

**Background:** Thousands of active duty, Guard and Reserve Service Members in all branches of the military have been activated or deployed. The remaining spouse or other family members suddenly assume responsibility for all family needs. Their needs range from a few hours of respite care to financial support in meeting the additional financial demands caused by family separations.

NACCRRA administers child care consumer education and provides referrals through our Child Care Aware® toll-free hotline and website. NACCRRA built upon Child Care Aware® and its existing fee assistance programs to develop similar programs for all branches of the U.S. military beginning in 2004. Since then, NACCRRA has administered several programs to help military families find and pay for quality child care options in their communities.

To support these child care requirements, the Department of Defense (DoD), the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps and NACCRRA established partnerships which:

- Require NACCRRA to find child care in civilian communities nationwide for Active Duty, Guard and Reserve military families living away from military installations. NACCRRA pays child care fees to participating child care providers. All providers must be state licensed and receive an annual inspection.
- Benefit military families with children in care, child care providers, and Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs). Thousands of military families gain access to quality child care spaces around the country, and thousands more civilian families and their children benefit from the improvements made in the child care programs participating in this effort.
- Benefit child care providers by providing access to high-quality training and resources, as well as financial incentives.

## **Operation Military Child Care (OMCC) for All Military Services**

- Operation Military Child Care (OMCC) provides short-term child care subsidies to activated National Guard and Reserve Service Members, and Active Duty personnel. Under the OMCC partnership, NACCRRA provides child care referrals and fee assistance is paid for child care spaces at various locations.
- Under OMCC, child care fee assistance is paid for temporary deployment spaces in inspected, licensed care for deployed National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty Service Members from all military branches.

## **Military Child Care in your Neighborhood (MCCYN) for All Military Services**

- Military Child Care in your Neighborhood (MCCYN) is an initiative that requires NACCRRA to provide long-term quality child care spaces.
- Under MCCYN, child care fee assistance is paid for accredited care for children of geographically dispersed Active Duty Service Members.

## **Wounded, Ill, or Severely Injured for All Military Services**

- Wounded, Ill, or Severely Injured is an initiative that requires NACCRRA to provide child care spaces to Active Duty Service Members who have been injured and are receiving in-patient or out-patient medical care for extended periods. For the Army, Soldiers must be assigned to a Warriors in Transition Battalion or Unit to receive care.
- Under this initiative, fee assistance covers the cost of licensed child care for up to six months during recuperation. A physician reassessment is required to continue in the program beyond six months.

## Army Partnerships

### ➤ Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood (ACCYN)

Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood (ACCYN) helps meet the demand for quality off-post child care in 16 designated Army communities. The goal is to increase quality child care in these communities by helping center-based child care providers achieve national accreditation for child care centers and help Family Child Care (FCC) providers obtain a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) accreditation within two years. In FY 2010, 48 percent of centers achieved national accreditation and 80 percent of FCC providers received a CDA or NAFCC accreditation.

### ➤ Army School-Age Programs In Your Neighborhood (ASPYN)

Army School-Age Program in Your Neighborhood helps meet the needs of Army Families with school-age children in the local community. The program is offered near nine Army installations.

### ➤ Survivors of Fallen Warriors

Survivors of Fallen Warriors supports the child care needs of families of Soldiers who died on Active Duty on or after September 11, 2001. These families receive help in finding Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood child care spaces.

### ➤ Give Army Parents a Break

Give Army Parents a Break provides families with up to 16 hours of free respite child care each month for each eligible child. Families can use the time to run errands, attend appointments, or just take some well-deserved time for themselves. The Army recognizes the challenges and stress placed on Army families and wants to help support their unique child care needs.

## Navy Partnership

### ➤ Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Respite Care

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is for Navy families who have children with special needs. The Navy EFMP program is available at five Navy installations.

Navy families receive 40 hours of care per month at no cost to the family. Families must be enrolled in the EFMP to receive this care for children from birth to 18 years of age. The Navy sponsor must be stationed at one of the five installations. Navy sponsors not stationed at one of the designated installations are approved on a case-by-case basis.

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## About NACCRRA

NACCRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, is our nation's leading voice for child care. We work with more than 600 state and local Child Care Resource & Referral agencies to ensure that families in every local community have access to quality, affordable child care. To achieve our mission we lead projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, offer comprehensive training to child care professionals, undertake groundbreaking research, and advocate for child care policies that improve the lives of children and families. To learn more about NACCRRA and how you can join us in ensuring access to quality child care for all families, visit [www.naccrra.org](http://www.naccrra.org).