

CHILD CARE **ARMY FEE ASSISTANCE** PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the Army Fee Assistance (AFA)

Program?

The AFA program offers fee assistance to offset the cost of community-based care. Fee Assistance buys down the higher cost of off-post care allowing eligible Families to pay fees comparable to those charged at the Installation for full day services.

2) Who administers the AFA program?

The Army Fee Assistance (AFA) program is administered by a third-party contractor, Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA), on behalf of the Army Child & Youth Services.

3) Who is eligible for the AFA program?

- Single Soldiers / Single Army Civilian employees.
- Dual Military Soldiers / Dual Army Civilian employees
- Active-Duty Soldiers (to include activated Guard and Reserve Soldiers) / Army Civilian employees with a working spouse/domestic partner.**
- Active-Duty Soldiers (to include activated Guard and Reserve Soldiers) / Army Civilian employees with a spouse/domestic partner enrolled in a post-secondary educational program.**
- There are no income limits for the Army Fee Assistance program.

**A spouse / domestic partner must be employed or enrolled in school for a minimum of 25 hours per week for full time eligibility and between 16 and 24 hours per week for part time eligibility.

4) Does the AFA program currently have a waitlist for enrollment?

The AFA program currently does not have a waitlist.

5) How do I apply for AFA Program?

Families can apply for Army Fee Assistance using the link: <https://fap.americateamforchildcare.org>

6) What supporting documents does the Sponsor need to provide?

- The Self Certification Form or birth certificate for children listed on the application (*Children eligible for fee assistance must be living in the same*

household of the Army Sponsor and be listed as a legal dependent in the sponsor's DEERS. Fee assistance programs are provided for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years).

- A current copy of the Sponsor's LES dated within the past 90 days.
- Military Orders for all Army Sponsors activated to full-time duty from the Army National Guard or Army Reserve.
- Military Orders for Active Army sponsors if deployed.
- Current year SF-50 / DA 3434 and Civilian LES if sponsor is Army civilian employee.
- Retiree Account Statement (RAS), VA benefit letter, other retirement, or disability income for civilian sponsor (if applicable).

7) What supporting documents does the spouse/ domestic partner need to provide?

- Working Spouse: Spouse/domestic partner must submit one month's worth of pay stubs with verification of the number of hours worked per week. If they are unable to provide pay stubs due to recent employment and Employment Verification Form can be submitted until paystubs are available.
- Student Spouse: If the Spouse/domestic partner is enrolled in school, a school schedule verifying enrollment with a minimum of 12 credit hours for undergraduate, or 9 credit hours at a graduate level. If the school has non-traditional scheduling (e.g., *quarter schedules, block schedules*) the documentation must clearly state that the student is enrolled full-time. School schedule must include the student's name, the school's name, the number of enrolled credits, and the period of the current semester.
- Self-Employed Spouse: Self-employment is defined as being directly engaged in an income producing trade or business started and carried on in good faith for the purpose of making a living and presented to the general public as being engaged in selling goods and/or services regular-

ly with repetition and continuity of operation as one's occupation. This can be as an independent contractor or business owner. Visit website for more information on self-employment eligibility can be found at <https://www.childcareaware.org/feeassistancerespitemilitary-families/army/afaprogram/policy-updates/>

- Spouse Seeking Employment: A one-time 90-day enrollment of looking for work approval period may be utilized by the Spouse/domestic partner, if they are currently searching for employment.
- RAS, VA benefit letter, other retirement, or disability income for spouse/domestic partner (if applicable).

8) How do I find military childcare in my area?

Families can visit the link below to find information about childcare providers in their area. <https://naccrapps.naccrra.org/army/directory/search.php?program=mccyn>

9) I need assistance finding a provider who has space for my child.

CCAoA can assist finding an eligible provider. An enhanced referral specialist can conduct a customized childcare search considering your home and work address, transportation routes to and from work, hours of care needed, ages of the children, and childcare providers eligibility and availability. Families are encouraged to complete an application on the CCAoA website and indicate assistance is needed to find a provider. A representative from CCAoA will contact you to assist you with your provider search.

10) My selected provider is new to the Military Fee Assistance program?

If you selected a provider who is new to the Military Fee Assistance program, please verify the providers' eligibility by contacting CCAoA at 1-800-424-2246. New providers must apply via the CCAoA website.

11) What information do I need from my provider?

Families must submit a Provider Cost Verification Form (PCVF) signed by the sponsor and provider.

The PCVF collects all required information about the childcare rates that your family will be charged by the childcare provider. This includes discounts, effective dates, rate changes, rate frequency, and the schedule of care. This form will be used to process your fee assistance application. You will be required to submit this form with your family application after it has been confirmed that your childcare provider is eligible to participate in the fee assistance programs.

12) How is the fee assistance calculated?

The Army Fee Assistance subsidy is the difference between what the Sponsor would pay on the installation and the community-based childcare provider's fee, up to a provider rate cap per the current fee policy, effective 1 December 2022. Childcare fees on the installation are based on your Total Family Income. The Army Sponsor is responsible for any fees not covered by the Army Fee Assistance Program and any amount the community-based childcare provider charges over the provider rate cap. If the difference between the Army monthly fee and the provider's rate is determined to be less than \$20 a month, then a monthly amount of childcare fee assistance will not be authorized.

**** Please be advised that the Army Fee Assistance Program is not an entitlement program and is subject to the availability of funds.**

For any additional information please contact the Army Fee Assistance program at:

usarmy.jbsa.imcom-fmwrc.mbx.army-fee-assistance@army.mil



For more information visit:

Child Care Aware of America Army
www.childcareaware.org/fee-assistancerespitemilitary-families/army/

