



Requester Information

Legislator Name: Millner, Ann

Created Date: December 5th 2025

Submitted Date: December 9th 2025

Section 1: Requester Details

Description:

Blue Star Families of Utah (BSF) is the nation's largest nonprofit dedicated to supporting military and veteran families. BSF builds strong communities of support through research-driven programming, community engagement, family services, and public-private partnerships. In Utah, BSF aligns our priorities with the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs strategic plan, to support military families across active duty, National Guard, Reserves, and veterans. Utah is home to over 42,000 military-connected residents, including service members, spouses, and children, and over 150,000 veterans. BSF programs strengthen family resilience, enhance workforce participation, and improve overall quality of life, aligning with Utah's priorities for mental health, economic development, and community well-being. Strengthening integration between military families and local communities will reinforce Utah's commitment to those who serve and support the Governor's goals and objectives to make Utah a top state for military and veteran families.

Legislative designee contact information:

Name: Marcie Valdez

Organization: Blue Star Families Utah Chapter

Position: Executive Director

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?



Strengthening Support for Utah's Military-Connected Families

Executive Appropriations

Category	One-time	Ongoing	
Personnel Services	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$0.00	
In-State Travel	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$0.00	
Out-of-State Travel	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$0.00	
Supplies and Equipment	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$0.00	
Technology Purchases	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$0.00	
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$0.00	
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$100,000.00	

Expenditure Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00

Funding Sources:

General Fund

Amount Requested:

2026 (One-time)	\$0.00
2027 (One-time)	\$100,000.00
2027 (Ongoing)	\$0.00

Revenue Total



One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00

Is this a multi-year project?

Yes

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled?

If full funding is not awarded, Blue Star Families will collaborate with the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to prioritize communities with the greatest unmet needs. The program can be scaled by prioritizing high-impact regions or populations, adjusting the number of outreach events delivered, narrowing the geographic scope of services, or modifying delivery methods to reduce operational costs, while still maintaining measurable outcomes.

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

02605u

Health and Wellbeing

Agency:

450 / Veterans and Military Affairs

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding:

Private for Profit

Grant recipient

Yes

Requested Direct Award Grant Recipient

Blue Star Families Utah Chapter



Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit the most from this request (who is the target audience)?

This request will benefit Utah's military-connected population, including active-duty, National Guard, Reserves, transitioning military, and veteran families. Support for these families remains high due to frequent relocations, employment challenges, mental-health strains, and limited access to social connections for families living far from Hill Air Force Base. In 2025, the Utah Chapter provided social connections, family stability resources, and mental wellness activities to more than 3,000 military-connected individuals through 50 unique and engaging activities and programs. The Chapter also grew its membership by an additional 550 families. This funding will enable us to expand our programs to reach more military and veteran families across Utah, ensuring equitable access to vital resources that strengthen military families and enhance overall quality of life. Special emphasis will be placed on reaching active duty families living off installation, National Guard and Reserve families, and veteran families in rural and underserved areas.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

Blue Star Families collaborates with the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs and Hill Air Force Base to support shared priorities that advance greater economic opportunity, improved mental and physical health, and enhanced quality of life for Utah's military-connected population. With this request, Blue Star Families will address specific measured needs, including food insecurity, career development, and programs that foster community connections, as well as encourage the transition from military to Utah residency.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

Blue Star Families will assess the sense of belonging among military families and how well they feel the Utah community understands and supports them. These evaluations will reflect the impact on increased well-being and satisfaction with military life among active-duty, National Guard, and Reserve families residing in Utah communities. Detailed tracking and reporting mechanisms, including membership data, event participation, and service delivery metrics, will ensure transparency and provide evidence of meaningful impact and effective use of public funds.

Scan here
to learn more about
Blue Star Families
Utah Chapter




Strengthening Support for Utah Military & Veteran Families

Blue Star Families strengthens military and veteran families across Utah by connecting them to existing state, community, and military resources that improve financial stability, family well-being, and community belonging.

