



Key Message

In many cases, in-home childcare providers certified by the military and who live off a military installation must also be licensed by the state, even when only caring for eligible military children. By exempting in-home childcare providers certified by the military from state licensure requirements, states can improve access to family childcare for military families.

Discussion Points

1. Family childcare providers offer military families reliable, personalized and high-quality 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. The military services maintain training and background records for FCC providers, allowing providers to seamlessly reestablish their childcare services at a new duty station. The installation commander at the new duty station is responsible for conducting required home inspections and verifying certification.
3. States, however, require licensure or registration for some off-installation FCC providers – which is duplicative of the military service certification process. This can delay a provider from providing childcare, 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 quality childcare options.
5. Installation commanders and FCC 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>.



There were 847 certified Family Childcare providers as of December 2025. The military services are seeking to increase the number of providers to help meet the childcare demands of military communities.