation by the:

- ★ Secretary of the Air Force
- ★ Chief of Staff of the Air Force
- ★ Chief of SpaceForce
- ★ DCS Manpower, Personnel and Services
- ★ The Judge Advocate General
- ★ Surgeon General
- ★ Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Budget)
- ★ Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force
- ★ Chief Master Sergeant of SpaceForce

**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM,  
AIR FORCE OFFICIALS ARE  
INVOLVED IN AFAS ACTIVITIES.**



At Headquarters USAF, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel and Services (A1) helps shape AFAS policy, produces the AFI covering AFAS, and directs AFPC and Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC) officials to provide support for AFAS programs.

Your role in this process is critical! Commanders, First Sergeants, Supervisors, A&FRC personnel, and Personal Financial Readiness (PFR) Counselors--all combine to provide responsive assistance to help our Airmen and Guardians.

# THE AFASUPPORT CHAIN: ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

---

The AFAS support chain at a base installation consists of the Command Authority, the AFAS Staff Advisor, and the AFAS Officer. (AFI36-3111)

## **COMMAND AUTHORITY - Installation Commander**

- ★ Furnishes facilities and assigns qualified personnel to perform AFAS duties. Periodically evaluates the quality, responsiveness, and credibility of assistance being given.
- ★ Ensures that staff conducts an effective publicity program to keep base personnel aware of available AFAS services.
- ★ Ensures AFAS is available on a 24-hour basis for emergencies.

## **AFAS STAFF ADVISOR - Airman & Family Readiness Center Chief**

- ★ Supervises the AFAS section.
- ★ Approves assistance requests (IAW dollar limits).
- ★ Reviews case files to ensure compliance with AFAS policies.

## **AFAS OFFICER (AFASO)**

- ★ Administers AFAS assistance IAW AFAS Operations Guide and any supplemental instructions.
- ★ Helps the Installation Project Officer during the annual Air Force Assistance Fund (AFAF) drive.

## **UNIT COMMANDERS, FIRST SERGEANTS, AND SUPERVISORS**

- ★ We value your input – your insight is important to thoughtful decision making.
- ★ While Airmen/Guardians are not required to involve their leadership when seeking assistance, AFAS may request your help in making a judgement on the need for assistance - particularly if the case is unusual or requires an exception to policy.

# SUMMARY OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

---

AFAS guidelines for giving Emergency Assistance, to include approval limits, are meant to keep assistance consistent and fair among AF and SF base installations worldwide, yet allow flexibility in covering a broad range of unique situations. AFAS Headquarters will respond quickly when a section needs a higher level of approval or otherwise seeks guidance and advice.





# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

---

The intent of financial assistance is to stabilize an emergency situation. It is not intended to be a long-term remedy when spending continues to exceed a budget. Emergency assistance may be provided as a **no-interest loan or grant**. Our standard assistance usually involves gaining an understanding of the problem to include a review of the sources of debt and the family budget. The resulting support is a no-interest loan, a grant, or a combination of the two. We also provide an expedited no-interest loan known as the “Falcon Loan”. The Falcon Loan offers a streamlined process requiring minimal paperwork and is very targeted. Our experience is the Falcon Loan has become a key method of solving a problem before it gets bigger.

## ELIGIBILITY

- ★ Air Force and Space Force members and their dependents.
- ★ Guard and Reserve Air Force and Space Force members (regardless of duty status) and their dependents
- ★ Retired Air Force and Space Force members receiving retirement pay and their dependents.
- ★ Dependent spouses and dependent-aged children of deceased Air Force and Space Force personnel (who died on active duty or in retired status).
- ★ **Falcon Loan:** Available on Air Force and some reserve bases with an Airman & Family Readiness Center to:
  - Active duty Air Force and Space Force personnel (including spouse with POA)
  - Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members on active duty

## BASIC OPERATING PRINCIPLES

In a regulated world, we would like to describe every situation and the policy that should be applied. Of course, that is impossible, so the need for common sense and good judgement is always paramount.

