



Key Message

In many cases, military family child care providers that are certified through Defense Department procedures must also be licensed or registered by the state, even when only caring for military children. By recognizing military family child care certification, in lieu of requiring state licensing, states can enhance access to child care for military families. States can also support Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS, increasing child care access for active-duty, National Guard and reserve families.

Discussion Points

1. Family child care providers offer military families reliable and personalized care in a homelike setting, on and off installations. These 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 an additional 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 certification process. This can delay a provider from providing child care, which can create 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 providers and military families seeking qualified child care options.
5. Installation commanders and Family Child Care program managers implement the military service certification of FCC providers in accordance with Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, "Child Development Programs." Additional information can be found at <https://militarychildcare.com>.
6. The Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS program expands the DOD's fee assistance program to include community child care providers who meet a state's Quality Rating and Improvement System. States can work with the department to ensure the program is fully implemented. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/parenting/child-care/mccyn-plus-child-care-program>.



There were 793 certified family child care providers in September 2023. The military services are seeking to increase the number of FCC providers to help meet the child care demands of military communities.