

Taking Care of Service Members and Families

SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT FACT SHEET

SEPT. 22, 2022



WE ARE ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT OF INTERSTATE COMPACTS TO SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL LICENSE RECIPROCITY FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

FAST FACTS:

- **WHAT IS IT?** We are facilitating the portability of professional licenses between states, consistent with our commitment to helping military spouses thrive in their chosen professions.
- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** Interstate licensure compacts support military families by allowing military spouses with a professional license to PCS between member states without having to get a new license, enabling them to immediately get to work after settling in to their new military home.
- **WHO BENEFITS?** All military spouses in the impacted professions benefit. We have prioritized the creation of licensure compacts for those professions in which many military spouses work or aspire to work.
- **WHAT PROFESSIONS HAVE COMPACTS AVAILABLE?** Nine licensure compacts currently exist, and we are working with groups representing professions in member states to obtain approval for nurses, physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, audiologists and speech-language pathologists, emergency medical technicians, psychologists and licensed professional counselors. We are focusing on the development of compacts for seven additional groups of professionals: teachers, social workers, dentists and dental hygienists, massage therapists, cosmetologists/barbers, dietetic nutritionists and school psychologists.
- **HOW DO I GET IT?** Military spouses can find out more about professional licenses by contacting the career coaching staff at the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program at <https://mySECO.militaryonesource.mil>. Changes and updates in state law and the status of interstate licensure compacts in every state can be found at <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil>.



WE ARE USING NONCOMPETITIVE AND DIRECT-HIRE AUTHORITIES WHILE EXPANDING TELEWORK AND REMOTE WORK OPPORTUNITIES

FAST FACTS:

- **WHAT IS IT?** Noncompetitive hiring and direct-hire approaches allow Defense Department components to target their recruiting efforts toward eligible military spouses for DOD

employment opportunities. Telework and remote work programs provide opportunities for military spouses to retain current employment with the DOD and continue to meet family demands and other needs at home.

- › **WHAT DOES IT DO?** By using noncompetitive and direct-hiring authorities, the DOD can more quickly hire qualified military spouses. We are encouraging the expanded use of both telework and remote work to support military spouses. We are revising the telework policy to include updated information that managers and supervisors can use to support military spouses as they relocate with their families.
- › **WHO BENEFITS?** These efforts will benefit all military spouses worldwide.
- › **HOW DO I GET IT?** Military spouses are encouraged to visit the DOD Civilian Careers website at <https://www.dodciviliancareers.com/> to learn more about DOD employment opportunities. The website includes links to follow DOD on social media, where information about upcoming virtual job fairs is posted. Additionally, military spouses should sign up for a MySECO account at <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/getting-started> to learn about available resources and tools.



WE ARE OFFERING A MILITARY SPOUSE CAREER ACCELERATOR.

FAST FACTS:

- › **WHAT IS IT?** We will launch a career accelerator fellowship program to connect career-ready military spouses with employers who recognize the many talents and attributes military spouses bring to the workplace. We will be working with our Military Spouse Employment Partnership partners as potential employers. They scope from nearly every employment sector and represent corporations, small businesses, federal agencies and nonprofits.
- › **WHAT DOES IT DO?** Military spouses who participate in the fellowship program will be offered paid fellowships with employers across different industry sectors. Fellowships will last from six-12 weeks, based on the employer's requirements. While future employment is not a guarantee, the goal of the pilot program is to place military spouses with companies that are seeking to fill full-time employment. Spouses will be exposed to new types of work and work styles, have opportunities for networking and can showcase skills that will set up future employment.
- › **WHO BENEFITS?** The spouses of currently serving active-duty Guard and reserve component service members. We anticipate the pilot program supporting 400-500 military spouses annually.
- › **HOW DO I GET IT?** Spouses can apply for the fellowship online beginning Dec. 1, 2022, once the application is available. In the meantime, military spouses should sign up for a MySECO account at <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/getting-started> to learn about available resources and tools. Once enrolled, there are opportunities to prepare for the fellowship or other employment opportunities, such as assistance with resume development and interview skills through their installation employment readiness office or the DOD's SECO program.



WE ARE INCREASING EMPLOYER PARTNERS IN THE MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP

FAST FACTS:

- **WHAT IS IT?** The DOD's SECO program provides information, tools and resources to assist military spouses in attaining their education and employment goals.
- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** MSEP consists of more than 540 employer partners that have committed to recruiting, hiring, promoting and retaining military spouses. MSEP partners come from nearly every employment sector and represent corporations, small businesses, federal agencies and nonprofits. View our partners at <https://msepjobs.militaryonesource.mil/msep/our-partners>.
- **WHO BENEFITS?** Spouses from the active duty, reserve and National Guard as well as those who are within 365 days of their service member separating/retiring from service are eligible.
- **HOW DO I GET IT?** Military spouses are encouraged to create a MySECO profile at <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/getting-started> to take full advantage of the SECO program's tools and resources. Military spouses can opt in to having their profile searchable by MSEP employers looking for spouses with specific skill sets and can view employment opportunities through MSEP employer partners on the MySECO website.