

CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

**PLEASE NOTE THAT I AM ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE. I CAN BE REACHED BY PHONE AT 609-562-0742, BY FAX AT 609-562-0552 OR BY EMAIL AT AMANDA.BALAS@US.ARMY.MIL or AMANDABALAS@HOTMAIL.COM

CHILD CARE AWARE

The Child Care Aware program assists families in finding quality childcare. Their website, www.ChildCareAware.org, provides searches by zip code or by state to find a local child care resource and referral organization that can help you find in home care or center care and to identify those providers specializing in evening and weekend care. You may also contact your state licensing board to identify childcare providers.

According to the website, www.naccrra.org, for the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies” (NACCRRRA) is working with the Department of Defense (DOD) to help those who serve in the military find and afford child care that suits their unique needs.” NACCRRRA has formed many partnerships in support of military families. Let’s look at the different programs available.

OPERATION CHILD CARE

Through a joint initiative between the Department of Defense (DOD) and the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, thousands of independent licensed or certified family child care providers and child care centers across the country have volunteered to participate in Operation Child Care. Operation Child Care is available to National Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty military families returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. Military members returning for two weeks of R&R may receive a minimum of four hours of free childcare. Since some service members do not return home for R & R, other options may be explored, such as respite care for spouses. Child Care Resources and Referral agencies have recruited providers who are ready to help in many other ways such as providing free child care during FRG meetings, deployment briefings, and reunion briefings. Contact your local Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agency to see if childcare providers are participating in your area. You can go to www.childcareaware.org to find your local CCR&R agency. This website provides helpful hints when selecting short-term care; look under the Operation Child Care section.

OPERATION MILITARY CHILD CARE

This subsidy program supports the temporary childcare needs of National Guard (both Army and Air) and Reserve service members who are activated or deployed in the Global War on Terror. This program reduces childcare fees for licensed childcare. It is based on total family income and childcare expenses. The subsidy is intended to support a military spouse’s employment, education, or special medical circumstances. It may also be provided for a period up to 60 days while a spouse is looking for work. All income levels and ranks are eligible. Guardians are also eligible. Funds are paid directly to the childcare provider.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To avoid delays in childcare, families may even begin the application process prior to the deployment. Starting the process early can assure you have time to work out any problems that you might encounter.

If families do not have access to the computer, they should call 1-800-424-2246 X 341.

The following information is how you get started:

- * Go to www.naccrra.org/militaryprograms
- * Click on "Parent's Online Subsidy Application"
- * Follow the following steps:

A. Select a program type and the Program Specific Information

(1) OMCC, MCCYN, SISM

(2) Choose Component

B. Enter the Applicant Information

(3) Submission Type: Initial or Change of information

- 2. Enter all Adult Household Members and Contact info**
- 3. Enter Info for each income source**
- 4. Enter all Childcare Providers and their contact info**
- 5. Enter all Dependent Children requiring childcare**
- 6. Enter the schedules of Care Required**
- 7. Review the entered information and then press the SAVE button to submit the application**

After you submit the application online (or via fax if it is done on paper) submit the required documents to NACCRRRA by fax, mail, or email as soon as you have finished the online application.

The required documents may include:

- Service member's military orders (activated/deployed only)
- Leave and Earning Statements (LES) for the Service member
- Spouse's most recent pay stub (most recent month) or proof of enrollment in school
- Child (ren) birth certificates or self certification statement
- Physician's certification form (this is for the Severely Injured Program)

Ask your provider to complete the provider application and fax, mail, or email the required provider documents including:

- W-9 Form
- Child care license
- National Accreditation certificate, QFCC (Quality Family Child Care) or ACCYN (Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood) Quality Child Care Participant Certificate, if applicable or
- Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, Early Childhood Education or Child Development degree, if applicable

If you need help finding a provider contact Child Care Aware at (800) 424-2246 or www.childcareaware.org

If you or your provider has any problems during this process, you can contact NACCRRRA at (800) 793-0324 x 341. The fax number is: (703) 341-4104

Mailing address is:

NACCRRRA

Military Subsidy Department

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