

Taking Care of Our People

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR MYCAA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

MARCH 21, 2023



THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE SPOUSES OF ACTIVE-DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS SERVING IN GRADES E-6 AND O-3 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EARN A LICENSE, CERTIFICATION, OR ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

FAST FACTS:

- **WHAT IS IT?** My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) is a career development initiative that provides a maximum tuition benefit (scholarship) of \$4,000, with an annual fiscal year cap of \$2,000, to assist eligible military spouses who need professional credentials to meet their portable career goals. Participating military spouses may use MyCAA funding for the pursuit or maintenance (including testing for credit and continuing education units) of a license, certification, or associate degree necessary to gain employment in an occupation or career field. Through a 2018 RAND study, MyCAA was shown to impact spouses' ability to find employment with higher rates of compensation.
- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** Effective immediately, this initiative expands eligibility for MyCAA scholarships to a limited number (up to 1,250 additional recipients based on available funding) of military spouses of active-duty service members serving in grades E-6 and O-3. Completed applications are reviewed as received. The first 1,250 approved applicants will receive MyCAA financial assistance. Spouses are provided a one-time benefit of up to \$4,000 that must be expended over a three-year consecutive period.
- **WHO IS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR MYCAA?** With this expansion, military spouses of active-duty service members in grades E1-E6, W1-W2 and O1-O3 can register for MyCAA financial assistance.
- **HOW DO I GET IT?** To get started, spouses can verify eligibility and register for a MyCAA account at <https://mycaa.militaryonesource.mil/mycaa/>. After registration, spouses will then work with a certified Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Career Coach on a MyCAA Education and Training Plan. This Plan will be reviewed as part of the application process for the MyCAA scholarship, and when approved, the spouse can then receive financial assistance.
- **HOW MANY TIMES CAN I USE MYCAA?** Financial assistance is available on a course-by-course basis for a three-year time limit beginning on the start date of the first course taken. The total amount of MyCAA financial assistance is \$4,000, with a limit of no more than \$2,000 per year (however, annual cap waivers may be granted if costs exceed \$2,000, up to the maximum education benefit of \$4,000). MyCAA financial assistance is a one-time benefit for military spouses.
- **WILL THERE BE FUTURE EXPANSIONS OF MYCAA?** The Department will track utilization and completion rates of the expanded population to make determinations on future expansion.