



# Fact Sheet

## Spouse Education and Career Opportunities

Military spouses are a tremendous source of strength and talent, with the ability to navigate the unique challenges of military life. They work to maintain a home and keep their families strong and resilient, often while pursuing an education or striving to build a meaningful career. Frequent relocations and extended deployments make this pursuit challenging. While military spouses are well educated and highly qualified for a wide range of careers, they experience a significant unemployment rate and wage gap compared to their civilian counterparts.

### Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program highlights

- ✓ *More than 6 million jobs posted and 100,000 spouses hired by the Military Spouse Employment Partnership since June 2011. Partners include hundreds of companies, nonprofits and federal agencies.*
- ✓ *In fiscal year 2016, the Military OneSource Spouse Career Center conducted more than 23,822 career counseling sessions.*
- ✓ *Forty-nine states have passed spousal licensure legislation. The remaining state has an active spouse licensure bill in progress. This work is accomplished through the USA4 Military Families initiative, which facilitates streamlining state occupation licensing requirements for military spouses.*
- ✓ *More than 22,830 military spouses used the My Career Advancement Account Scholarship for training, licensing, certification or associate degrees in fiscal year 2016.*

### Key program resources

To help military spouses reach their education and career goals as they balance work-life priorities and interests, the Department of Defense established a comprehensive, holistic, spouse-centered program called Spouse Education and Career Opportunities. Program resources include the following:

- The [Military OneSource Spouse Career Center](#) where certified Career Counselors provide free, comprehensive counseling services to all eligible military spouses
- The [Military Spouse Employment Partnership](#), a targeted recruitment and employment solution that creates employment connections by providing companies and organizations with direct access to military spouses seeking career opportunities and connecting spouses with employers who are actively recruiting
- The [My Career Advancement Account Scholarship program](#), a workforce development program that provides a maximum tuition benefit of \$4,000 with an annual fiscal year cap of \$2,000 to eligible military spouses, who have completed high school, to pursue a license, certification or associate degree in a portable career field and occupation
- [MySECO](#) website, where eligible military spouses have 24/7 access to online education and career information, resources, tools and assessments. This website is a one-stop source where spouses can research occupations, search for schools and scholarships, find education and career information, search for employment and develop their individual career plan, or MyICP, to set goals and chart progress in building a meaningful career path.

**Community connections** — Each military service branch plays a major role in supporting a military spouse's education and career progression, and provides installation-based programs and services to any spouse from any service. At installation employment readiness programs, spouses can receive face-to-face assistance and advice on career readiness, employment opportunities, education and scholarship opportunities, and job search strategies. To find the contact information for any of the installation employment readiness programs, spouses can visit the [MilitaryINSTALLATIONS](#) website. On the site, spouses can search by the specific program (Spouse Education, Training and Careers) and an installation or postal code to find the office closest to them. Program names may vary between branches, but they all provide quality services.

- Army Employment Readiness Program
- Navy Family Employment Readiness Program
- Marine Corps Family Member Employment Assistance Program
- Air Force Employment Assistance Program

## Spouse Education and Career Opportunities outlook

**Spouse Ambassador Network** — Educating, empowering and mentoring military spouses to encourage career fulfillment is the mission of the Spouse Ambassador Network. By leveraging Military Spouse Employment Partnership companies and organizations and their existing community networks, the Spouse Ambassador Network connects military spouses, community leaders, local chambers of commerce and other stakeholders in their communities to increase awareness about career and education resources, such as the Military Spouse Employment Partnership and the Military OneSource Spouse Career Center.


**Individual Career Plan** — Working independently or with a certified Career Counselor, spouses can use the MyICP Wizard on [MySECO](#) to build a customized, interactive career plan targeted to their specific

needs and current lifecycle stage. Spouses choose their persona type and occupation of interest and identify their challenges and growth opportunities. When they click 'View MyICP,' they receive a personalized list of tools, resources and activities designed to help them reach their individual career and education goals. Spouses can track their progress, store information or create additional MyICPs throughout their service member's career.

**Military Spouse Employment Partnership Job Search** — The MSEP Job Search tool makes it easy for military spouses to find meaningful employment opportunities with hundreds of partner employers committed to recruiting, hiring, promoting and retaining military spouses in portable careers. The tool allows spouses to search for positions using job title, keywords and location, as well as filter search results by industries, partner employers and job types. It also provides a list of "Hot Jobs" across the United States and around the world.

## SECO Social Media Platforms

### Connect With Us

-  **Facebook**  
<https://facebook.com/DoDMilSpouse>
-  **Twitter**  
<https://twitter.com/DoDMilSpouse>
-  **Instagram**  
<https://instagram.com/dodmilspouse/>
-  **LinkedIn Spouse Group**  
<http://linkedin.com/groups/Military-Spouse-Employment-Partnership-MSEP-4159976>
-  **LinkedIn Partner Group**  
<http://linkedin.com/groups/Military-Spouse-Employment-Partnership-MSEP-4445979>

