

CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

NAVIGATING POST-SERVICE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

Competition number: ATLAS-2627-01

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: October 26, 2026

Application close: December 7, 2026

Anticipated notice of decision: February 2027

Description of topic area

The transition from military service to post-service life involves changes across multiple areas of well-being, including health, employment and meaningful activity, finances, social integration, housing, and life skills and preparedness.¹ Canadian research shows that while many Veterans adjust well, a substantial proportion experience difficulty during this transition, and difficult adjustment is strongly associated with poorer mental health and other challenges to well-being.² Evidence also points to variation in the accessibility and coordination of transition and post-service supports, including differences related to geography and the complexity of moving between military, Veteran, provincial or territorial, and community-based systems.^{3,4} Despite the range of programs and services available, there remains a need to better understand how individual, interpersonal, organizational and systemic factors may create or contribute to barriers to finding, accessing, navigating and remaining connected to appropriate supports, how these experiences shape Veteran mental health and well-being, and which approaches are most effective in reducing these challenges.^{3,4}

This focus on post-service experiences is also grounded in what Atlas hears directly from the Veteran and Family community. Through its embedded Lived Expertise team, Strategic Reference Group and ongoing Listening Tour, Atlas engages Veterans and Families across Canada to understand their experiences, priorities, and support needs. The Listening Tour is intentionally designed to meet community members where they are, including in rural, remote, northern and geographically diverse communities, and to learn from the different realities of post-service life across regions and populations. Across these engagement mechanisms, access to and navigation of mental health services and supports have emerged as recurring areas of concern. Bringing community knowledge together with the existing evidence base creates an opportunity to identify where navigation challenges occur, who may be most affected, and what interventions, models, or system changes can improve access, continuity and outcomes.

Objectives and eligible research areas

This research funding opportunity will support a two-year project examining how barriers in navigating post-service supports and services shape mental health and well-being outcomes among Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Veterans, and which interventions are most effective in reducing these challenges. The intent is

1. Veterans Affairs Canada. *Longitudinal qualitative study on the health and well-being of military Veterans during military to civilian transition*. Charlottetown (PE): Veterans Affairs Canada; 2020.
2. VanTil LD, Sweet J, Poirier A, McKinnon K, Sudom K, Dursun S, Pedlar D. *Well-being of Canadian Regular Force Veterans: findings from the LASS 2016 survey*. Charlottetown (PE): Veterans Affairs Canada, Research Directorate; 2017.
3. Department of National Defence, Assistant Deputy Minister (Review Services). *Evaluation of the Military Transition Program*. Ottawa (ON): National Defence; 2019.
4. Thompson JM, MacLean MB, Van Til L, Sudom K, Sweet J, Poirier A, Adams J, Horton V, Campbell C, Pedlar D. *A well-being construct for Veterans' policy, programming and research*. Charlottetown (PE): Veterans Affairs Canada, Research Directorate; 2016.

deliberately broad to support a range of research questions, methodological approaches and areas of inquiry within the Canadian context.

Projects may examine any aspect of navigation across the post-service support ecosystem, including, but not limited to, awareness and understanding of available supports; access and eligibility; referral pathways; administrative or system complexity; continuity and coordination of care; provincial or territorial, community, and private-sector services; geographic, rural, remote, northern, linguistic, cultural, or digital barriers; and the roles of Families, peers, navigators, service providers and community organizations. Research may focus on identifying and characterizing barriers, examining their relationship with mental health and well-being, evaluating existing navigation approaches or interventions, or developing and testing promising strategies to improve access, continuity, coordination and outcomes.

Applicants are encouraged to consider the diversity of the CAF Veteran population and the ways that navigation experiences may differ across demographic, service-related, geographic, health and social circumstances. Projects should meaningfully engage Veterans and, where relevant, Veteran Family members throughout the research process and should clearly describe how findings could inform practice, policy, programs, services, or future intervention development.

Applicants are encouraged to consider the topic area broadly and should not be discouraged from applying if their proposed research does not align precisely with the areas of inquiry outlined above. Priority will be given to proposals that clearly demonstrate a need grounded in the experiences, priorities, or knowledge of the Veteran and Family community and make a strong case for how the proposed research will address that need.

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 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 research@atlasinstitute.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.