Taking Care of Service Members and Families

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S LANDSCAPE FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE

AUG. 3, 2023

WE ARE MAKING SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

FAST FACTS:

- **WHAT IS IT?** We understand how critical child care is to military families and are committed to meeting their child care needs. In fiscal year 2023, the Defense Department is making a significant investment in the construction of new child development centers. We are also investing considerable funding in the repair, renovation and maintenance of military child development centers to ensure the facilities are safe and well maintained for your children.
- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** Building and improving child development centers in locations where there are long waitlists and high concentrations of military families who need child care will increase capacity.
- **WHO BENEFITS?** Active-duty service members, including National Guard and reserve on active duty, Defense Department civilian employees and other authorized users.
- **HOW DO I GET IT?** To request child care, visit MilitaryChildCare.com: https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome.

50%

WE ARE STANDARDIZING A MINIMUM 50% EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT FOR THE FIRST CHILD OF OUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DIRECT-CARE WORKERS

FAST FACTS:

- **WHAT IS IT?** We are standardizing a minimum 50% employee fee discount for the first child of child development program direct-care workers across all military services.
- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** Child development program direct-care staff, including military spouses, will benefit from the 50% employee fee discount and provide spouses quality employment while we increase the capacity of our child development programs.
- **WHO BENEFITS?** Child development program direct-care staff, including military spouses.
- **HOW DO I GET IT?** For military spouses who may be interested, contact either the installation human resources office or consult Military OneSource at https://www.militaryonesource.mil/education-employment/seco/careers-with-military-kids/. To learn more about child development program employee fee discounts, contact your local child development program.

WE ARE IMPROVING ACCESS TO MILITARY FEE ASSISTANCE AND EXPANDING THE CHILD CARE IN YOUR HOME FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FAST FACTS:

- **WHAT IS IT?** We recognize the importance of providing our military families with access to quality, affordable child development programs and are committed to meeting the increased demand for child care. We provide a variety of programs for service members when installation-based child care is not available due to lengthy waitlists or when service members are geographically dispersed.

THE DOD OFFERS TRADITIONAL FEE ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE THROUGH MILITARY CHILD CARE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. MCCYN OFFSETS THE COST OF CHILD CARE IN THE COMMUNITY WHEN CARE IS UNAVAILABLE ON THE INSTALLATION.

- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** Our child care fee assistance program, MCCYN, provides assistance in finding civilian child care off the installation and offsetting the cost when installation-based child care is either not available or not a viable option. MCCYN providers must be state licensed and nationally accredited though a DOD-approved national or state early learning accreditation agency.
- **WHO BENEFITS?**
  - Fee assistance supports service members unable to access installation child care services.
  - MCCYN serves deployed and active-duty personnel, Guard and reserve members, and DOD civilian employees.
  - MCCYN is available in all locations.

TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF NATIONAL ACCREDITED PROVIDERS IN THE COMMUNITY AND EXTENSION WAITLISTS, THE DOD INITIATED MCCYN-PLUS TO QUALIFY PROVIDERS IN THE COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATING HIGH QUALITY THROUGH OTHER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS ASIDE FROM NATIONAL ACCREDITATION.

- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** The DOD expanded the MCCYN program, creating MCCYN-PLUS, to bridge the gap in locations where accredited care is unavailable. This initiative utilizes the states' Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, or QRIS, as an indicator of provider quality in lieu of national accreditation, broadening the pool of providers eligible to receive fee assistance on behalf of military families.
  - State-level quality improvement programs offer a systemic approach to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. By participating in their state's quality improvement program, early care and education programs embark on a path of continuous quality improvement. Parents can expect that providers are working toward quality standards that are higher than minimum licensing requirements.

- When on-installation child care is unavailable or when families do not live close to a military installation, MCCYN-PLUS helps eligible families access child care that meets their needs and reduces the out-of-pocket expenses for community child care.

- **WHO BENEFITS?**
  - Fee assistance for community child care is available for all service members.
  - MCCYN-PLUS is available in Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, Nevada, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Miami-Dade County, Florida. Additional states continue to join the initiative.

TO ADDRESS IMPACTS OF COVID-19, INCLUDING PROGRAM CLOSINGS, PROGRAM STAFF SHORTAGES AND INCREASED COST OF CARE, THE DOD INITIATED THE CHILD CARE IN YOUR HOME FEE ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM. CCYH IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN SELECT REGIONS EXPERIENCING HIGH DEMAND AND LONG WAIT TIMES FOR CARE.

- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** This fee assistance pilot program offers child care fee assistance to service members who utilize in-home child care providers, such as nannies, to meet the nontraditional schedules of military families. Under the CCYH program, parents must find, hire and employ their child care provider that best meets their child care needs. CCYH covers full-time care for a minimum of 30 hours to a maximum of 60 hours of child care weekly. Care is not limited to Monday through Friday or time of day.
- **WHO BENEFITS?**
  - Fee assistance for community child care is available for all service members in select regions with high demand and long wait times for care.
  - The Child Care in Your Home pilot program is currently available to eligible service members and families in the following 11 regions: Hawaii; National Capital Region; Norfolk, Virginia; San Antonio, Texas; San Diego, California; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Seattle/Tacoma, Washington; Jacksonville/Mayport, Florida; Fort Walton Beach, Florida; Fayetteville, North Carolina; and Las Vegas, Nevada. Space is limited in each of these regions, and some regions are operating with a waiting list.
  - Eligible military families in these regions include: Single or dual active-duty members, single or dual Guard or reserve members on active duty, active-duty members with a full-time working spouse, Guard or reserve members on active duty with a full-time working spouse, active-duty members with a spouse enrolled in a postsecondary institution on a full-time basis and Guard or reserve members on active duty with a spouse enrolled in a postsecondary institution on a full-time basis.

- **HOW DO I GET IT?** For additional information on military child care programs, including fee assistance programs, visit: https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome. For additional information on the Child Care in Your Home pilot program, visit: https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome/child-care-in-your-home. Child Care in Your Home program information is also available on Military OneSource: https://www.militaryonesource.mil/parenting/child-care/in-home-child-care-fee-assistance-program/.