Blue Star Families’ annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey provides a comprehensive understanding of what it means to serve as a military family. For that reason, it is a blueprint for strengthening America, identifying how we can continue to enhance military family life.

This infographic represents a geographic cross-section of the results that includes active-duty (38%), veteran (25%), National Guard (29%), and Reserve (8%) family respondents who live within a 50 mile radius of Salt Lake City. Unless otherwise stated, all statistics reflect the full sample who selected “self” or “spouse” when asked about their relationship to the service member. When referencing this data, please consider that the sample is not representative of all demographic groups: 88% are White / Non-Hispanic, 53% are spouses of service members or veterans, 63% represent senior enlisted ranks, and 31% are affiliated with the Air Force. The average age of respondents here is 41, 67% are female, and 27% report they are unpaid caregivers. Additionally, the distribution of this sample is not comparable to other Blue Star Families Chapters or to the national sample.

**BOLSTERING BELONGING**

### LOCAL CULTURAL COMPETENCE

- 64% feel local civilians support military families
- 51% feel local civilians are aware that military and veteran families’ experiences may differ from their own

### SENSE OF BELONGING

- 54% feel welcome in their local civilian community
- 31% feel they do not have a voice in local civilian community
- 26% feel military affiliation prevents forming close relationships with local civilians
- 27% do not feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community

### TOP 5 ISSUES RANKED

1. Amount of time away from family
2. Access to VA health care
3. Military pay
4. Lack of control over military career
5. Military family stability

(n=105)

### TOP LIFESTYLE STRESSORS

1. Financial issues/stress
2. Separations
3. Lack of child care
4. Issues related to children
5. Deployments

(n=112)
## MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY

### FAMILY FINANCIAL READINESS

- **57%** experience stress due to current financial situation (n=98)

### TOP CONTRIBUTORS TO CURRENT FINANCIAL STRESS (n=54)

1. Un/underemployment
2. Excessive credit card debt
3. Out-of-pocket housing costs [tie]

### EMPLOYMENT

- **10%** are “not at all likely” to identify military affiliation in interview
- **31%** feel local employers are eager to hire military-connected employees (n=108)

### HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### HOUSING

- **42%** say all in local civilian community do not have access to safe and affordable housing (n=95)

### HOW TO BE A GOOD BLUE STAR NEIGHBOR

“Learn more about what we deal with, so we can actually talk about life together instead of it just being a teaching opportunity when we talk with civilians.”

- NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE MEMBER IN UTAH

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey or ways to support?

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Questions about Blue Star Families’ Utah Chapter?

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