

RAISING
CHILD CARE,
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AMERICA
MAY 19-22

Partnering to Support our Military Families

May 2024



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Speakers

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Purpose

Many families across the country struggle to find childcare. Military families often face additional hurdles. Today we hope to provide information about the many supports that Child Care Aware of America offers for military families and engage in conversation around how we can work together to help meet their unique needs.

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Introduction to Military Programs

Serving members and their families in the United States
Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Marine Corps



Who We Serve

We serve children and families by supporting the development of childcare systems with highly skilled professionals who create high-quality, nurturing environments that allow children to fulfill their greatest potential.

More than 200,000 military families have relied on Child Care Aware® of America to administer a referral and subsidy fee assistance program to support their childcare needs, through which we have been able to connect families to a network of more than 20,000 licensed childcare practitioners. And our Exceptional Family Member (EFM) Respite Care program provides much needed support to families who have children with special needs.

Who We Serve

Each year, we make thousands of connections between parents and childcare practitioners. Our national hotline and website serves as a trusted source for consumer information on a wide range of topics regarding the selection of affordable, quality childcare.

We work with more than 400 childcare resource and referral agencies (CCR&Rs) across the country through the provision of national advocacy, policy analysis, training, resources, technical support, best practice guidance, and national partnership opportunities in the areas of childcare and early learning. We are a national nonprofit organization whose core mission is to ensure that every family in the United States has access to high quality, affordable childcare.

Child Care Aware® of America

Vision

Every family in the United States has access to a high quality, affordable childcare system. The childcare system supports children's growth, development, and educational advancement and creates positive economic impact for families and communities.

Mission

We advance a childcare system that effectively serves all children and families. Our work is strengthened by a national network of childcare resource and referral agencies (CCR&Rs) and diverse members and partners.



Service Offerings

Child Care Aware® of America's Military Programs Unit provides direct services to parents and childcare providers in the form of:

- Fee Assistance Administration
- Consumer Education
- Hotline and Website
- Enhanced Referral Service
- Respite Care
- Non-Traditional Care Options
- Program Management and Evaluation
- Child Care Provider Recruitment

Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood

What is Child Care Fee Assistance?

For more than a decade, military branches – Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Space Force – have provided fee assistance to eligible military families to offset the cost of childcare in community programs through Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood, or MCCYN, when childcare is unavailable on an installation. MCCYN supports families in locations with extensive waiting lists as well as those that are geographically dispersed – to include reserve component families. MCCYN provides fee assistance to eligible military families using nationally accredited childcare providers in the community.

Fee Assistance Eligibility - Families

Who do we serve?

- Army
- Air Force
- Space Force
- Marine Corps
- Navy*

Requirements for Families:

- For all services, the non-military parent must be working or enrolled in school
- Household profile on [MilitaryChildCare.com](https://militarychildcare.com)
- Eligible military orders

*Navy Fee Assistance is operated by Navy CYP, though CCAoA administers Respite Care work for the Navy.

Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood

How do I get started?

If you would like to make a request to participate in the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN) program for community childcare fee assistance, please follow the steps outlined in the graphics below.



Step One: Create a Profile on [MilitaryChildCare.com](https://militarychildcare.com)



Step Two: Make Requests for Care & Fee Assistance



Step Three: Receive an Offer & Complete an Application



MCCYN and MCCYN-PLUS

MCCYN

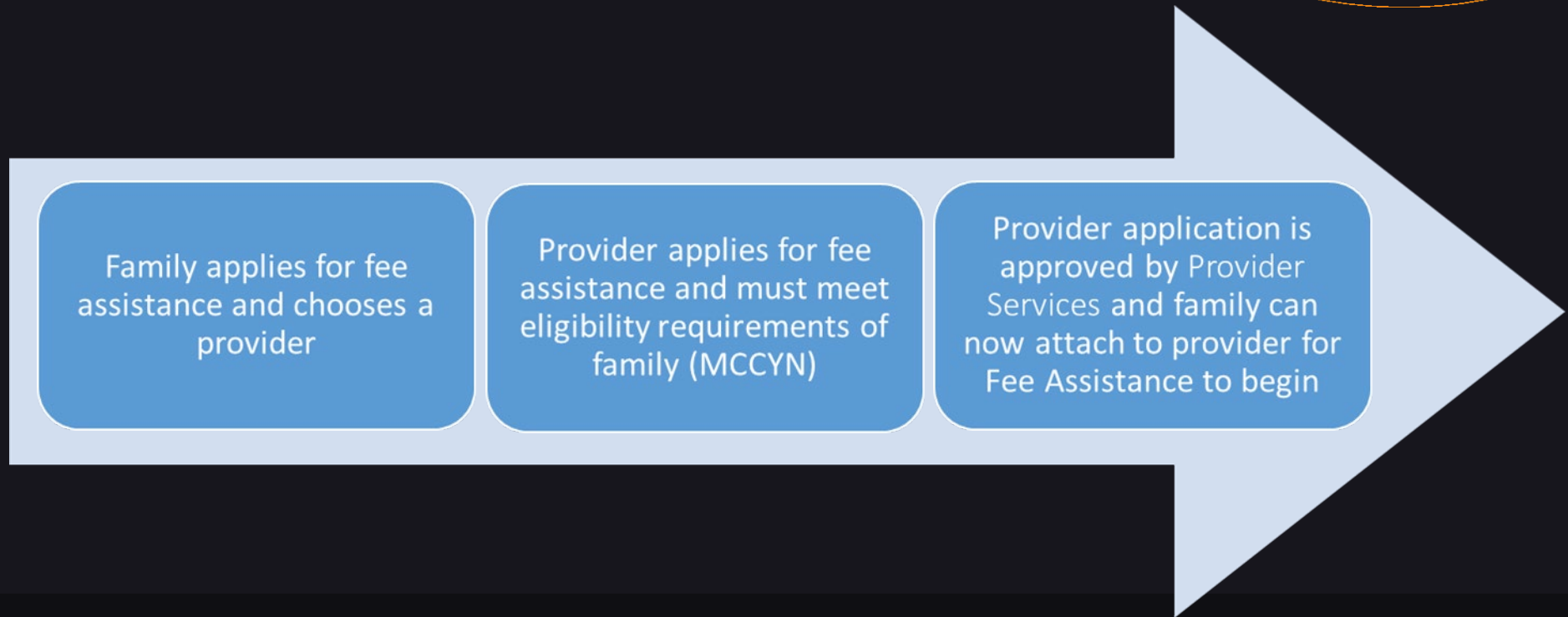
- Fee assistance offsets the cost of childcare in community programs, helping those for whom on-base care is not available.
- Through this program, families gain access to nationally accredited providers.

