

Off Base Child Care Fee Assistance Modification

Updates to Child Care Fee Assistance Program Offers Accessibility to Geographically Dispersed Marines

The Marine Corps has provided Marines with child care fee assistance through a national organization since 2004. Child care fee assistance supported by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies also known as NACCRRA, has undergone a major reformation within the Marine Corps. In July of 2010, Marine families enrolling and recertifying in the NACCRRA Fee Assistance Program were being placed on a waiting list with an indefinite end date. July 15, 2011 marks the final day for families to receive child care fee assistance services under the current policy. In the next several months, families will be notified of the change in policy and will be encouraged to seek child care support from the program that best meets their child care needs under Marine Corps guidance.

The intent of the Child Care Fee Assistance Program is to assist geographically dispersed families with the cost of child care so that families may receive quality care at a cost comparable to installation rates. Under reorganization Marine families wishing to participate in the off base Fee Assistance Child Care Program must meet the following requirements:

- Live 30 miles outside of a Military Installation
- Marine must not be assigned to a Marine Corps Installation
- Marine must be on Active Duty and/or Deployed Status

Marine families who meet the eligibility requirements will receive a maximum fee assistance in the amount of \$3,000 annually for up to two children. Families with more than two children in the program will receive fee assistance at a 20% lower rate, as many child care programs offer a discount for siblings. Families charged less than the monthly maximum will receive assistance at cost. For example, if there are 3 children in the family;

Fee assistance for 2 children: 2×3000 dollars annually=6000 dollars annually

Fee assistance for 3rd child: $20\% \times 3000$ dollars annually=2400 dollars annually

Fee assistance should never be more than the amount the provider charges. Example: If provider charges \$83 monthly, assistance will be \$83 monthly.

Those Marines living within 30 miles of an installation who still have a need for child care assistance may contact the installation Resource and Referral Specialist to get assistance in locating care on or near the installation or to discuss community based financial assistance options. While many Marines have found a convenience in using community based child care, some do not realize the level of quality that can be found on a military installation. Marine Corps Installation Resource and Referral Specialist can be located through the Marine Corps Community Services Website:

www.usmc-mccs.org/cytp.

While providing continued support to Marines and their families is our goal, the off base Child Care Fee Assistance Program is contingent upon funding. Please accept our gratitude for your patience during this time of transition.