USAMEDCOM
Virtual Family Readiness Training Summit
28 OCT 2026

AER → The Who, Why, What, & How
AER CEO & 16th SMA (R) Tony Grinston

FEB 2026. 1:35. Emergency Travel Story: https://youtu.be/-r6Clz9nwU4

JUN 2026. 2:17. AER Overarching Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSpS43FGunY

JUN 2026. 3:21. Babski Family "Medical Equip Needs" Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RY1GyCiq4zo

AER Board of Directors & Committee Composition –

as of 22 OCT 2026

Active-Duty Board Directors / Ex-Officio – 12 of 13 (14)

TBC
Honorary Board Chair
Secretary of the Army

GEN Christopher LaNeve
Vice Chief of Staff,
U.S. Army

SMA Michael Weimer
17th Sergeant Major
of the U.S. Army

LTG Charles Lombardo
Deputy Chief of Staff,
G-1

LTG James M. Smith
CG, USA Installation
Management CMD

LTG Gregory J. Brady
Inspector General,
U.S. Army

LTG Jeth Rey
Deputy Chief of Staff,
G-6

LTG Edmond Brown
Acting DCG &
Chief of Staff,
U.S. Army T2COM

MG Lancs A. Okamura
DCG,
USARPAC

MG Chris Norrie
Acting CG
USAEUR-Africa

CSM Nema Mobarakzadeh
Command Sergeant Major,
U.S. Army Western
Hemisphere Command

COL Michelle Williams
CDR, USA Financial
Management CMD

Kimberly Weimer
Spouse, 17th
Sergeant Major of
the U.S. Army

TBC
TBC, Spouse, Chief
of Staff of the Army

Pending Election
To Be Elected – NOV 2026, Senior Leader Office of the Chief Army Reserve

Elected Board Directors – 7 of 7 (8)

GEN Gary Brito
Board Chair
U.S. Army Retired

SMA Michael Grinston
CEO
U.S. Army Retired

LTG Karen Dyson
Chair, Nominating &
Governance Committee
U.S. Army Retired

Mr. Ben Rodgers
Chair, Finance & Audit
Committee

LTG John B. Morrison
Chair, IT & Operations
Committee
U.S. Army Retired

Mr. Todd Browne
Member

Mr. Brendan Dignan
Member

Pending Election
To Be Elected – NOV 2026, USAA Corporate Leader

Executive Committee

Chair

Nominating & Governance Committee

Chair

Committee Ex-Officio Member

Finance & Audit Committee

Chair

Committee Ex-Officio Member

IT & Operations Committee

Chair

Committee Ex-Officio Member

AER – Who we Are

as of 19 OCT 2026

AER HQ Team Composition Details.

13 – Retired US Army professionals
25 – Civilian sector professionals
(*# includes only FTEs)

38 – FTE Specialists Across:

- ✓Business Operations
- ✓Development
- ✓Marketing & Communications
- ✓Financial Assistance Operations
- ✓Scholarship Program
- ✓Loan Management Operations
- ✓Accounting
- ✓Information & Technology

2 – Other Team Members:

- ✓1x Part-Time – Financial Assistance
- ✓2x TEMPs – IT & Accounting
- ✓1x Volunteer – Accounting & ARMS

Our daily starting point!

AER Core Values "AER CARES"

Accessibility – Our singular focus is to help Soldiers and Families, whenever and however a need may arise.

Excellence – We strive to excel to be the No. 1 nonprofit of choice for Soldiers and their Families.

Respect – Treat others with dignity.

Courage – We honor the courage to ask for help, to speak up, to challenge the status-quo and do what is right.

Accountability – We will assist with all that we can while remaining accountable for every dollar.

Resilience – We withstand and recover quickly from difficulties.

Equity-Inclusion – We listen to all and value differences.

