

CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF SUPPORTS FOR VETERAN FAMILY MEMBERS

Competition number: ATLAS-2627-03

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

Families are integral to the health and well-being of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Veterans, while military service, transition and service-related illness or injury can also have significant impacts on Family members themselves. Canadian research has identified impacts on Veteran Families that can include stress, mental health challenges, financial insecurity, caregiving demands and effects on employment and income.¹ Research with Families of Veterans living with mental health problems has further described substantial changes to Family roles and routines, with consequences for Family members' own mental health and well-being.²

While access to a range of supports for Veteran Families is currently provided by Veterans Affairs Canada, it is tied to the Veteran. Mental health services are available only when the Family involvement supports a Veteran's treatment or rehabilitation goals, as well as broader counselling, peer support and other Family-focused resources.³ Within this context, there is an opportunity to build the evidence base regarding the potential economic implications of models that would enable Family members to access mental health and well-being supports based on their own needs. Such research could provide valuable evidence on the costs, benefits and broader system-level implications of different approaches to supporting Veteran Families and help inform future policy and program planning.

This priority is also grounded in what Atlas hears directly from Veterans and Families. Through its embedded Lived Expertise team, Strategic Reference Group, national Listening Tour, and other community engagement activities, Atlas hears about the ways military and Veteran life can affect the whole Family, including Family members' own health, well-being, caregiving responsibilities, employment, finances and ability to access appropriate supports. These community perspectives, considered alongside the existing evidence and policy context, point to an important unanswered question: what would be the economic implications of enabling Family members of CAF Veterans to access mental health and well-being supports through VAC in their own right? A rigorous economic analysis could help clarify both the costs of expanded access and the potential benefits or avoided costs for Veterans, Families, VAC, and other health and social systems.

Objectives and eligible research areas

1. MacLean MB, Campbell L, Macintosh S, Lee J, Pedlar D. Research on Military/Veteran Families. Charlottetown (PE): Veterans Affairs Canada, Research Directorate; 2015.
2. Cramm H, Norris D, Schwartz KD, Tam-Seto L, Williams A, Mahar A. Impact of Canadian Armed Forces veterans' mental health problems on the family during the military to civilian transition. *Military Behavioral Health*. 2020 Apr 2;8(2):148-58.
3. Veterans Affairs Canada. Mental Health - Treatment Benefits (POC 12) and Rehabilitation Services. Charlottetown (PE): Veterans Affairs Canada; updated 2024 Apr 26.
4. Office of the Veterans Ombudsman. Mental Health Treatment Benefits for Family Members, in their Own Right, for Conditions Related to Military Service. Ottawa (ON): Office of the Veterans Ombudsman; 2021 Jan 19.

This research funding opportunity will support a two-year project conducting an economic analysis of providing Family members of CAF Veterans with access to mental health and well-being supports through Veterans Affairs Canada in their own right. The intent is deliberately broad to support a range of economic research questions, methodological approaches and areas of inquiry within the Canadian context.

Projects may examine the direct and indirect costs, benefits and broader economic implications of different approaches to providing Family members with access to supports in their own right. Areas of inquiry may include, but are not limited to, potential implications for VAC expenditures; provincial and territorial health and social service utilization; private or out-of-pocket spending; caregiving demands; employment, productivity and income; Veteran treatment and recovery; and Family health and well-being, including the needs and experiences of bereaved Family members. Research may also consider how costs and benefits are distributed across Veterans, Family members, governments, health systems, employers and communities, as well as how different eligibility, coverage, or service-delivery models could affect economic outcomes.

A range of approaches may be used, including cost analyses, cost-effectiveness or cost-benefit analyses, budget impact analyses, economic modelling, administrative data analyses, comparative policy analyses, or mixed-methods research that integrates economic evidence with lived and living experience. Applicants should clearly describe the perspective and time horizon of the proposed analysis, the costs and outcomes to be considered, and how the findings could inform future policy and program decisions. Projects should meaningfully engage Veterans and Family members throughout the research process.

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.
- **OR** an individual affiliated with a Canadian independent research, economic consulting, or policy research firm with demonstrated experience conducting economic analyses, such as cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness, economic impact, fiscal impact, or related economic evaluation.
- 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.