



## MC&FP FACT SHEET

# Facilitating Military Spouse Transition through Eligibility for Unemployment Compensation

### Data

- ✓ *In 2004, only 11 states provided military spouses eligibility.*
- ✓ *As of June 26, 2012, 44 states and the District of Columbia provide military spouses eligibility for unemployment compensation due to a military permanent change of station.*
- ✓ *The DSLO continues to work with state policymakers to resolve this issue in Idaho, Louisiana, North Dakota, Ohio, Vermont and Virginia.*

### Additional information

#### Presidential Study Directive 9, Strengthening Our Military Families

[http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2011/0111\\_initiative/strengthening\\_our\\_military\\_january\\_2011.pdf](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2011/0111_initiative/strengthening_our_military_january_2011.pdf)

#### USA4MilitaryFamilies

<http://www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil>

### Background

Currently 44 states and the District of Columbia provide active duty military spouses eligibility to apply for unemployment compensation because of military relocation. The remaining six states continue to view a resignation due to military relocation as “voluntary,” making the military spouse ineligible for unemployment compensation. Military Community and Family Policy’s Defense State Liaison Office worked with state policymakers to pass legislation to resolve this issue.

### Highlights

- Military spouses move every two to four years, so some employers may be reluctant to hire spouses because doing so may impact the amount they have to pay in unemployment insurance premiums. To help alleviate this concern, the DSLO has worked with state policymakers to stipulate that military spouse unemployment claims should not accrue to the employer’s unemployment filing experience.
- Spouses seeking unemployment compensation need to apply with the appropriate agency in the state they are leaving. Applying after the move in the new state is also acceptable, as agencies are often used to working across jurisdictional lines.
- Eligibility does not guarantee receipt of compensation. Spouses must meet the general qualifications for compensation and complete the necessary application.
- Military families in states that do not allow eligibility may wish to contact state legislators in their area to express their views on this issue.

