

INFORMATION PAPER

15 Aug 19

SUBJECT: DACOWITS RFIs for September 2019 Quarterly Business Meeting (HQDA-190731-2R35)

1. Purpose: To reply to the DACOWITS Child Care Resources request for information, questions 11a-f.

Question 11a: What factors impact willingness to become or remain a Family Child Care (FCC) Provider?

Response 11a: Until the recent implementation of provisional hiring allowing FCC providers to provisionally operate after their Installation Records Checks and the FBI finger print checks are received and adjudicated, background check completion was taking up to a year to complete. This was a major reason for the decline of FCC providers. Other factors included increased facility-based capacity, generational impacts, perceived bureaucracy, increased requirements in privatized Army housing, and insufficient marketing and incentives.

Question 11b: What is the current enrollment in the Family Child Care (FCC) Program? What is the shortfall or waiting list for this program?

Response 11b: As of 1 Aug 19, there are 178 certified Army FCC providers. There is no wait list for individuals to become FCC providers. There are no requests for child care on the Army's wait lists for FCC homes. However, marketing efforts will focus on directing Families to FCC homes when there is a wait list for child care.

Question 11c: Is fee assistance available to Service members who place children in care with an FCC?

Response 11c: No Families who chose FCC receive a discount (typically 15%) in their child care fees. This discount is returned to the provider through a subsidy.

Question 11d: What is the average timeframe to certify an FCC?

Response 11d: It takes approximately 60 days to complete all the requirements to become a certified FCC provider.

Question 11e: Address the portability of an FCC's certification to another installation. Must a previously or currently certified FCC undergo the full certification process upon transfer to a different installation?

Response 11e: FCC providers can transfer from installation to installation. All of the requirements for certification transfer with the provider to the new location. Requirements at the gaining installation include completion of installation-specific training and a home inspection. Typically the startup time is 30 days after arriving and settling into the new home. The Army is developing a web-based standardized transfer program for FCC providers.

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Question 11f: What challenges confront the Services in recruiting and retaining FCCs?

Response 11f: One challenge is the perception that FCCs are lesser quality than center-based programs. Another challenge is the perception that FCC programs are over-regulated and do not provide sufficient income. The Army is proactively addressing these challenges in its initiative to revitalize the FCC program.