

Career Planning and Benefits for Military Spouses

As a military spouse, you qualify for a wide variety of benefits and programs intended to support military families. These programs include deployment support, professional development help, financial assistance, education and a variety of other benefits. We compiled some of the best ones for you to look into below!

Education

There are countless organizations offering scholarships for various levels of education. The trick is to find the right opportunities for you. Here are some of the top resources that we recommend to get you started:

- [MyCAA Career Advancement Account](#) – A program that provides up to \$4,000 over two years for a military spouse looking to get a license, certification or an associates degree.
- [National Military Family Association](#) – A wide variety of scholarships offered in various degree fields and at various amounts usually around \$1,000.
- [Scholarship for Service](#) – A search tool to identify scholarships developed by the Fisher House Foundation. Just answer a few basic questions about what you are looking for and the search engine will provide some options to consider!
- [Military One-Source Scholarship Search](#) – Another great search tool to help you find scholarships. The search tool lets you refine for the type of funding you are looking for and makes adjustment for opportunities based on your timeline.

Professional Development Tools

As a military spouse, you qualify for several benefits that could be helpful in your professional development. Many professional associations offer discounted membership rates or provide free access to their materials and resources. We think some of these are worth your attention:

- [LinkedIn](#) – As part of their LinkedIn for Good Initiative, the company is offering a free year of their premium service. This will give you access to some of the advanced messaging and recruitment features as well as free online coursework. Be sure to cancel your premium subscription after the free year since it can be an expensive subscription to maintain.
- [Career OneStop Professional Association Finder](#) – There are thousands of professional associations that can assist you in making connections and learning more about your chosen field. This is a great tool to find them. Many offer discounted memberships for military families.

- [LeanIn](#) – A great online community dedicated to supporting female professionals. They offer a wide [variety of materials](#) for professional development.

Deployment Support

We understand how hard deployments are not only for those going overseas, but also for their family members. Deciding whether or not to [stay in the workforce](#) can be a difficult decision. In addition to some of the support services offered by the military, there are many programs designed to make life easier for military families. We recommend taking a look at some of these:

- [Military Family Support Centers](#) - These services are offered at to military families at installations around the country. This tool from Military One-Source helps you find locations with support systems. There are great community service organizations for the [Army](#), [Marines](#), [Navy](#), and [Air Force](#).
- [Yellow Ribbon Re-Integration Program](#) – A DoD-wide effort to connect military families with resources throughout a deployment cycle.
- [Plan My Deployment](#) – A great tool from Military One-Source to help military families put together a plan for every phase of their deployment.

Financial Assistance

There are several organizations that provide financial assistance to military families in need. These programs are frequently much better options than pay-day loans or other private lending options. Here are some of the more popular programs:

- [Operation Homefront](#) – They provide great support to military families through their Critical Financial Assistance Program. They even have a housing support program.
- [VFW's Unmet Needs Program](#) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars provide financial assistance for basic life needs through grants. This program is intended for financial difficulties resulting from deployment or a military-related injury.
- [American Red Cross](#) – They have a financial assistance for military families program that is open to service members and their immediate family.