

## **NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU RESPONSE TO DACOWITS RFI Q10 CHILD CARE RESOURCES**

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:

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?

- Public Law 104-106, Military Child Care Act and Section 1785, Youth Sponsorship Program addresses personnel and training requirements, patron fees and appropriated funds support
- Public Law 104-201, Section 1044 - Lack of support for DoD Youth Programs
- Public Law 106-65, Section 584 - Support for expanded Child Care Services and Youth Program Services
- Public Law 106-79, Conference Report - DoD Report on Family Child Care Subsidy/Access to Military Child Care
- Public Law 101-647, Crime Control Act of 1990 requires the reporting of abuse and comprehensive background checks for Child Care and Youth staff
- Public Law 107-314, Section 323 - Uniform funding and management of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs
- Army Directive 2019-10 Army Child, Youth and School Services Space Available Patrons - Revises existing policy for the effective management of space-available patrons enrolled in Army child care
- Army Directive 2015-44 Updated Policy for Army Child, Youth, and School Services - Highlights include updated policy on program eligibility, child abuse/neglect, accreditation, program closures, serious incident reporting, staff training, immunizations, sanitation, and employee labor hours.
- Secretary of Army Directive 2014 - 23, Conduct of Screening and Background Checks for Individuals Who Have Regular Contact with Children in Army Programs
- DoDI 1015.2, Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation
- DoDI 6060.02, Child Development Programs
- DoDI 6060.4, Youth Programs
- DoDI 1402.05 Criminal History Background Checks on Individuals in Child Care Services
- DoD Social Compact and DoD Status of the Force Report to SECDEF
- AR 215-1, Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Programs and Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentalities
- AR 608-10, Child Development Services

ii. How many Service members are receiving fee assistance?

In FY18, an average monthly enrollment was 2,923 children of 2,031 eligible ARNG Soldiers.

iii. How many were denied fee assistance and any reasons for denial?

All eligible ARNG Soldier have been approved for AFA.

iv. Information on proposed or pending changes and initiatives (e.g., in June 2019 the Army briefed it was “reforming” its fee assistance program).

Unimplemented AD 2018-27 Rebalance of Army Child Care Fee Assistance which limited Army civilian eligibility, was rescinded a day prior to implementation.

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?

Currently, Army National Guard does not have a waiting list for AFA. All eligible ARNG Soldiers have been approved for AFA.

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?

On installation space is the primary location and when a space becomes available, Service members have 30 days to move to the available slots. If the Service member chooses to not utilize the available space, they will be dis-enrolled from AFA.

vii. What challenges impact the provision of fee assistance?

The proposed directive that will limit Army civilian enrollment into AFA.

viii. Are Service members denied assistance due to lack of funding?

All eligible ARNG Service members have been approved for AFA. No eligible ARNG Soldier has been denied assistance due to a lack of funding.