- ★ **Timely response to personal emergencies is the AFAS best practice standard.** There will be certain time sensitive situations or circumstances such as the death of a family member when the completion of the budget may be waived by the caseworker. Also, streamlined procedures are authorized when applying for our Falcon Loan (see Page 19).
- ★ There will always be situations that defy policy. AFAS will entertain exceptions to policy when warranted and may request your input.
- ★ Emergency assistance requires an assessment of the emergency situation in order to arrive at a decision to provide an interest-free loan, a grant, or combination of both.
- ★ AFAS maintains an open-door policy that encourages individuals to apply for assistance when they feel an emergency situation exists, but keeps the commander informed when a personal problem surfaces that might affect the performance of duty.
- ★ The Society does not use contributed dollars to assist members with “wants” and “desires” - needs are first priority.
- ★ The Society’s intent, when faced with uncertainty or conflicting information, is to be fair and equitable to meet the necessary emergency need(s). The Society is not a continuous income supplement for those unable to live within their means.
- ★ AFAS wants to be a part of the solution but does not typically reimburse debt already paid nor assist in advance without cause.
- ★ **Remember, while base AFAS representatives can approve assistance at base level following AFAS guidelines, all disapprovals must be done by HQ AFAS caseworkers.**

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IS NOT APPROPRIATE:

- ★ If it merely postpones a long-term inability to live within current income. Financial counseling and a revised budget, coupled with a loan or grant, may be the best solution and typically requires command participation.
- ★ For continuing long-term assistance commitments.
- ★ To replace funds lost due to garnishment, fines, tax liens, etc. or to pay credit card debts.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MAY BE GIVEN AS A NO-INTEREST LOAN, A GRANT, OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH:

- ★ When AFAS assistance is provided in the form of no-interest loans, repayment of these loans helps to ensure funds are available for Airmen and Guardians with future financial needs.
- ★ Grant assistance should be fair and equitable.



## TYPICAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE COVERED BY SOCIETY POLICIES

AFAS policies are reviewed continuously to ensure they are current. The following are areas typically covered by policy:

### Basic Living Expenses

Short-term costs related to necessities of everyday living. The goal is to avoid privation, for example:

- ★ Rent.
- ★ Utilities (electric, phone, heat/gas, water, sewer).
- ★ Food – When an Airman/Guardian is unable to purchase food, the Society helps with food as a grant.

**Assistance is not on-going.**

### Medical Care

Most requests for AFAS assistance are for cost-share and co-payments after TRICARE has paid. AFAS may also assist with incidental expenses not covered by TRICARE such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices, and orthopedic shoes.

Medical expenses and special therapeutic, educational, communication and transportation equipment may be provided for a special needs family member.

### Dental Care

Assistance may be provided when the member does not have sufficient funds to cover dependent dental care payments required in advance or patient's share of charges not covered by dental insurance.

- ★ For emergency or essential care, not purely cosmetic treatment.
- ★ AFAS can help with required orthodontics care. Assistance is normally considered for the down payment and the member can work out a payment plan with the dentist.
- ★ Dental assistance is not authorized for dependents of members who dis-enroll from the government provided insurance program unless approved by HQ AFAS.

## Funeral Expenses

Most members receive FSGLI (surviving widows(ers) receive SGLI) when a spouse, dependent child, or the member dies.

- ★ AFAS provides assistance when needed in the form of a “bridge loan” to cover necessary funeral costs until FSGLI pays.
- ★ AFAS assists when the funeral home requires funds up front and will not provide services until receipt of a “good faith” payment.
- ★ Special effort to minimize personal hardship and help you step in with timely assistance when needed most.
- ★ Often requires you to get actively involved with funeral arrangements, to include requesting the assistance when the member/widow(er) is unable to do so.
- ★ AFAS goal is MINIMUM red tape.
- ★ Requests for funeral assistance of a non-dependent parent or family member are considered on a case-by-case basis. AFAS normally does not pay for funerals of brother and sisters, or other extended family members. However, unique situations should be discussed with a caseworker at HQ AFAS.

## Respite Care – “The Gift of Time”

- ★ The Respite Care Program provides a “break” of a few hours a week or month to eligible Air Force and Space Force members who have the responsibility of 24 hour-a-day care for an ill or disabled family member enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP).
- ★ Families are referred to AFAS through the EFMP office or Family Advocacy.
- ★ Once referred, assistance is given in the form of a grant based upon financial need.
- ★ AFAS respite care is not offered at installations where the USAF respite care is available.

## Vehicle Repairs

- ★ AFAS objective is to help you ensure that members have suitable essential transportation.
- ★ Assistance may be given to repair a vehicle that is essential for everyday functioning of an individual or family (commuting to work, shopping, medical appointments and household errands).
- ★ Assistance must be approved prior to having the vehicle repaired.

