



Key Message

In many cases, military family child care providers must be licensed or registered by the state in addition to the military. By exempting providers already certified through the military, states enhance the economic security of both the providers and families.

Discussion Points

1. Family child care providers offer military families reliable and personalized care in a homelike setting, on and off installations. These FCC providers, the majority of whom are military spouses (87% in fiscal year 2021), operate as independent business owners, contributing to the financial stability of their families.
2. When moving with their service member, FCC providers do not have to complete additional training or another background check when they arrive at their new installation, unless their certification is due for a renewal. The new installation commander grants providers certification upon completion of the required home inspections.
3. States, however, require licensure or registration for some on-installation and all off-installation FCC providers – which is duplicative of the military service FCC certification process. This can delay a provider from providing child care, which creates a financial hardship for a military spouse who needs to reestablish a business after a military move.
4. By exempting FCC providers already certified through the military service process, states enhance the quality of life and economic security of both the FCC provider and military families seeking qualified child care options.
5. Installation family child care programs manage the military service certification of FCC providers, in accordance with Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, "Child Development Programs."
6. The military services' FCC programs are intended to support the mission requirements of the installation and are for use only by active-duty military personnel, reserve component military personnel on active duty, DOD civilians and other eligible users. Additional information can be found at <https://militarychildcare.com>.



According to a recent report, the Defense Department currently needs more than 1,400 family child care providers to meet the demands of military communities. But in fiscal year 2021, the department reported having only 727 available providers, an almost 50% deficit.