

# NEWS RELEASE

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## *Soldiers Helping Soldiers*

### **Army Emergency Relief Announces Opening of Scholarship Application Period**

*White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Jan. 29, 2016* - Army Emergency Relief (AER) has announced the opening of its scholarship application period. Applications will be accepted until May 1, 2016.

AER supports both the Spouse Scholarship Program, as well as the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program for dependent children. Scholarship specifics and the applications are available on AER's website ([www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org)). The Spouse Scholarship can be used for full or part-time students, while the Ursano Scholarship is only for full-time students.

Last year AER awarded 4,245 scholarships, totaling more than \$9 million to Spouses and Children of Soldiers.

"The entire scholarship process is on line," said Tammy LaCroix, manager for AER's scholarship programs. "Applicants are able to create their own profile, submit their documentation online, and check their status, which is a huge time saver for both the applicants and the scholarship staff."

"This is a valuable opportunity for the Children and Spouses of Soldiers," added LaCroix. "We saw an increase in the number of applications last year and hope this trend continues this year."

The entire application package for the 2016-2017 school year must be submitted online by May 1st. This includes the application as well as the supporting documents which will be outlined for the applicant based on the information provided on the application. Most applicants will need to provide transcripts (through the Fall semester), the Student Aid Report (SAR) from the Free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the Soldier's Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) for active duty Soldiers.

AER awards "needs-based" scholarships, based on the FAFSA and transcripts. The amount of the award varies based on the number of qualified applicants and scholarship funds available. Last year the award amounts ranged from \$500 to \$3,300.

Army Emergency Relief is a private non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to Soldiers, active and retired, and their Families. Since its incorporation in 1942, AER has provided more than \$1.6 billion to more than 3.6 million Soldiers, Families and Retirees.

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