



MC&FP FACT SHEET

Data

- ✔ *Seventy-seven percent of military spouses want or need work, yet after relocation, many decide not to pursue work in their profession because of re-licensure issues.*
- ✔ *Military spouses face a 26 percent unemployment rate and a 25 percent wage gap compared to their civilian counterparts.*
- ✔ *Twenty-nine states have enacted supportive legislation or modified policy as of March 7, 2013.*

Additional Information

Military OneSource
www.militaryonesource.mil

Spouse Licensure

Background

Many military spouses are trained and experienced in professions that require a state license such as teachers, counselors, accountants and health care workers. Military spouses are often sidelined by the financial or administrative burdens of applying for a new license every time they move across state lines. Military Community and Family Policy's Defense State Liaison Office is educating state policymakers about licensing and employment barriers, and many states are adopting legislation or modifying policy to facilitate the employment transition of military spouses.

Key Talking Points

- Every military spouse deserves the opportunity to pursue a personally and financially rewarding career.
- Military spouse employment plays a key role in the well-being of military families and the retention of service members.
- When military spouses move across state lines, they face lengthy employment delays and financial expenses because of state-specific rules and licensing processes.
- The DSLO is working with state governments to promote the states' implementation of best practices that do not impact state standards but rather expedite the transfer of a license by facilitating:
 - Licensure by endorsement of a current license;
 - Temporary or provisional licensing; and
 - Expedited application procedures.
- The removal of licensing barriers comes at little cost to states and can make a meaningful difference in the lives of many military families.

