



Child Care Availability and Quality, Federal Interagency Efforts *Family Policy/Children and Youth*

Background

The Department of Defense (DoD) considers care for young children to be a workforce issue for military families with direct impact on the effectiveness and readiness of the force. In addition to providing child care services on the installation, DoD has developed initiatives to expand child care capacity for Reserve Component families, geographically dispersed active duty military families and active duty families who are unable to access child care programs on the installation. Plans to build this capacity involve utilizing a myriad of delivery systems to include existing child care facilities, schools, recreation and after-school programs, and home-based care.

Program Highlights

The Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth together with the Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO), Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), Joint Family Support Assistance teams (JFSAP), Health and Human Services, Department of Education, Department of Labor, USDA, and other community-based partners have joined together to promote the importance of comprehensive, research-based quality standards for child care and out of school care programs. Additionally, the partners' objective is to improve awareness and availability of quality child care utilizing existing local, state, and federal resources.

Eligibility

Initial efforts will be focused in a select number of states identified through an analysis of multiple factors including:

- High level of interest in improving the quality of child care at the state level
- Strong Joint Family Support Assistance Team (JFSAP) in place
- Network of community partners willing to partner
- High mobilization and deployment rates
- Demographic data of families with children residing in concentrated areas

Program Availability

The following thirteen states have been identified as initial focus areas: Alaska, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, and Washington. Quality improvement efforts include training, technical assistance, materials, and supplies.

Current as of August 16, 2010