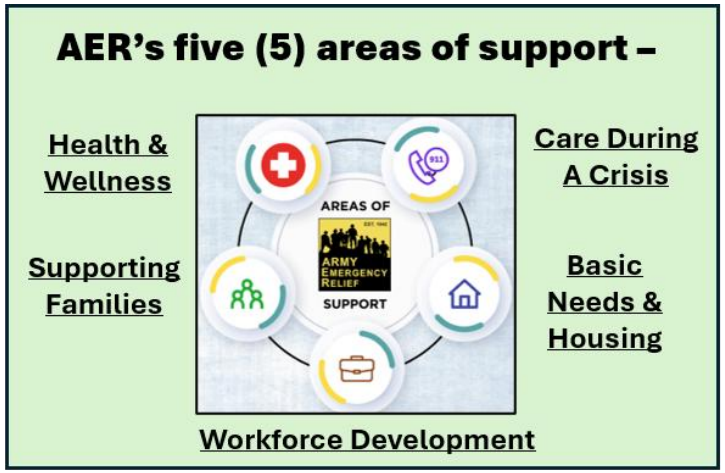
Sustainability – We are committed to the financial stability of AER.

What We Do → Core Strategic Messages.

Purpose. Supporting the well-being of Soldiers, retired Soldiers, and families by helping alleviate financial stress and promoting economic stability.

Mission. To provide financial assistance, scholarships, and enduring support to Soldiers, retired Soldiers, and their families, helping them to overcome obstacles and encourage financial stability.

AER's five (5) areas of support –



Vision. A future where Soldiers and their families thrive with financial security, resilience, and peace of mind, supported by a nonprofit they trust.

Tagline. Empowering Soldiers, Enhancing Lives.

AER – A Resource for Leaders & Commands

AER is a Command Program –

- ❑ "Just know AER is a resource that can help"!
- ❑ Up to $2,000 approved by Company Commanders & First Sergeants - with the Quick Assist Program (QAP) (*We are enhancing this application – will release in late 2026).
- ❑ Up to $4,000 approved by AER officers at each installation.
- ❑ Up to $5,000 approved by garrison command team.

*Your installation determines how the funds are distributed as well as leads the civilian AER officers located within Army Community Service at your installation.

** Updated AR 930-4 (Army Emergency Relief) effective 15 APR 2026.

☆Empowering Soldiers AER Enhancing Lives☆

AER Financial Assistance Programs

– as of JUN 2025

Areas of Financial Support.

1. **Basic Needs & Housing.** Provides financial support to assist in maintaining stable housing and basic essential living needs.
2. **Care During a Crisis.** Ensures immediate access to financial support during critical and stressful life events generally associated with natural disasters.
3. **Health & Wellness.** Provides financial support for expenses that are essential to maintaining health and wellness.
4. **Supporting Families.** Ensures immediate access to financial support for unique situations that impact family resilience and well-being.
5. **Workforce Development.** Provides financial support for a variety of workforce development needs to enhance career opportunities, employability and professional growth.

AER Financial Support Program Applications

– Summary AER Pamphlet 930-5 (Application Types & Document Requirements) – 24 JUN 2026

Basic Needs & Housing

Basic Needs, Housing & Family Support

Available online & in person

- ❑ Food Assistance
- ❑ Fuel – Public Transportation
- ❑ Housing Expenses
- ❑ Utilities
- ❑ Insurance
- ❑ Vehicle Assistance & Maintenance
- ❑ Furniture & Appliances
- ❑ Home Repairs
- ❑ Immigration Fees
- ❑ Child Care Assistance

Career Skills and Spouse Recertification

Available online only

- ❑ Skill Support for Active-Duty
  - Local
  - CONUS
  - OCONUS
- ❑ Spouse Relicense
- ❑ Spouse Recertification

Care During A Crisis

Emergency Travel Expenses

Available online & in person

- ❑ Family Death or Serious Illness Expenses
- ❑ Airfare
- ❑ Rental Car / Public Transportation
- ❑ Fuel
- ❑ Lodging
- ❑ Meals & Incidentals
- ❑ Funeral Expenses when ICW