## Assistance with Travel Emergencies

- ★ Assistance may be provided for expenses related to travel on a personal emergency.
  - Active duty Airmen or Guardians on emergency leave who also require emergency financial assistance to travel due to death or serious illness of an immediate family member, will be provided needed assistance as a grant. AFAS should not grant funds whenever a member is placed on emergency leave unless it is for purposes when AFAS assists for emergency travel either "due to death or serious illness or IAW AFAS policies"
  - **AFI 36-3003 defines the circumstance and family relations that must be met before unit leadership may place Airman/Guardian on emergency leave.**
  - **Guard and Reserve members who are not on active duty (not on emergency leave) and require emergency financial assistance applies. Assistance may be provided with airfare or costs to use personal POV to the emergency location.**
- ★ Active duty member stranded on either emergency or ordinary leave may be helped to return to duty station. Accidents or breakdowns while traveling to a new duty station may occur. We can help whether you are the losing or gaining commander. Remind your Airmen and Guardians that the American Red Cross - Service to the Armed Forces and other service relief agencies will represent AFAS when an Air Force base isn't nearby. (AFAS reimburses all other agencies that make disbursements).
- ★ Although government allowances usually cover PCS moves, young families may experience unexpected out of pocket costs that AFAS may be able to help with.
- ★ Because emotions run high and definitions of personal emergencies vary, don't hesitate to seek clarification on available AFAS assistance.

## Pay/Allotment Problems

- ★ Even the best of pay systems can turn unfriendly, perhaps with a move or the start/stop of allotments.
  - ★ AFAS will help overcome a short-term pay crisis. At some point, you may be asked to verify the situation.
  - ★ Help is provided based on essential need rather than replacing the reduction of normal income.
- 

## Disasters

- ★ American Red Cross has primary responsibility for relief of community emergencies caused by widespread disasters. AFAS will also be responsive to emergency assistance needs in a disaster situation.
  - ★ In cases of a solitary disaster (e.g. home fire), AFAS will assist with immediate emergency needs for living essentials to include temporary lodging.
  - ★ AFAS cannot take the place of homeowner's or renter's insurance.
  - ★ AFAS will not automatically replace losses.
  - ★ Each case is assessed individually and immediate needs are addressed.
- 

## Assistance to Surviving Dependents

- ★ AFAS provides emergency assistance to surviving spouses and dependent minor orphans at the time of, or shortly after, the death of an Air Force or Space Force member.
- ★ The objective is to relieve the surviving dependent of immediate financial distress, normally for short-term basic living expenses.

## Special Needs (EFMP)

Families with special needs members may be faced with frequent medical care needs resulting in added and unexpected costs. Dealing with these financial burdens can make an already difficult situation even more challenging. AFAS provides financial help when the family has medical or other needs not fully covered or not covered by their health insurance plan.

- ★ Whether the need is for special therapeutic, educational equipment, communication, transportation equipment, or fees for specialized camps, clubs, sporting leagues, assistance may be provided for a special needs family member
- ★ AFAS assistance should be approved prior to purchase of special equipment or need.
- ★ Families with a “Q” Code personnel records designation are assisted in the form of a grant with up to \$3,000 per special needs family member over a five-year period.

## Dorm Relocation

Some young members residing in the installation dormitories are not prepared to move out, especially when it is involuntary. The unexpected move from the dorm may cause a need for financial assistance to get into a rental property.

- ★ Unit First Sergeant may refer members for a \$500 grant to off-set costs of utility start up, moving supplies, partial rent, security deposit or other unforeseen costs associated with the move. First Sergeant completes a signed certificate attesting to need which member presents prior to the move.
- ★ Members who must vacate the dorm due to marriage or rank restrictions, or have already moved, are not authorized to request this type of assistance, but can apply through the AFAS emergency assistance process.



## Short Notice Medically Retiring or Medically Separating

There are members who never thought they would be faced with receiving a short-notice Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) determination to be medically retired (TDRL or PDRL) or separated from the Air Force or Space Force. Members may not be financially prepared due to the unexpected decision by the PEB to retire/separate and require assistance possibly for first month's rent, security deposit, utility deposits, etc. If there is an emergent need, members may apply for assistance prior to out processing.

## Pet (Dog/Cat) PCS Transportation

A military pet may be considered no different than a military family member. When duty calls and you must relocate, pet PCS transportation can become costly.

- ★ Assistance is available to help with the cost to transport family dog/cat when PCS assignment order is to/from an OCONUS location.
- ★ Required shots, carriers, boarding or other than transportation cost will be the responsibility of pet owner.

## Pet (Dog/Cat) Emergency Surgery/Treatment

While regular preventive care improves overall wellness and reduces the risk of additional health problems, no pet is immune to emergencies. Surprise illnesses, injuries, and accidents can happen at any time and owners may not be financially prepared for the unexpected emergency surgery or emergency treatment.

