

KENTUCKY

Military Family Assistance Trust Fund (MFAST)

Presentation to the Joint Commission on Veterans,
Military Affairs, and Public Protection (VMAPP)

Dr. Dallas Kratzer
2024 MFAST Board President

August 28, 2024

MFAST Purpose

- Administering the trust fund created under KR 36.470.
- Attached to the Department of Military Affairs (KDMA)
- Kentucky service members in financial need related military service
 - A last resort, having exhausted all other avenues of support
- Adoption Assistance for Kentucky service members
 - Actual cost up to \$5000 or \$7,000 for special needs adoptions

Guiding Documents

KRS 36.470 – Military family assistance trust fund

KRS 36.472 - Military family assistance trust fund – Membership – Terms – Meetings

KRS 36.474 – Eligibility for funds

KRS 36.477 – Kentucky National Guard Adoption Program

MFAST Committee

WHO WE ARE

Organized pursuant to KRS 36.472, consisting of seven (7) members:

- four (4) members pointed by the Governor;
- one (1) member pointed by the President of the Kentucky Senate
- one (1) member pointed by the Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives
- and, The Adjutant General for Kentucky

Governor Appointees

Dr. Dallas Kratzer (Retired – Lt Col, KYANG)
LTC Kenneth H. Staley, KY ARNG
CWO Four Jennifer A. Richie, KY ARNG
State CSM Jesse S. Withers, KY ARNG

Senate Appointee

Donald Storm (Retired – Former TAG)

House Appointee

Rep Walker Thomas, Chair of the House
VMAPP Cmte

The Adjutant General

MG Haldane B.
Lamberton

Financial Status

As of Aug 26, 2024

Fund Balance: \$465,125.03

Fund Expenditures for 2024 - \$5,000*

- Families in Crisis: 0
- Adoption Program: 1

Fund Expenditures for 2023 - \$21, 954.46*

- Families in Crisis: 4
- Adoption Program: 2

Key Activities

HB 715 – MFAST Fund Expansion

- Removal of “post-deployment” provision to eligibility
- Expanded Adoption Assistance Program to include former members of the KYNG
- To allow adoption of step-children to qualify

Request for Funding Pause

- Effective stewardship of Trust funds (decrease in deployments)
- Threshold set at \$200,000
- Will include comments regard future funding in Annual Report

Way Ahead

Communication: “Get the word out”

- Seeking avenues to communicate MFAST benefits
 - Social media
 - Video
- Attending KYNG events
- Family Readiness Support

Legislative Activities:

- None expected



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Questions

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