



Active-duty spouses across the country face high unemployment even though they are often educated with advanced degrees and have a wide range of experience. We want to help you tap into this pool of qualified candidates to fill your open positions.

An active-duty spouse is defined as the spouse of an active-duty member of the armed services. These men and women often give up their lives to support their spouses from one duty station to another in the US and abroad.

There are many benefits to being an active-duty spouse, including healthcare, on-base housing, military spouse tax benefits, military spouse scholarships, military discounts, and many more. But with all those benefits, active-duty spouse **employment** levels remain an issue.

In February, the Association of the United States Army stated that the unemployment rate for spouses is 25%. This does not include underemployed spouses. The same report says that 60% of military spouses seek full or part-time employment because their families need two incomes to make ends meet. (<https://www.ausa.org/news/military-spouse-unemployment-remains-sizable-issue>)

Businesses often overlook or won't consider an active-duty spouse for an open position because of gaps in their resume, education with no experience, or because they feel like they will invest time and money in this person and leave in two to three years. According to the Bureau of Labor Statics, in January 2020, the median number of years that salaried workers stayed with their current employer was 4.1 years (<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/tenure.nr0.htm>). However, in the current economy, this number has dropped to 2.8 years for those workers aged 28 – 34 putting active-duty spouse tenure in line with averages in the economy.

To address this issue, AAWDC has partnered with Fort Meade and Howard County Office of Workforce Development to help active-duty spouses prepare for and connect to job opportunities in the region. Spouses will be provided no-cost training, licensing, certifications, and employment assistance through this partnership.

To succeed in implementing these strategies, we are seeking businesses partners who will provide on-the-job training and employment opportunities to active-duty spouses.

For more information, please contact

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