Top Issues for California Military-Connected Family Respondents (n=614)

- **Military pay**: 38%
- **Military spouse employment**: 38%
- **Impact of deployment on family**: 32%
- **Amount of time away from family**: 45%
- **BAH/off-base housing concerns**: 29%

Active-Duty Families

**Spouse Employment**

- 23% of California active-duty spouse respondents (n=241) are unemployed.
- Of those who are employed (n=129), 72% are employed full time and 23% are employed part time.

**Children’s Mental Health**

- 18% of active-duty family respondents with at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 (n=148) reported that their child(ren) did not currently receive mental health care, but would like them to receive it.

Housing Costs

- 62% of active-duty family respondents (n=218) report they have monthly out-of-pocket housing costs not covered by their BAH.
- 84% of those with out-of-pocket costs pay $200 or more.

Child Care

- 75% of active-duty respondents (n=220) with at least one child have some level of need for child care.
- Only 24% of those with a need for child care (n=150) are able to find child care that works for their situation.

Military Children’s Education

- 70% of active-duty family respondents with child(ren) ages 20 or younger (n=218) have at least one child enrolled in K-12 education.
- 46% of active-duty respondents with a child enrolled in K-12 education (n=131) agree that their oldest child’s school understands the unique challenges of military families.

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1 Working either part time (<35 hours per week) or full time (35+ hours per week).
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 and identifying how we can continue to enhance military family life.

**Financial Security**
California respondents who describe their family financial situation as “just getting by” or “finding it difficult to get by”:

- **Currently-serving family respondents** (n=273) - 31%
- **Veteran respondents** (n=123) - 28%

Top contributor to financial stress among both currently-serving family respondents (52%, n=243) and Veteran respondents (60%, n=81) who have financial stress:

**Housing costs** - 54%

**Caregiving**
22% of military-connected respondents (n=415) consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver.

Who provided care for: (n=89)

- Child under 18 years of age - 49%
- Parent or grandparent - 28%
- Spouse/partner who is a Veteran - 19%

**Mental Health**
19% of California military-connected family respondents (n=432) do not currently receive mental health care but would like to receive it.

It’s a good start to your adult life — whether you do your initial enlistment time, or you make it a career, and the education benefits are huge with the GI Bill.

National Guard Spouse

**Recommendation**

- Unlikely to recommend (0-3) - 26%
- Neutral (4-6) - 29%
- Likely to recommend (7-10) - 45%

Military-connected respondents includes active-duty, National Guard, Reserve, and Veteran family respondents

Military Affiliation (n=685): Active-Duty Service Member (8%), Spouse (54%); National Guard Service Member (1%), Spouse (1%); Reserve Service Member (1%), Spouse (1%); Veteran/Retired Service Member (26%), Spouse (8%)

Racial/Ethnic Identity (n=680): American Indian/Alaska Native (3%), Asian (11%), Black/African American (7%), Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin (18%), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (2%), Some other race or ethnicity (2%), White (69%)

Unpaid caregiving is defined as all tasks related to the care for ongoing medical, mental health, or developmental conditions, or serious short-term ones.

Question Text: How likely are you to recommend that a young family member (child, niece, nephew, etc.) join the military? Range: 0 = very unlikely to recommend, — 10 = very likely to recommend.