



# CRITICAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

When service members are actively serving and have legal dependents or become wounded, ill or injured, they deserve the peace of mind that comes with knowing their family won't have to weather an urgent financial crisis alone. They can count on Operation Homefront to help.

Operation Homefront's Critical Financial Assistance program helps military families address critical financial shortfalls. Most often, this means assistance with mortgage payments, rent, utilities, car repairs, home repairs, overdue bills, critical baby items, and groceries. Our process is managed by professional caseworkers who:

- Validate financial needs before support is provided
- Provide assistance in the form of grants, not loans
- Pay directly to service providers, not the family

Those receiving financial assistance with rent and mortgage, utilities, and food are also provided financial education to help break the cycle of recurring crisis and to assist in achieving long-term self-sustainability.



The Plaza Family

For Jeff Plaza, joining the military was the right thing to do and a family tradition since his father, brother and grandfather also served. The Army sent Jeff all over the Middle East including Iraq, and to Bosnia, Germany, Iceland and other countries.

Jeff considers himself lucky to be alive after some close calls, and to have made it home intact. But he has health issues, possibly related to a vehicle rollover and exposure to gas. He had brain surgery before leaving active duty to address internal bleeding.

Knowing firsthand it's no fun to be a patient made it even harder when his then 2-year-old son was diagnosed with cancer. He and his wife live near Sacramento with their three other children.

*"It helped us through a really rough patch. It came at the right time when we couldn't really see a way out."*

"There are a lot of challenges, but we're doing our best," said Jeff, which isn't easy because he also got laid off from his job. He applied to Operation Homefront's Critical Financial Assistance program for help covering expenses. "It helped us through a really rough patch," he said. "It came at the right time when we couldn't really see a way out."

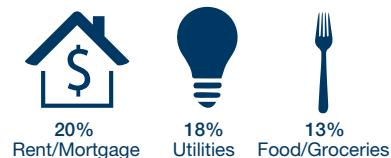
Jeff appreciates that OH uses its money conscientiously. "Thanks for operating in a way that's respected," he said. "Not everyone's doing that."

## AT A GLANCE...

Who is eligible

Actively serving military members in pay grades E1 to E6 with legal dependents or single wounded, ill or injured service members; additionally, any post-9/11 wounded, ill, or injured service member with medical documentation and an honorable discharge within the last 7 years. Home repair assistance is available to any post 9/11 honorably discharged wounded/ill or injured veteran.

Most requested forms of assistance in 2017



Results

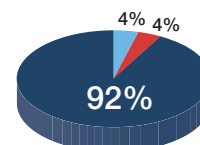
In 2017, we provided 3,023 critical financial assistance grants worth over \$2.3 million to 1,071 families. Since 2011, we have provided more than \$22.5 million in assistance.

## WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Through the generous support of The Home Depot Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project, Walmart Foundation, Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation and other partners and donors, Operation Homefront is able to help deserving military families meet critical financial needs and work toward a more stable financial future. The need continues. Find out how you can help us serve more at [www.operationhomefront.org/need/list](http://www.operationhomefront.org/need/list).

## WHO WE ARE

Operation Homefront builds strong, stable, and secure military families so they can thrive in the communities they have worked so hard to protect.



### Expenses

- Program Services
- Fundraising
- Management and General