

ALAUX 03-16 - 2016 COAST GUARD MUTUAL ASSISTANCE (CGMA) CAMPAIGN

29MAR 2016

1. Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) is the Coast Guard's own financial relief organization, offering help to any in the Coast Guard community facing financial need. Coast Guard Auxiliarists have always been at the vanguard of generosity in helping Coast Guard families through their kindhearted and unselfish donations to CGMA. In 2015, CGMA issued more than 4,400 loans and grants totaling over \$3.4 million to Coast Guard families in need. Auxiliarists received over \$29,000 in assistance.

2. As an independent non-profit organization, CGMA receives no government funds. Financial support comes from the voluntary contributions of the men and women in the Coast Guard community who give generously to help their shipmates. Only with a steady infusion of donated funds can CGMA remain strong and ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

3. In addition to emergency financial aid, CGMA offers help with certain education expenses. Of note:

a. The Supplemental Education Grant (SEG) Program now offers up to \$350 per client per calendar year in order to reimburse the cost of textbooks and certain other college expenses. SEG eligibility was also recently expanded to include graduate students. Eligible clients may request the SEG on behalf of themselves, their spouse or their dependent children under the age of 23.

b. Another CGMA program offers an interest-free loan of up to \$6,000 for general adoption expenses, and a grant of up to \$3,000 to help with the cost of the home study required for most adoptions.

c. Both of these programs are open to Coast Guard Auxiliarists.

4. Soon, a letter will be mailed out to each Auxiliarist with an invitation to participate in the 2016 CGMA fundraising campaign. Please consider donating to sustain the work of CGMA. For more information about the aforementioned and other CGMA assistance programs or to seek CGMA assistance, please call CGMA at (800) 881-2462 or visit www.cgmahq.org (secure credit card donations can also be made through this CGMA web site).