



Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

Military Community & Family Policy

Improving Child Care Provisions for Service Members

8 December 2020

Quality of life policies and programs that help our guardians of country, their families and survivors be well and mission ready.



DoD Child Development Program System of Care

Child care is a workforce enabler that directly impacts readiness, efficiency, and retention.

DoD offers access to quality, affordable Child Development Programs to more than 160,000 children from birth to age twelve on a daily basis.



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DoD Child Development Program System of Care

The DoD child development program system of care provides families assistance with the cost of child care.

The country's largest employer-sponsored child care system utilizes a myriad of delivery systems to include:

- **Child Development Centers** providing approximately 69,000 child care spaces for children ages birth through 5 years in more than 500 facilities.
 - More than 57 percent of DoD child care spaces are utilized by children under the age of 3.
- **School-Age Care Programs** providing approximately 34,700 child care spaces for 6-12 year olds in more than 200 facilities.
- **Family Child Care Homes** providing care to approximately 5,400 children in nearly 900 installation-certified family child care homes.
- **Community-based Child Care** providing approximately 36,000 children care utilizing eligible child care providers who receive fee assistance on behalf of military families.



The Cost of Child Care

Section 1793 of Title 10, United States Code requires DoD to prescribe fee regulations for military child development programs.

- Child care fees are based on Total Family Income (TFI) calculation.
 - There are nine TFI categories with fees ranging from \$60/week to \$150/week.
 - Installation commanders may adjust fees to address a hardship or when families have multiple children in child care.
- Family Child Care Homes operate as a private business and set their own child care fees.
 - Fee assistance may be available to reduce the cost of care in certified Family Child Care Homes.



Community-based Child Care

DoD's community-based fee assistance program, Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN) is available nation-wide regardless of proximity to a military installation.

- Guard and Reserve members, recruiters, and other geographically dispersed Service members are eligible.
- The amount of fee assistance provided per child is based on:
 - The fee a family would pay if receiving care on the installation (based on total family income).
 - The cost of care charged by the community child care provider.
 - The child care provider rate cap established by the Service.
- Parents are responsible for paying their military child care fee and any additional amount above the child care provider rate cap.



Additional Options for Care

- School-age care programs may be offered in school facilities when the providers meet eligibility requirements.
- During summer months, approved summer camps are eligible to receive fee assistance on behalf of military families.
- Options are available to support Guard and Reserve members during weekend drills.
- In all cases, care must be regulated and inspected.



Initiatives

MCCYN-PLUS

- This initiative expands the pool of eligible providers to include facilities participating in their state's Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) at a designated quality rating.
 - Pilot underway in Maryland and Virginia with plans to expand in 2021 to additional locations.

Military OneSource Expanded Service

- Expanded child care options to meet short-term hourly care needs.



Questions?

*Community & Family Policy (MC&FP)
Office of Military Family*



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