



# SPOUSE EDUCATION & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



## 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

- Hundreds of thousands of military spouses have been hired by the Military Spouse Employment Partnership since June 2011. Partners include hundreds of companies, nonprofits and federal agencies.
- The Spouse Ambassador Network, <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/content/view/1494>, is a group of like-minded organizations who are affiliated with the Military Spouse Employment Partnership and are dedicated to raising awareness of military spouse education and employment resources.

## Key program resources

The Department of Defense established a comprehensive, holistic, spouse-centered program called the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program. Program resources include the following:

- The Military OneSource Spouse Career Center, <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/Portal/Content/View/1310>, where SECO career coaches provide free, comprehensive coaching services to all eligible military spouses. Whether it's a resume review or a video mock interview, SECO career coaches are here to help spouses meet their career and education goals.
- The My Career Advancement Account Scholarship, <https://mycaa.militaryonesource.mil/mycaa>, a workforce development program that provides eligible military spouses with up to \$4,000 in financial assistance for licenses, certifications or associate degrees to pursue an occupation or career field.
- The Military Spouse Employment Partnership, <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/msep/jobsearch>, 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 MySECO website

The MySECO website, <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/>, is a one-stop online career and education toolbox filled with valuable information, resources and interactive features, designed for military spouses looking to meet career and education goals.

## Spouse Education and Career Opportunities tools and resources

The SECO program provides military spouses with comprehensive resources and tools related to career exploration, education, training and licensing, employment readiness and career connections. These tools and resources help military spouses do the following:

- Find education and career information and create a practical plan to get there
- Explore interests with personalized self-assessments
- Develop an individual career plan, or MyICP, to help spouses plan and achieve their career and education goals
- Search for scholarships and other financial resources
- Write effective resumes, cover letters and job applications
- Research occupations and find a good fit for their unique needs
- Search for employment with Military Spouse Employment Partnership companies and organizations committed to hiring military spouses
- Apply for tuition assistance with the My Career Advancement Account Scholarship program
- Compare colleges and training programs to find the right school for their career goals

## Call a SECO career coach

Spouse Education and Career Opportunities career coaches are here to help military spouses every step of the way, whether they are searching for a job, looking for education opportunities or working to start their own business. Military spouses can call Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 or use the Live Chat feature on the MySECO website to schedule a specialty consultation. Coaches can help spouses in the following ways:

- Customized career planning
- Entrepreneurship resources and guidance
- Resume and cover letter reviews
- Video mock interviews
- Specialized coaching packages
- Personal branding
- Education assistance
- Financial planning

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The Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program provides expert education and career guidance to military spouses worldwide. For more information, visit <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil>.