Domestic Violence

Available in person only

- ❑ Safe Travel Expenses
  - Airfare
  - Lodging
  - Rental Car
  - Fuel
  - Public Transportation
  - Meal & Incidentals

Health & Wellness

Disaster Relief

Available online & in person

- ❑ Home Fire/Flood
- ❑ **Evacuation & Preparedness**
- ❑ **Immediate Response Phase**
- ❑ **Recovery –**
  - Basic Needs
  - Health & Safety
  - Minor Home Repairs
  - Home Insurance deductible
  - Equipment for Cleanup
  - Vehicle repairs
  - Vehicle Insurance deductible

Government Shutdown Relief Loan

Available online only

- ❑ 100% loan program
- ❑ Building financial knowledge
- ❑ Goal – provide Mid- or EOM- net pay
- ❑ Immediate pay-back

Supporting Families

Health & Wellness

Available online & in person

- ❑ Catastrophic Medical Expenses
- ❑ Essential Medical Procedure/ Testing/ Surgery
- ❑ Health Care Co-Pays
- ❑ Health Care Insurance Premium
- ❑ Hearing Aids / Eyeglasses
- ❑ Special Needs & Medical Equipment
- ❑ Prescriptions
- ❑ Hospital Fees (Overseas Only)
- ❑ Wheeled / Walking Aids

USAR Traditional Reservist

Available online only

- ❑ Tailored Basic Needs
- ❑ Up to $1,500
- ❑ Food
- ❑ Utilities
- ❑ Vehicle / Transportation

Workforce Development

PCS Move / Travel Expenses

Available online only

- ❑ Initial Rent/Security Deposit
- ❑ Temporary Lodging
- ❑ DITY move assistance
- ❑ HHG Delays or Losses
- ❑ Essential Furniture
- ❑ Storage Fees
- ❑ Pet Shipment
- ❑ Travel expenses
- ❑ Pet Deposit
- ❑ Meals & Incidentals

Command Loan Program (CLP)

Return of the QAP Loan

Available online only

- ❑ 100% loan program → building financial knowledge
- ❑ Company Commander & First Sergeant resource / tool
- ❑ Like #1, Basic Needs, Housing, & Family Support

USAR Tailored Financial Relief PILOT

Current → Future Eligibility

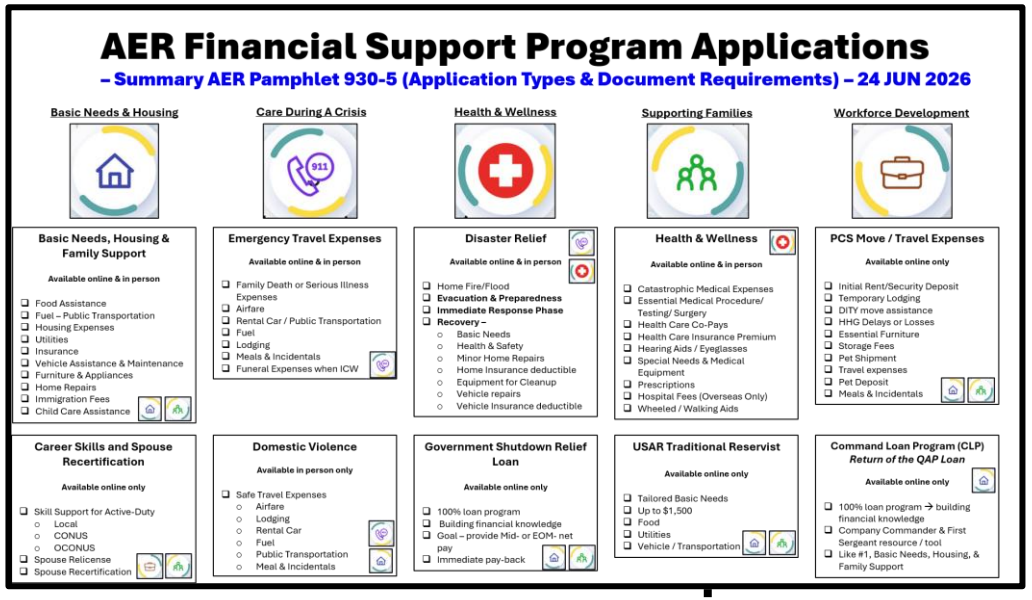
AER Future End State GOAL. Total Force Support – AER supports all Soldiers – regardless of their duty status or component.

