

SUBJ: DACOWITS RFI #10 - September QBM

FROM: USCG Family Support Division, Office of Work-Life (CG-1112)

TO: DACOWITS Committee

THRU: Office of Diversity & Inclusion (CG-127)

CHILD CARE RESOURCES (WB&T)

Comprehensive childcare has been an ongoing challenge for Service members and has been highlighted as such by DACOWITS for more than 35 years. The ongoing lack of childcare creates a strain on military families and impacts to unit operations.

The Committee requests a **written response** from each of the **Military Services** (include information on the Reserves and National Guard) on the following:

DACOWITS:

a. Specific regulations and policies that govern fee assistance programs, including the eligibility of Service members for fee assistance, the criteria for on- and off-installation care providers, and facilities to qualify for receipt of fee assistance. Please include:

- i. What regulations and policies govern fee assistance programs?
- ii. How many Service members are receiving fee assistance?
- iii. How many were denied fee assistance and any reasons for denial?
- iv. Information on proposed or pending changes and initiatives (e.g., in June 2019 the Army briefed it was “reforming” its fee assistance program).
- v. Indicate whether Service members on a waiting list are automatically eligible for fee assistance even if they otherwise might not qualify; and if not, why not?
- vi. If a Service member is receiving fee assistance and space becomes available in the installation child care facility, is the Service member required to move their children to the on-base care facility?
- vii. What challenges impact the provision of fee assistance?
- viii. Are Service members denied assistance due to lack of funding?

CG Response:

a. Specific regulations and policies that govern fee assistance programs, including the eligibility of Service members for fee assistance, the criteria for on- and off-installation care providers, and facilities to qualify for receipt of fee assistance. Please include:

- i. (a) Child Development Services Manual (COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION: 1754. 15)
- (b) 14 U.S.C. § 701(b)
- (c) 10 U.S.C. § 2492
- (d) DoDI 1015.10
- (e) DoDI 6060.2
- (f) DoDI 6060.4
- (g) 40 U.S.C. § 590(g)
- (h) 5 C.F.R. §§ 792.201-792.206
- (i) Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-6, 131 Stat. 135 and Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying same, H.R. Rep. No. 116-9, at 487 (2019) (Conf. Rep.)
- ii. As of July 2019, 884 service members receive child care fee assistance.
- iii. Sixty five (65) members were denied child care fee assistance. Reasons for denial or removal from the program included failure to complete forms, use of non-qualified providers, spouse not working or going to school, and customer request to withdraw from the program.
- iv. USCG Child Care Subsidy Program changed its subsidy administrator from USDA to Navy CYP in June 2019. Coast Guard is no longer using Total Family Income to calculate the amount of subsidy assistance. As of August 2019, subsidy calculation is based on the highest ranking member's paygrade only. This change allows our lower ranking members to receive the highest subsidy assistance.
- v. Coast Guard does not use a centralized waiting list, so all families are able to apply for child subsidy program. Since Coast Guard operates only nine CDCs, the subsidy program is used widely in the areas that do not have a CG CDC.
- vi. No, families do not need to move to a CDC space, they can continue with the subsidy.
- vii. Availability of funds is critical for the success of this program. It is not an issue at this time.
- viii. At this time, all service members who apply and are approved to receive fee assistance are receiving it.