- ★ Ideally, pet owners should plan for these expenses by setting aside an appropriate sum in emergency veterinary funds or enroll in a pet insurance plan that provides medical coverage for pets.
- ★ If enrolled in a pet insurance plan but can not financially afford the deductible, AFAS can help.
- ★ Understanding there is no time to wait when immediate surgery/treatment is confirmed by a Veterinarian, assistance can be considered immediately after the medical care with doctor's memo explaining the urgency.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

---

1

The assistance process begins with an application. It can be done “online” (go to [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org) and click on “How We Help” at the top of the page, then under Emergency Assistance, click on the blue box “Apply for Assistance Now”) or by contacting an Air Force Aid Society section at the Airman & Family Readiness Center.

---

2

If the member cannot go online and is not near an Air Force Aid Society section, they may visit another Service Relief Agency (Army Emergency Relief, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, or Coast Guard Mutual Assistance) or call the American Red Cross-Service to the Armed Forces **TOLLFREE number (877) 272-7337**.

---

3

Many cases can be processed at base level; however, it is not unusual to require HQ AFAS coordination/approval.

---

4

As a Commander or First Sergeant, you may be asked for input regarding assistance requests.

# FALCON LOANS— STREAMLINED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

**Meet emergency needs of \$1000 or less for the following purposes\*:**

- Basic living expenses – rent/mortgage, food, phone, utilities and gasoline.
- Vehicle expenses – repair, insurance, payment/registration but not vehicle purchase or down payment on vehicle.
- Emergency Travel (for any family relationship).
- Medical and dental expenses
- Child Care expenses.

**Allow Air Force & Space Force members to receive emergency financial assistance in a more streamlined process.**

- The “process” is streamlined but it does not necessarily mean “no questions asked.”

**Available on Air Force & Space Force bases with an Airman & Family Readiness Center to:**

- Active duty Air Force personnel (including spouse with POA).
- Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members performing duty at the base.

**Repaid within 12 months (or by ETS if less than 12 months)**

\* NOTE: If the need exceeds the maximum for a Falcon Loan, or the member currently has a loan balance, or the need is for purposes other than those stated above, assistance should be requested using the standard emergency assistance application rather than the Falcon Loan streamlined process.

## TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF WHEN AFAS CANNOT HELP

---

Funds of the Society are not available as a matter of convenience. For instance, assistance is not given:

- ★ To pay for non-essentials, purchases normally made from disposable income.
- ★ To provide basic needs on a continuing basis.
- ★ To finance business ventures, home purchases, or investments.
- ★ To finance vacations or activities on normal annual leave.
- ★ To pay GTC\* or credit card debt including AAFES Military STARcard.
- ★ To cover bad checks, provide bail, pay fines, or replace funds taken by military garnishment.
- ★ To pay taxes and legal expenses.
- ★ To make charitable contributions.
- ★ To fund non-TRICARE approved medical procedures such as abortions.

\* NOTE: As an exception, HQ AFAS caseworkers may approve assistance with a BRIDGE LOAN when official travel expenses are charged to a GTC but payment has not been made by DFAS due to reasons beyond an Airman's control.

# COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

---

In addition to meeting the emergency assistance needs of the Air Force Community, AFAS funds several other major assistance programs dedicated to improving quality of life and helping Air Force families meet their education goals.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

These community programs are available at most Air Force base installations (limited to those bases that have the infrastructure to support the program) and are open to eligible Air Force members to include Air Guard and Reserve personnel activated under Title 10 USC for more than 15 days.

---



### BUNDLES FOR BABIES

- ★ New parents are invited to attend a class at the Airman & Family Readiness Center, which covers topics such as: budgeting for baby, infant care, Shaken Baby Syndrome, car seat safety, etc.
- ★ Parents who attend are given an AFAS zippered pouch containing a gift card to the Exchange (AAFES).
- ★ This program is extremely popular because of the gift card to help purchase some of the baby essentials and important information parents might not otherwise receive.
- ★ These classes provide an opportunity for new friendships and exchange of information.



## GIVE PARENTS A BREAK PROGRAM

- ★ Recognizing Air Force families are subject to unique stresses due to the nature of military life, AFAS has a special program to give parents an occasional break.
  - ★ At participating bases, AFAS pays 4 hours of Child Development Center costs for this monthly program.
  - ★ This is not simply free childcare, but rather an opportunity for commanders, first sergeants, and other base officials to provide help for families who need it.
- 



