



Frequently Asked Questions

Employment and Educational Support for Spouses and Common-law Partners

What educational resources are available for spouses?

OUTCAN families can apply for Support our Troops Scholarships, but must meet the eligibility criteria for each program. There are a number of scholarships at [Support Our Troops](#).

Is there financial assistance available for a member's spouse or common law partner in securing employment at new OUTCAN post or when returning to Canada?

Yes. The intent of these allowances and benefits is to provide financial assistance to a member to assist the member's spouse or common-law partner in securing employment at the post, or upon return to Canada, to facilitate re-entry into the Canadian workforce.

[MFSI Sec 13](#)

[FSD 17 - Assistance for Spouses or Common-Law Partners](#)

What employment expenses are eligible for reimbursement?

1. Association Dues
2. Employment Related Allowance

Eligible expenses include:

- costs incurred for professionally prepared curriculum vitae (resume);
- attendance fees for conferences and trade fairs;
- employment counselling;
- reference checks;
- administrative expenses associated with job searches; and
- other employment related costs.

The allowance may be claimed once per relocation, either within two years of arrival at the new place of duty, or upon official confirmation of a posting or assignment to Canada

3. Professional Retraining

How much can a spouse or common-law partner claim to assist in finding employment?

A CAF Member may claim an allowance of \$750 (as of 1 April 2019) for a spouse or common-law partner, to assist in finding employment following relocation to and/or from Canada or for a cross-posting, subject to certain conditions. Read more in [FSD 17](#) in section 17.2.

Does BGRS (IRP) provide any spousal employment benefits?

Yes, BGRS (IRP) will cover some costs associated with helping you find employment at your new post. These are paid through your "Custom" Envelope of funds via BGRS (IRP). [9.4.09 Spousal employment services](#)

The following spousal assistance services shall be reimbursed (as of time of writing):

- Employment search;
 - Employment assistance;
 - Interview travel up to a maximum of three days/two nights (including travel) lodgings, meals and incidentals as per prescribed rates;
 - CV preparation;
 - Photocopy and transmittal costs for transcripts of academic records; and
 - Costs associated with re-establishing current credentials for the same certification in the new province.
- Upgrading and re-certification do not qualify as eligible expenses for reimbursement under the CFIRP.

Before you can work in the US, remember you must have an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) – formally known as an Employment Authorization Card (EAC). For more information on the process of obtaining your EAD, please see the [Employment Authorization Document FAQ](#).



Are there websites that can help me find a job in the US?

Yes, there are several resources that are available to the general public as well as resources for military families that are available to Canadians posted to the US. These sites include:

- [Military One Source](#)
- [Hiring our Heroes](#)
- [National Career Fair Finder](#)
- [Installation Program Finder](#)

I am choosing from: Enter "Spouse Education, Training, and Careers" and Base Name – it will direct you to the contact information for your location. I am looking for: "Program or service"

Are there local supports for finding employment when I am in the US?

Many of the bases across the US have Family Readiness Centres which have extensive resources that our CAF families can access, usually for free. Depending on the base, services offered may include resume writing, interview techniques, skills classes, access to job banks, and staff who are there to assist. CAF spouses are eligible to access these services. Please [contact your MFSC](#) to inquire about what is available for support. If you are at any time turned away because you are Canadian, please contact the MFS Coordinator for assistance.

Are there benefits for spouses needing to get certifications and/or special registration for their trade?

Yes, in some situations. If you read over Foreign Service Directive 17, you will see there are special Employment Related Expenses that may be covered, such as registrations and certifications. [FSD 17 - Assistance for Spouses or Common-Law Partners](#)



This information sheet is offered to you to help direct you and your family to the correct locations to find the benefits and services available during your OUTCAN posting.

Please be vigilant in doing the research appropriate for your situation, as each is different!

Your Support Unit (CDLS(W) or CFSU(CS)) website is full of great information to support you during your OUTCAN posting.

MFSUS FAQ

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