



EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR SPOUSES WHILE LIVING IN THE US

Please note that we are using “spouse” interchangeably with “common law partner” throughout this document.

Before you can work in the US, remember you must have an **Employment Authorization Document (EAD)**. For more information on the process of obtaining your EAD, please see the **Employment Authorization Document FAQ**.

Is there financial assistance available to spouses for post-secondary education? OUTCAN families can apply for [Support our Troops](#) Scholarships, but must meet the eligibility criteria for each program. Additional financial resources:

- [CEM Scholarship Information for CAF Families](#)
- [BMO - CDCB Student Line of Credit Program](#)
- [Preventive Loan Program](#) - If denied through BMO CDCB Student Line Credit Program

Is there financial assistance available for a member’s spouse 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 in securing employment at the post, or upon return to Canada, to facilitate re-entry into the Canadian workforce.

- [MFSI Section 13](#)
- [FSD 17 - Assistance for Spouses](#)

What employment expenses are eligible for reimbursement?

1. Association Dues
2. Employment Related Allowance
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. Eligible Expenses include:
 - Costs incurred for professionally prepared curriculum;
 - Attendance fees for conferences and trade fairs;
 - Employment counselling;
 - Administrative/job search expenses; and
 - Other employment related costs.
3. Professional Retraining

How much can a spouse claim to assist in finding employment? A CAF Member may claim an allowance of \$776 CDN (as of 1 April 2021) for a spouse, to assist in finding employment following relocation to and/or from Canada or for a cross-posting, subject to certain conditions. Read more about [FSD 17 - 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](#) indicates the following spousal assistance services shall be reimbursed:

- Employment search;
- Employment assistance;
- Interview travel up to a maximum of three days/two nights (including travel) lodgings, meals and incidentals;
- Photocopy and transmittal costs for academic transcripts;
- CV preparation; 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.

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. [Contact your MFS\(US\) Team Member](#) to inquire about what is available for support. If you are turned away because you are Canadian, please contact your MFS(US) Team Member 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. See [FSD 17 - Assistance for Spouses or Common-Law Partners](#)

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](#) - Select “program or service” followed by “Spouse Education, Training, and Careers”

This information is offered 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!

