



My Career Advancement Account Scholarship Program

May 10, 2021

Fiscal Year 2021 Report to Congress



**Homeland
Security**

United States Coast Guard

Foreword

May 10, 2021

I am pleased to present the following report, “My Career Advancement Account Scholarship Program,” which was prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard.

House Report 116-458 accompanying the Fiscal Year 2021 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-260) directs the Coast Guard to provide a report describing the resource requirements for establishing the My Career Advancement Account Scholarship Program.

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is provided to the following Members of Congress:



The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

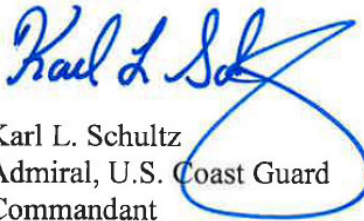
The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

I am happy to answer any further questions that you may have, or your staff may contact my Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 or House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,


Karl L. Schultz
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commandant



My Career Advancement Account Scholarship Program

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I. Legislative Language

This document responds to the direction set forth in House Report 116-458 accompanying the Fiscal Year 2021 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-260).

House Report 116-458 states:

My Career Advancement Account Initiative.—The Committee recognizes the strong correlation between servicemember retention and the employment outcomes of their spouses. Section 580G of Public Law 116–92, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020, allows the spouse of a member of the Coast Guard to participate in the My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) program of the Department of Defense. The Committee strongly encourages the Coast Guard to ensure Coast Guard spouses are able to benefit from this program and directs the Coast Guard within 60 days of enactment of this Act to submit to the Committee a report describing the resource requirements for establishing this program.

II. Discussion

The My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) Scholarship Program is a Department of Defense (DOD)-funded workforce development program. The scholarship assists military spouses in pursuing licenses, certifications, or associate degrees necessary to gain employment in an occupation or career field. Spouses may use their MyCAA Scholarship funds at any academic institution approved for participation in the program.

Spouses of service members, as well as spouses of members of the National Guard and reserves, are eligible for the MyCAA Scholarship if the member:

- Is on active duty in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2, and O-1 to O-2;
- Has completed high school successfully; and
- Has the ability to request tuition assistance while his or her military sponsor is on Title 10 military orders.

The MyCAA Scholarship has an annual fiscal year cap of \$2,000 per person to assist eligible military spouses who require professional credentials to meet their portable career goals. Annual cap waivers are available for licensure and certificate programs if there is an upfront tuition cost that exceeds \$2,000, up to the maximum education benefit of \$4,000 per person.

Coast Guard Resource Requirements

At this time, the Coast Guard does not participate in the MyCAA Scholarship Program because of resource constraints. The projected resource requirement for the Coast Guard to meet the anticipated demand for MyCAA, and to reimburse DOD for participation, is \$3.2 million. This assumes a similar 11-percent participation rate for eligible DOD spouses, 50 percent of whom request a waiver to exceed the \$2,000 annual cap. There are 24,757 active duty spouses in the Coast Guard and 11,777 spouses who meet the eligibility requirements.

III. Conclusion

Although the Coast Guard strives to provide parity in access to family support programs offered by DOD, the Coast Guard does not participate in the MyCAA Scholarship Program at this time because of insufficient resources and competing fiscal demands. The Coast Guard is committed to leveraging existing programs and benefits that support spousal employment and the Coast Guard family.