Current Eligibility –

- ❑ Soldiers currently **serving on Active Duty,** along with their eligible family members.
- ❑ Soldiers who have **retired from Active Duty after serving 20 or more years** and their eligible family members.
- ❑ **Retired Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who are receiving retirement pay from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service** (DFAS), along with their eligible Family members.
- ❑ **Soldiers who are Medically retired** and their eligible family members.
- ❑ Surviving **Spouses and Children of Soldiers who died while on Active Duty**.
- ❑ Members of the **Army National Guard or Army Reserve who are on continuous Active Duty under Title 10 of the U.S. Code for more than 30 consecutive days**, and their eligible Family members.

March 2026 Eligibility –

- ❑ U.S. Army Reserve TPU and IMA Soldiers on any type of order for less than 30 consecutive days.
- ❑ U.S. Army Reserve TPU and IMA Soldiers performing Inactive Duty Training (IDT).



+ "tailored expansion

Grant - $1500 CAP

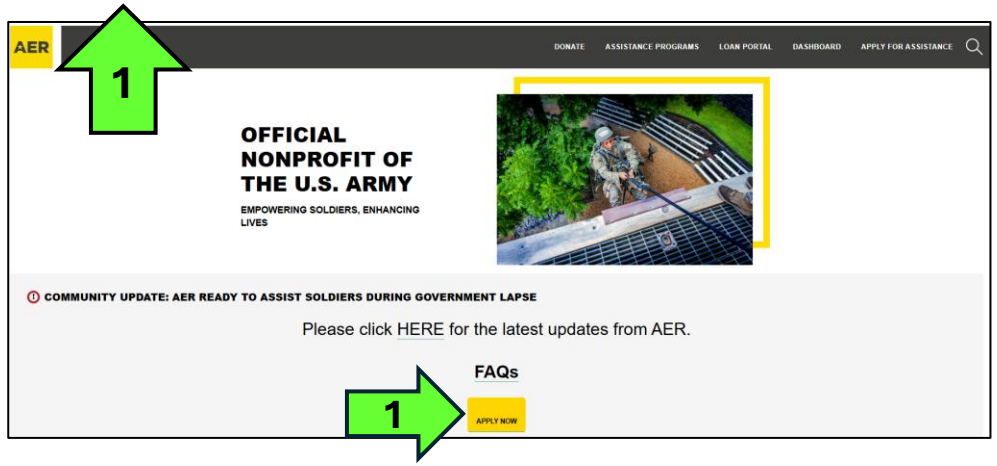
- ❑ **Food**
- ❑ **Utilities**
- ❑ **Vehicle Assistance**

