

Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood–PLUS

PURPOSE: To provide information on the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood- PLUS initiative to increase the pool of providers eligible to receive fee assistance on behalf of military families.

BACKGROUND:

- Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN) is the Department’s child care fee assistance program for military families using civilian providers in the local community.
- Civilian providers must meet DoD requirements which include: a state license with annual licensing agency inspections, employee background checks, and national accreditation.
- Due to a lack of accredited child care providers in the civilian community, families are sometimes unable to find child care providers who are eligible to participate in fee assistance. In order to address this problem, the Department launched the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN-PLUS) program in Maryland and Virginia in 2019.
- MCCYN-PLUS utilizes the States Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) as an indicator of provider quality, in lieu of national accreditation, broadening the pool of providers eligible to receive fee assistance on behalf of military families.
- Currently MCCYN-PLUS is offered in four states: Virginia, Maryland, Nevada, and Washington State.
- MC&FP will expand MCCYN-PLUS to Miami-Dade-County FL in September 2022; Texas in October 2022, and Colorado in November 2022.
- MC&FP is also engaged with California, North Carolina, and additional counties in Florida to plan for MCCYN-PLUS implementation.

MCCYN-PLUS RAPID EXPANSION:

- MC&FP conducted a thorough review of all state licensing requirements and QRIS standards to determine applicability for expansion to all states.
- MC&FP determined 34 states and Washington DC meet the requirements to implement MCCYN-PLUS.
 - The following states do not currently operate a QRIS and are not yet eligible for expansion: Connecticut, Hawaii, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, South Dakota, and West Virginia.
- To execute the rapid expansion effort, Governors’ Offices and state QRIS agencies will receive a comprehensive information packet with an invitation to attend MC&FP hosted virtual information sessions that will provide an in-depth overview of the program.
 - A USD P&R memo will headline the information packet.
 - Each session will start with a USD P&R pre-recorded message.
- Following the virtual information sessions, individualized planning meetings will be held with interested states to discuss implementation timelines.
- MC&FP will also reach out to state QRIS agencies that did not participate in the virtual information sessions.
- MC&FP will continue to track states without a current QRIS and engage when their QRIS status changes.