

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**MINNESOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD**



OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

VETERANS SERVICE BUILDING

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**

20 WEST 12TH STREET

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-2098

January 28, 2026

The Adjutant General

Sen. Aric Putnam  
3215 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Ginny Klevorn  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Torrey N. Westrom  
2201 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Jay Xiong  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Jim Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Legislative Reference Library  
645 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Matt Bliss  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Annual Report on Support Our Troops (SOT) Account Grants**

1. This annual report is submitted to the chairs, co-chairs, and/or ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over military and veterans' affairs pursuant to Minnesota Statute §190.19, Subdivision 3.
2. The statute authorizes the use of SOT funds for four purposes:
  - (a.) Grants directly to eligible individuals.
  - (b.) Grants to one or more eligible foundations for the purpose of making grants to eligible individuals.
  - (c.) Veterans' services.
  - (d.) Grants to family readiness groups chartered by the Adjutant General.
3. No grants were made in 2025 pursuant to purpose 2.(a.) above.
4. The Adjutant General entered into a no-fee grant agreement with the Minnesota Military Family Foundation (MMFF) in the amount of \$400,000 to administer funds pursuant to purpose 2.(b.) above:
  - (a.) The Minnesota Military Family Foundation provided 86 service member assistance grants in 2025. Of these, 85 met the requirements of the statute and the grant agreement. MMFF provided one private funded donation, not utilizing SOT funds, that did not meet SOT criteria. Individual grants from MMFF may still be awarded to service members but utilizing private organizational funds not associated with the SOT grant.

(b.) The total disbursed for these 86 service member assistance grants was \$480,440.17, but after applying the statutory cap of \$4,000 per service member, \$296,156.48 in Support Our Troops grant funds were distributed. The remainder was paid using funds from private donations to MMFF. The remaining SOT grant funds that were not spent during the grant period, \$103,843.52, were extended to January 31, 2026, by an agreement to extend the grant. Unspent funds will be refunded to the SOT grant program no later than February 28, 2026.

(c.) Each request for assistance was validated by the Minnesota National Guard Soldier and Family Readiness Specialists and was approved by MMFF board action. Requests for support are generally directed to the foundation once local mechanisms have been exhausted.

(d.) Many of the individual requests covered multiple needs. The grants were used for emergency purposes such as:

- Mortgage/Rent (~\$116,000)
- Credit Cards/Loans/Collections (~\$34,000)
- Emergency home appliance repair/replacement (~\$41,000)
- Utilities (~\$13,000)
- Auto loans/repairs (~\$69,000)
- Medical/Dental (~\$13,000)
- Daycare/Child Support (~\$5,000)
- Insurance (~\$4,000)
- and Miscellaneous other validated expenses

(e.) For comparison, MMFF provided the following grants for the past five years:

2024:	96 grants totaling	\$325,557.93
2023:	130 grants totaling	\$449,301.13
2022:	149 grants totaling	\$509,215.98
2021:	76 grants totaling	\$249,283.19
2020:	67 grants totaling	\$211,961.02

5. Pursuant to purpose 2.(c.) above:

(a.) \$67,194.95 was expended for wages, fringe benefits, and miscellaneous costs for two positions. The two positions were licensed alcohol and drug counselors (LDACs) that meet a critical need for service members and their families.

(b.) A grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 was disbursed to Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans to support direct services to veterans.

(c.) A grant in the amount of \$40,000.00 was provided to the Minnesota Military Radio Hour to support the expansion of the network that carries military and veteran specific programming to a statewide audience.

(d.) A grant of \$5,000.00 was made to the Armed Forces Services Center to provide snacks and drinks to traveling service members and dependents at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport.

(e.) A grant of \$10,000.00 was provided to Meals from the Heart to provide Thanksgiving meals kits to service members in need. These meal kits were distributed from numerous armories and Camp Ripley with the support of the National Guard Family Programs team.

6. All grants listed above are subject to a grant closeout and reconciliation process that may increase or reduce the amount expended. Organizations that did not utilize all the SOT grant funds will reimburse the State of Minnesota.

7. Eleven (11) grants of \$1,000.00 each were made to Family Readiness Groups pursuant to purpose 2.(d.) above.

8. The point of contact for this report is the Executive Director of the Department of Military Affairs, Scott Rohweder at [scott.j.rohweder.nfg@army.mil](mailto:scott.j.rohweder.nfg@army.mil) or (651) 268-8913.

Sincerely,

Scott J. Rohweder  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Department of Military Affairs