

AL AUX 02-15 - COAST GUARD MUTUAL ASSISTANCE UPDATES

06 FEB 2015

1. Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) recently announced a number of new assistance programs and an increase in the dollar amount for its Supplemental Education Grant.
2. CGMA is the Coast Guard's own financial relief organization, offering help to any in the Coast Guard community facing financial need. Last year, Auxiliarists received over \$41,900 in assistance.
3. In addition to direct financial assistance for things like disaster relief, emergency travel, or temporary loss of income, CGMA offers free financial and budget counseling, as well as help with education costs. One of its education assistance programs, the Supplemental Education Grant (SEG), now offers up to \$350 per client per calendar year to reimburse the cost of textbooks and certain other college expenses.
4. Additionally, new assistance programs launched recently include:
 - a. A grant of up to \$1,000 for home study expenses related to the legal adoption of a child, and a loan of up to \$6,000 for general adoption expenses.
 - b. Need-based financial assistance in the form of an interest-free loan of up to \$6,000 to help with the purchase and training of a service animal, such as those used in treatment or therapy for patients with autism, diabetes, epilepsy, PTSD and other conditions.
 - c. Need-based financial assistance in the form of an interest-free loan for emergency pet expenses.
5. A longstanding motto for CGMA has been, "We Look After our Own." Assistance funds come as voluntary donations from people like you who are part of the Coast Guard family. CGMA receives no federal funds. As Admiral Zukunft noted recently, "CGMA works because it allows all of us to pull together...." Without a steady infusion of donated funds, CGMA would be unable to continue performing its vital role within the Coast Guard community.
6. CGMA works when we work together! Soon, a letter will be mailed to each Auxiliary household with an invitation to participate in an annual fundraising campaign. All are encouraged to consider a donation to sustain the work of CGMA.
7. To learn more about the SEG and other assistance available through CGMA, or to make a secure credit card donation, visit CGMA online at www.cgmahq.org or call (800) 881-2462.