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MFN
AUG 21 2019

MARINE AND FAMILY PROGRAMS DIVISION COMMENTS on DON TRACKER Task
2019-MRA_MP_MPE-124.3.1

Subj: DACOWITS' SEPTEMBER 2019 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Encl: (1) DACOWITS' RFIs for September 2019 Marine and Family
Programs Division

1. Marine and Family Programs Division's response to the RFI is
included in the attached enclosure.

2. Point of contact is Sandy Breeden, Management Analyst,
Program Assessment, MFN at (703) 784-9479.

Sandy C. Breeden

A. 10.vii. The Marine Corps sees challenges in the Off Base Child Care Fee Assistance when there is a lack of funding to sustain the program from year to year.

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

B. 10.viii. While Service members are not denied due to a lack of funding, they may be placed on a waitlist when participants reach a capacity.

11.a. What factors impact willingness to become or remain a family care provider? Incentives/disincentives?

A. 11.a. Two major factors which impact willingness to become a Marine Corps family child care provider are:

1. The disincentives in providing specific subsidies. Family Child Care providers are not offered certain subsidies at Marine Corps locations such as:

- Subsidy for opening infant only homes
- Subsidy for obtaining and maintaining home accreditation
- Subsidy for maintaining a child care space to include children with special needs

2. The lengthy certification process (to include the background check process).

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

A. 11.b. As of June 2019, 101 children were enrolled in 25 installation based FCC homes.

- To date there are five Marine Corps installations (Iwakuni, Lejeune/New River, Pendleton, Quantico, and 29 Palms) that provide active FCC homes with a total capacity of 105 spaces.
- There are a total of four Marine Corps installations (Yuma, South Carolina, Butler, and Hawaii) that have an

active FCC program. However, there are no active FCC homes.

- There are a total of five Marine Corps installations (Cherry Point, Albany, Barstow, Miramar, and Bridgeport) that do not have an active FCC program.
- Unmet Need data is counted for the entire system of care available on that installation, not for individual program types. Not able to provide a waitlist number specific to FCC.

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

A. 11.c. Fee assistance is not available for Service members who place their children in FCC services on base.

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

A. 11.d. The Marine Corps estimates 1 to 2 months as the average timeframe to certify an FCC provider.

11.e. 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?

A. 11.e. FCC certification training requirements are portable from installation to installation and maintained as a result of ETHOS, the Marine Corps' learning management system. Therefore, a previously or currently certified FCC provider will not have to undergo the full certification process upon transfer to a different installation. Considerable amount of time during the certification process involves training on specific installation and home inspection requirements.

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

A. 11.f. Interest for participating in the FCC program has decreased tremendously. Possible reasons for the decrease could be the lengthy certification process (to include background check process), subsidy support limited to non-existent, dual hatted FCC program managers, increased home oversight for provisional certification, and

installation focus on filling vacant Child Development
Center classrooms.