Utah Spotlight

- Reached 5,000+ Utah military family members through virtual and in-person programs
- Partnered with state, local, and military leaders to advance inclusion, belonging, and family well-being statewide

Legislative Investment & Accountability

A \$100,000 legislative appropriation will support chapter expansion aligned with Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs' (UDVMA) strategic plan, with UDVMA providing fiscal oversight.

Stewardship & Outcomes

100% of funds directly support Utah military and veteran families by **expanding programs** through partnerships, **increasing access** to existing government resources, and **strengthening volunteer engagement**.

Food Insecurity

1 in 5 

military families face food insecurity
30% often or sometimes could not afford to eat balanced meals

We connect families to existing resources through trusted referrals and community partnerships.

Key Partners: Airman's Attic, community food partners, and faith-based organizations

2025 Impact

- 324 families assisted
- 14,500 lbs of food distributed
- More than \$28,000 of in-kind support

Financial & Workforce Readiness

1 in 4 

military spouses is underemployed or unemployed

We connect spouses to education, training, and career pathways aligned with Utah's workforce priorities.

Key Partners: One Utah Service Fellowship, Davis Technical College, BreakLine, Department of Workforce Services

2025 Impact

- 30% improvement in workforce confidence
- Reduced barriers through partner-led programs

Youth and Family Well-Being

33% 

One-third of military families cite children's education and belonging as a top concern.

We build connections through partner-led, family-centered programs in underserved and rural communities.

Key Partners: Davis, Weber, and Ogden School Districts

2025 Impact

- More than 50 events reaching over 5,000 people
- 97% report increased social connection
- 60% report improved sense of belonging

Strengthening Support for Utah Military & Veteran Families

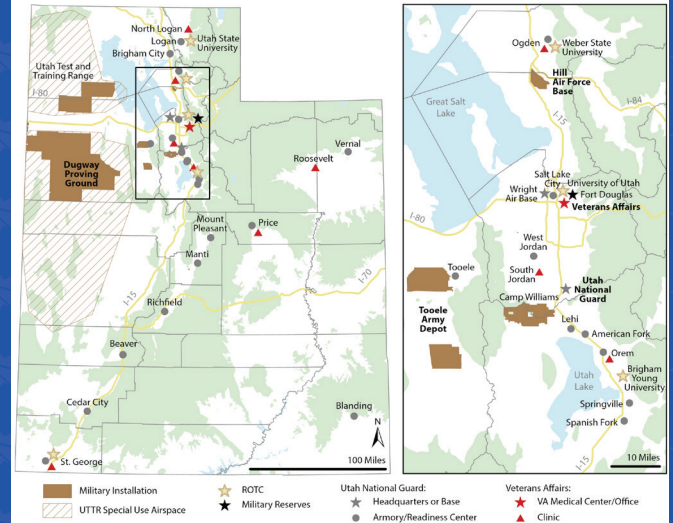
Utah's military-connected population spans active duty, Guard, Reserve, veterans, and more than 40,000 family members statewide.

Utah Military Statistics



Active Duty	4,402
National Guard	7,286
Reserves	4,187
Military Family Members	40,000
Veterans	129,783

Utah Military Installations



Key Partners Include:

Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs • Hill Air Force Base and Military Family Readiness Centers
 • Utah Chambers of Commerce • BreakLine (Talent Ready Utah-funded) • JustServe

Utah Advisory Board (Public, Private, and Military Leaders)

- Brian Garrett
- Cory Pearson
- Mike Miller
- Joy Cornelius
- Michael Isom
- Major General Pat Condon, USAF (Ret.)
- Judy Condon
- Jason Smith
- Sarah Bertagnolli
- Rosemary Lesser
- Jennie Taylor
- Carl Churchill

Connect today for more information about Blue Star Families of Utah.

Marcie Valdez

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