

Our Enduring Duty to America's Service Members and Their Families

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR MYCAA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SEPT. 13, 2024

INITIATIVE: The Defense Department will expand eligibility for financial assistance to spouses of active-duty service members serving in grades E-7, E-8, E-9 and W-3 to earn a license, certification or associate degree.

- **WHAT IS IT?** My Career Advancement Account, or 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 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?** This initiative expands eligibility for MyCAA scholarships to military spouses in the pay grades of E-7, E-8, E-9 and W-3. Financial assistance is limited to available funding and tracked throughout the fiscal year. Financial assistance is approved as applications are received. If available funding is expended, no new registrations for the program will be approved until the following fiscal year. 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 and spouses of National Guard and reserve members on Title 10 orders in grades E-1 through E-9, W-1 through W-3 and O-1 through O-3 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 Spouse Education and Career Opportunities career advisor or 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 fiscal year. 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.