



## Military Community and Family Policy Fact Sheet

### Data



*More than 128,500 military families include a member with special needs.*



*The term “family member” can include a spouse, child or dependent adult, regardless of age, with a special medical need, or a child, birth through age 21, with a special educational need.*

### Additional information

#### Exceptional Family Member Program

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>

## Standardizing the Exceptional Family Member Program

### Background

The Department of Defense Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs is focused on improving support for military families with special medical or educational needs through the development of policies and enhanced communication for the Exceptional Family Member Program. The Office of Special Needs works with federal and non-federal partners to identify and address gaps in services and information for military families with special needs.

### Highlights

The Defense Department is working toward standardizing the three components of the Exceptional Family Member Program across the military services: identification/enrollment, assignment coordination and family support. This ongoing process will:

- Ensure the same level of access to services regardless of military service affiliation and location — particularly in joint locations or where service members are assigned to a sister service
- Develop uniform policies and procedures for implementation across the military services
- Develop a system for reporting and continuous monitoring of family needs and available resources
- Monitor business processes and forms, as well as develop information technology solutions

