

Jennifer Akin is Blue Star Families' Senior Director of Policy and Social Impact Research, responsible for overseeing Blue Star Families' policy, social impact, member research, and program evaluation efforts. She is a national thought leader on military life issues and has served as the Principal Investigator on research studies to understand the unique experiences of military and Veteran families of color; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on military and Veteran families; perceptions of the COVID-19 vaccine; and barriers to seeking financial assistance, among other things.

Prior to joining Blue Star Families in 2018, Jenny accumulated nearly a decade of experience in the private sector and academia, supporting national security-related programs at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, serving as a military policy fellow for the University of North Carolina system, and working in business development at a small defense contractor.

Jenny has a Bachelor of Arts in Peace, War, and Defense (and History) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from North Carolina State University. She and her active-duty husband reside near Fort Bragg, NC with their son, daughter, and two dogs.