MCCYN-PLUS

- MCCYN+ provides fee assistance for community childcare programs rated by their state's quality improvement program.
- In states with MCCYN+, families can receive assistance even if nationally accredited programs are unavailable in their area.
- This program is currently active in the following states/counties: Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Miami-Dade County, Florida.



Provider Services



Fee Assistance Eligibility - Providers



Community childcare providers interested in participating in MCCYN must hold a valid state license and be accredited by a DoD-approved National Accreditation organization



Providers must have a clean state inspection history free of disqualifying incidents (health and safety violations)

CCAOA runs a national hotline for all military families and providers who have questions regarding the MCCYN fee assistance process

CCAOA also connects providers and families with local CCR+R's and agencies to assist them outside of becoming an MCCYN fee assistance provider

Fee Assistance Eligibility – MCCYN-Plus

- Providers who do not hold a DoD-approved National Accreditation, may still be eligible for the fee assistance program through MCCYN-Plus
- The military fee assistance program MCCYN has expanded to MCCYN-Plus to include community child care programs that are rated by their state's quality improvement program.
- Community-based child care providers participating in their state's quality improvement program at the approved quality level will be additional options for families
- The provider must be participating at the DoD-approved quality level in their state's QRIS program (typically a level 3 out of 5)



Provider Services

- The work we do:
 - Provider Reviews – To ensure compliance with fee assistance guidelines and to help increase the quality of care provided, various aspects of provider applications are reviewed by senior staff/management (rates, inspection, license, accreditation)
 - Mandated Reporting – Complaint intake of families and connecting with state licensing for reporting of child abuse/neglect

To connect for more information

Audrey Kraemer

Director, Provider Services

Audrey.Kraemer@usa.childcareaware.org

Exceptional Family Member (EFM) Respite Care



What is EFM Respite Care?

Since 2008, CCAoA has been administering EFM Respite Care on behalf of Navy, Child and Youth Programs (CYP), as a benefit to Navy families who are enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and who are classified as Category 4 or 5. The Navy recognized that families who have children with special needs often need respite care, due to changes in their support systems with regular relocations, need for non-traditional hours, increased support during deployments, etc.

EFM Respite Care currently provides up to 40 hours of respite childcare per month at no cost to the eligible family. Both directly and in coordination with our local partner organizations across the country (CCR&Rs, disability orgs, etc.), EFM Respite Care refers qualified, trained, and screened providers to families who best fit their care needs.



EFM Respite Care

Where is EFM Respite Care available?

The program is available throughout the United States. While the program's largest presence is around the major Naval installations, the program will serve eligible Navy families wherever they are in the U.S. (e.g., recruitment posts, assignment to another branch's installation, etc.).

Respite childcare providers are individual providers in the family's home, or licensed and accredited childcare centers and family childcare homes. Due to the needs of children and the desire for non-traditional hours, EFM Respite Care primarily takes place in the child's own home.



EFM Respite Care

How does EFM Respite Care operate and ensure quality childcare?

- Once families are offered a space in the program and proceed with enrollment, we collect their specific care needs through an intake.
- Respite childcare providers are recruited, screened, trained, and retrained for ongoing referrals.
- The program refers providers with matching skills, qualifications, and availability for interview. Once matched, parents and providers schedule care directly with one another.
- Providers are paid by the hourly care provided, and respite care sessions are monitored quarterly.

EFM Respite Care

How does CCAoA administer all the in-person elements of the program?

- We work with partner agencies who are the local points of contact.
- Provide intake and enhanced referral services for families.
- Recruit respite childcare providers and make sure they meet program requirements:
 - Interview and reference checks
 - Local and Federal background checks
 - First Aid and CPR certification
 - Child Abuse Awareness (Prevention, Identification, Reporting)
 - Dispensing Medication
 - SIDS Training
- Monitor the family's care and provider training and technical assistance to providers.





EFM Respite Care

How do we get families, providers, and agencies involved?

- Navy families interested in participating, as well as potential respite childcare providers, can reach out to our team at:
 - Phone - 1-800-424-2246 ext. 317
 - Email – NavyEFMPrespite@usa.childcareaware.org
- Childcare and special needs organizations looking to connect for partnership, information, or program promotional material, contact:
 - Andrew Coates
Director, EFM Respite Care
Andrew.Coates@usa.childcareaware.org

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Questions?

Contact Information

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Thank You