



CAREGIVING, INTIMACY, AND RELATIONAL HEALTH IN VETERAN FAMILIES

COMPETITION NUMBER: ATLAS-2526-02

GUIDELINES

Please refer to the [Atlas Institute research funding guidelines](#), which provide further information on eligibility, submission expectations, adjudication process, funding process, SGBA+ requirements, and engaging with persons with lived and living expertise requirements.

IMPORTANT DATES

The below dates pertain to the full [Application for funding](#) submission:

Application open: September 2, 2025

Application close: October 14, 2025 at 11:59 p.m., Eastern time

Anticipated notice of decision: December, 2025 to January, 2026

DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC AREA

Spousal caregiving is a significant, and often under examined, dimension of post-service Family life. In the context of Veteran households, caregiving roles assumed by spouses or partners may involve a range of responsibilities, including emotional support, assistance with daily activities, care coordination, and navigating health systems, particularly when physical or mental health challenges are present. While these roles can be essential to sustaining Family wellbeing, they may also impact the dynamics of intimacy within the relationship.

Intimacy, understood broadly to include emotional, relational, and physical dimensions, including sexual dimensions, can be affected by caregiving responsibilities in multiple ways. Existing research suggests that the caregiving role can alter perceptions of partnership, shift relational roles, and introduce barriers to communication and closeness. At the same time, some caregivers report strengthened bonds or new forms of emotional connection. However, there is limited empirical research that specifically investigates how caregiving within Veteran Families influences intimacy, how these impacts evolve over time, and what protective or risk factors are most salient.

This research funding opportunity aims to support studies that examine the experience of spousal caregiving in Veteran Families, with a particular focus on its implications for intimacy and relational wellbeing. A better understanding of this intersection can inform the development of supports, policies, and practices that more effectively address the needs of Veteran Families in caregiving contexts.

OBJECTIVES AND ELIGIBLE RESEARCH AREAS

This research funding opportunity will support a two-year project that aims to understand and explore the experience of spousal caregiving and its impacts on intimacy within Veteran Families. Research projects may focus on how caregiving influences emotional, relational, and physical intimacy, as well as the factors that shape or mediate these experiences. The population of interest are spouses or partners as well as former spouses or partners of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Veterans and former serving RCMP members who provide or have provided caregiving support, and who can speak to the ways in which this role has affected their intimate relationships.

FUNDING AMOUNT

The total funding available for this opportunity is up to \$75,000 CAD.

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

- The Principal Applicant must be an independent researcher affiliated with a Canadian post-secondary institution whose appointment continues until the conclusion of the funding period
- **OR** an individual affiliated with an Indigenous non-governmental organization in Canada with a research or knowledge mobilization mandate
- **OR** an individual affiliated with a Veteran/Veteran Family non-governmental organization in Canada with a research or knowledge mobilization mandate.
- The Principal Applicant must have completed an SGBA+ course with proof of certification from a Canadian institution

HOW TO APPLY

The Atlas Institute for Veterans and Families uses an email application process. A complete application includes the full [*Application for funding*](#), a completed Conflict of interest form, and an up-to-date CV, submitted as a single PDF to atlasresearch@theroyal.ca, referencing the competition number in the subject line of the email.

Checklist:

- Completed [*Application for funding*](#)
- [*Conflict of interest*](#) form
- CV of Principal Applicant

ADJUDICATION

Applicants have six weeks to submit the [*Application for funding*](#). All [*Applications for funding*](#) are adjudicated by an external Scientific Review Committee, based on standardized scoring criteria.