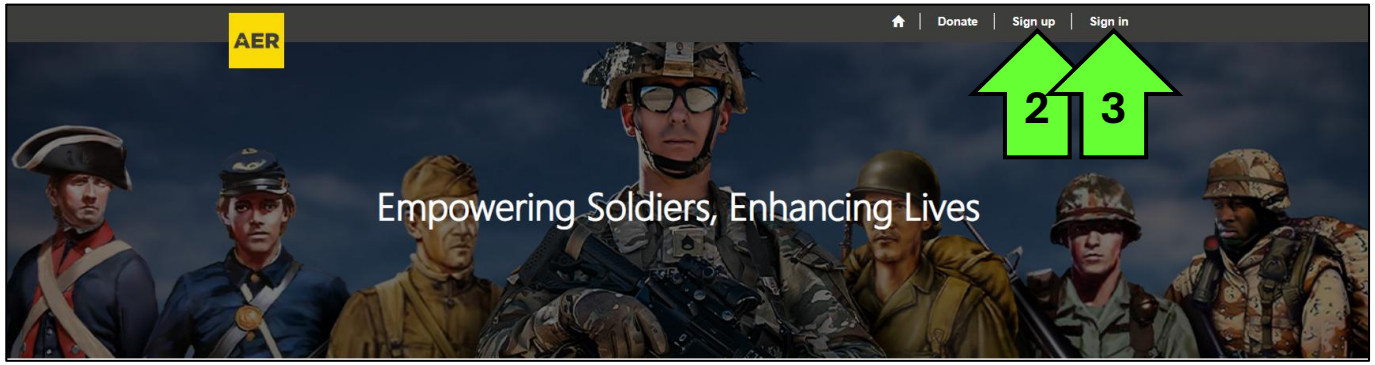
☆**Empowering Soldiers** AER **Enhancing Lives**☆

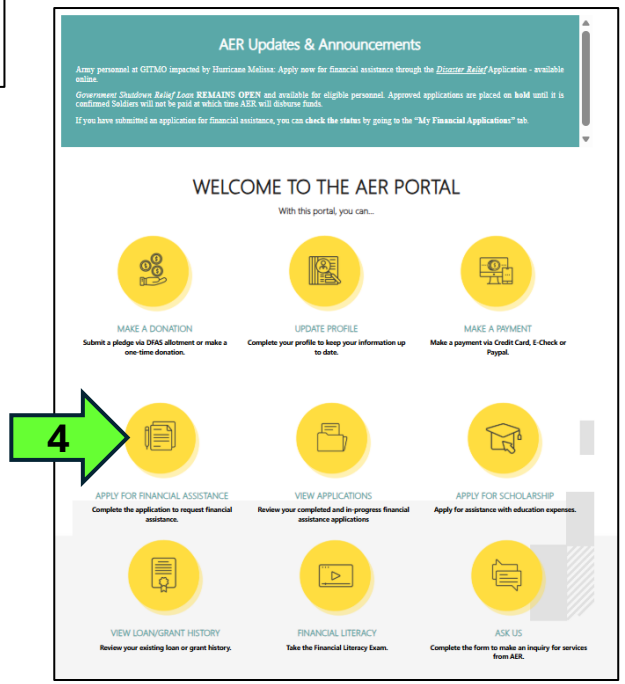
How to Request Assistance - Be "AER Ready"

"2 Clicks to being – AER Ready"!

https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/







How –

- ❑ **Step 1. Go to AER Website** https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org
- ❑ **Click 1.** On the AER homepage, **click** on the APPLY NOW button center of the page.
- ❑ **Click 2.** On the AER Portal Page, **click** on **Sign up & create your Portal Account** – it will take you approximately 15 minutes.
- ❑ **YOU ARE NOW AER READY!**
- ❑ **Click 3.** If a "What If" situation happens to you, **click** on **Sign in**.
- ❑ **Click 4. Click** on **Apply For Financial Assistance**.

Online Portal & Application. Implemented 17 March 2025 and is being continuously improved –

- ❑ AER's overarching theme overall and specifically for disaster preparedness is **"Be AER Ready."**
- ❑ By encouraging Soldiers and Families to plan and be **"Be AER Ready"**, AER can quickly address their financial needs and assist the military community in returning to normalcy and recovering faster.

What does "Be AER Ready" mean? –

- ❑ **Know your financial status** and set aside funds for those unanticipated requirements and emergencies.
- ❑ **Know who AER is and what AER does** – (https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/)
- ❑ **Create your secure AER portal account** through www.armyemergencyrelief.org so you are ready to apply when a financial need arises!

Questions & Discussion

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We are available if you need us:

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AER Marketing & Communications Director. sean.ryan@aerhq.org