## CHILD CARE FOR PCS

- ★ Because moving can be an emotional as well as financial strain on our Air Force families, AFAS has developed a program that provides free childcare to families with PCS orders.
  - ★ Families are given a certificate for up to 20 hours per child of on-base childcare both at the base they are leaving and at which they are arriving (to be used within 60 days).
  - ★ AF members with retirement orders (to include TDRL orders) may be issued a Child Care for PCS certificate for 20 hours of child care at the base they are departing, for use at that base only.
  - ★ This gives parents a little help while they are packing/unpacking, attending briefings, etc. Our goal is to alleviate some of the stressors of moving.
-

## **CAR CARE BECAUSE WE CARE** **Program will be ending 31 Dec. 2021**



- ★ AFAS developed this program to provide a free oil change to spouses of Air Force service members who are deployed 30 days or more or who are assigned to a one-year remote tour. The goal of this program is two-fold. First, minimize the stress on both the spouse and service member during a deployment. Second, introduce the spouse to the Airman & Family Readiness Center and its programs and valuable resources that the family may not have known were available.
  - ★ First term Airmen (E-4 and below) at their first duty station may be eligible for this program by meeting one-on-one with a PFR counselor.
- 

## **SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**



- ★ This program is available at selected bases and provides entry-level employment training (i.e. word processing, administrative support) to spouses of active duty Air Force members.
- ★ The goal is to assist spouses in securing immediate employment thereby improving financial stability.
- ★ Training is normally short term (4-6 weeks), taught on base, and in partnership with a local community college.

## GENERAL HENRY H. ARNOLD EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

The General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant program is the centerpiece of AFAS education support. The application process for the Arnold Education Grant serves as the platform for other key education support opportunities at the Society. The Arnold Education Grant is competitive in its needs-based selection criteria and is uniquely tailored to recognize the proper weighing of family income and education costs. Grants ranging from \$500 to \$4,000 are awarded to eligible Air Force and Space Force dependents each year. The specific amount awarded correlates to a student's particular level of financial need. A unique feature to this program – each grant awarded carries the name of an individual or organization exemplifying service to the USAF/USSF, and that biographical information is sent to each grant recipient.

### Grant Eligibility Requirements

- ★ Dependent child of active duty, Title 10 Guard/Reserve on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired or deceased Air Force member.
- ★ Spouse of active duty Air Force/Space Force member or Title 10 Guard/Reserve on extended active duty.
- ★ Surviving spouse of active duty or retired Air Force/Space Force member.
- ★ Enrolled in a post-secondary institution as an undergraduate student, Freshman – Senior.
- ★ Enrolled as a full-time student.
- ★ Minimum GPA of a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Grant application is available on the AFAS website at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org) starting in January and running through April of each year.

**MERIT SCHOLARSHIP** – Incoming freshman with top GPAs as verified through the Arnold Education Grant application will be contacted directly by AFAS in June to compete for these \$5,000 merit-based scholarships. A minimum of 10 scholarships are awarded annually.



**SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN PROGRAM**– AFAS provides the loan applications in August to eligible applicants identified through the Arnold Education Grant Program, regardless of whether they have sufficient financial need to receive the Arnold Grant. Sponsoring members may request up to \$1,000 per eligible student to reimburse out-of-pocket education expenses. Repayment is by allotment over a 10-month period.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ★ Know your local AFAS section representatives and be willing to run interference for your Airmen/Guardians who need expedient help.
- ★ Know who provides Personal Financial Readiness (PFR) at your base and be familiar with the services available to you and your members.
- ★ Look for opportunities to publicize the existence of AFAS and its programs.
  - Reminders at Commander’s Call
  - Print and social media
  - Guest articles in base newspaper or website telling success stories of how AFAS helped your Airmen and Guardians
  - Display information flyers in work areas
- ★ Continue to provide practical routine counseling on local “debt traps” and the importance of sound personal money management...to include a word of caution on how the misuse of credit and wasteful use of advance pay can be the start of big money problems.
- ★ Make sure there is after-hours AFAS support that meets the needs of your personnel in emergencies.
- ★ Fully support the Air Force Assistance Fund (AFAF) project officer every year to ensure every Airman/Guardian in your unit is approached about contributing.

# NAMES & PHONE NUMBERS OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE AGENTS

We encourage you to personalize this directory with the appropriate contacts at your Base Installation.

	Phone Number
<b>AFAS Staff Advisor</b>	
<b>AFAS Officer</b>	
<b>A&amp;FRC Community Resource Consultant (CRC)</b>	
<b>A&amp;FRC CRC</b>	
<b>A&amp;FRC CRC</b>	
<b>Primary PFR Counselor</b>	
<b>Installation A&amp;FRC front desk/ main line</b>	
<b>Other Phone Number</b>	
<b>American Red Cross – Service to the Armed Forces</b>	<b>TOLL FREE (877) 272-7337</b>