

# **BULLET BACKGROUND PAPER**

**ON**

**DACOWITS SEPTEMBER 2019 RFI 11**

## **AIR FORCE FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAM**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this paper is to provide written response to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) request for information (RFI) Eleven, regarding Air Force Family Child Care Program. This information is being provided in support of the DACOWITS projected September 2019 meeting.

### **BACKGROUND**

- The Family Child Care (FCC) Program is a critical component of our overall child care delivery system
  - One of the hallmarks of FCC is it's ability to tailor the types of care offered to virtually fit every schedule, deployment, or special need
  - FCC is also a good fit for military spouses seeking a professional, portable career that allows them to stay home with their children and run their own home-based business

### **DISCUSSION**

- Currently there are 1,682 children enrolled in FCC
  - AF FCC Subsidy Program is offered at installations with a FCC Program
  - Parents pay the same fee to use FCC as they pay in the installation Child Development Center or School Age Care
  - Recruitment for additional FCC providers is required at installations where there is an unmet demand child care wait list and it takes more than 90 days from the date care is needed to offer a child care space
- Factors impacting the willingness to become or remain a FCC provider include; competitive pay, an opportunity to stay at home with own children, care for multi-age children, and career prospects
  - Ramstein AB, Gemany is rolling out a program aimed at easing the chronic shortage of child care providers in the Kaiserslautern area. Military spouses who qualify as a FCC provider will move to the top of the waiting list for on-base housing. In exchange, they'll sign a contract agreeing to provide full time child care for at least 18 months.

- Factors negatively impacting the willingness to become or remain a FCC provider include; ongoing inspections, regulatory requirements, and impact to their own family
- Recent policy change to reduce the amount of time to certify FCC providers
  - FCC providers may be provisionally certified with additional oversight, the timeframe is now less than 60 days for certification versus 6-8 months
- Provider certifications are portable between installations eliminating the need to undergo the full certification process
  - Homes must be inspected, insurance transferred, and certification approved by Mission Support Group commander
- Ongoing challenge in the FCC Program is the limited number of children a provider may care for in their home. The number of children a provider can be certified for is limited to 6 children in care at one time with no more than 2 under 2 years of age
- Air Force Expanded Child Care Program offers an array of approaches to meet unique needs of Airmen and families and provides non-traditional child care for irregular duty hours
  - Typically offered in FCC homes, is constantly evolving, and has the ability to tailor the types of care offered to fit virtually every schedule, deployment or special need. Examples include: Missile Care, Extended Duty Care, 24/7 Child Care, Deployment Child Care Support, Home Community Care. In FY18 the following programs were enhanced:
    - Increased deployment support from 16 hours total to 16 hours each month of deployment
    - Increased EFMP Respite child care hours from 12 hrs to 40 hrs per month per child

**RECOMMENDATION:** None. For information only.