



## Military Community & Family Policy

### Child and Youth Programs

*Office of Military Family Readiness Policy*

DACOWITS Request for Information on DoD Child Development Program support for Service Members versus Civilian Servants/Civilians

The following responses are provided:

**1. Provide information on the policy that addresses use of Child Development Centers (CDCs) by Service members versus Civil Servants.**

Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6060.02 “Child Development Programs (CDPs) signed, August 5, 2014, establishes policy, assigns responsibilities and prescribes procedures for providing child care to minor children (birth through age 12 years) of individuals who are eligible for care in Department of Defense (DoD) sanctioned CDPs. These programs include center-based child care, community-based care; family child care (FCC) homes; and School-age care (SAC). The policy establishes eligibility and priority usage to CDPs granting active duty Service members priority access to programs ahead of DoD civilians. DoD civilians, paid with appropriated or non-appropriated funds are considered eligible patrons and a key component of the **Total work Force** supporting DoD.

**2. Are there active duty Service members on the waiting list, while Civil Servants and their families utilize a CDC facility? If so, are there any provisions to address this situation?**

In some locations, an active duty Service member may be on the waiting list while Defense civilians and their families utilize the CDC. Once an eligible family is given a viable child care space, they are not displaced or removed to make room for another equally eligible family. While access to child care is based on eligibility and established priority criteria, priority is allocated to children of active duty military (single or dual military) and active duty military whose spouse is employed on a full-time basis outside the home.

**3. What is the rate of utilization between Civil Service and active duty Service members?**

The 2016 Child and Youth Annual Summary of Operation reports utilization rate for active duty Service members and Civil Service members indicates approximately 85% of child care spaces are utilized by active duty families and 15% are utilized by DoD civilian families. Note that a number of child care spaces used by DoD civilians are children of civilian staff employed by the program. We do not have currently collect data on the number of DoD civilian children of CDC employees.





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### 4. How many CDCs authorize Civil Servants to utilize their facility?

All CDCs authorize DoD civilians, as part of the DoD total work force, to utilize the facility with active duty Service members assigned the highest priority usage.

#### **Additional information:**

The DoD recognizes the importance of providing families access to quality, affordable child development programs and is committed to meeting this need through a comprehensive and robust child care delivery system. Providing our military Service members and DoD civilians with programs and services like the child care system helps to reduce distractions and allows families to stay focused on executing their missions. A quality child care system contributes to the efficiency, readiness, and retention of the total force and helps families balance the competing demands of work, deployment and family life.

