

Army Child Care Fee Policy for School Year 2012-2013 (SY 12-13)

Carlisle Barracks will implement the Department of Defense (DoD) Child & Youth Fee Policy for SY 2012 – 2013 on 01 October 2012. The DoD SY 12-13 Child and Youth Fee Policy begins the transition of all Military Services to standard child care fees, based on total family income. Fees are expected to be fully standardized in school year 14-15. This process began in school year 10-11 with the Army Child & Youth Fee Policy. This represents a three-year phased plan for each installation.

DoD establishes Child Care Fees based on Total Family Income (TFI). This is required by the Military Child Care Act (MCCA). The Congressional intent is for Families to pay a share of their work-related child care expenses and for DoD to provide fee assistance to lower the cost of care for all military Families.

By law, military child care fees are based on the family's total income, not military rank or civilian grade. The Military Services subsidize fees on a sliding scale for every Family regardless of rank/grade or income.

The Army SY 12-13 Army Child & Youth Fee Policy addresses patron fees for Child Development Centers (CDCs), School Age Care (SAC), Family Child Care (FCC), Middle School & Teen Programs, SKIES *Unlimited* Instructional Programs, Youth Sports & Fitness, and Army Community Based Programs.

Questions and Answers about the New Fee Policy:

Q1. What are the major changes in the DoD Child Care Fee Policy for SY12-13?

A1. DoD has adjusted the child care fee ranges to begin to move all Services toward a single fee per Total Family Income (TFI) category by SY14-15 for both Standard and High Cost of living areas.

Q2. What is new for installations in the SY12-13 Army Child & Youth Fee Policy?

A2. Major changes in the SY12-13 Army Child & Youth Fee Policy include:

- a. SY12-13 child care fees are adjusted to prepare for DoD transition to single fees for each total family income category.
- b. Policy for FCC Parent Fee Assistance and Provider Support Incentives.

- c. Increase in late monthly payment fees.
- d. Revised termination of services procedures.

e. Standardized Installation procedures for referral to Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN) or Operation Military Child Care (OMCC) community based programs.

f. Multiple child reduction procedures (discounts) when siblings are enrolled in Family Child Care and either a Child Development Center or School Age Care.

Q3. What is Army Fee Assistance?

A3. It is the Army's contribution toward the total cost of child care. In on post programs, Army Fee Assistance supplements Parent Fees to reduce/cover the actual cost of care.

Q4. What is Total Family Income (TFI)?

A4. TFI is defined as all earned income including wages, salaries, tips, special duty pay (flight pay, active duty demo pay, sea pay), and active duty save pay, long-term disability benefits, voluntary salary deferrals, retirement or other pension income including Social Security Income (SSI) paid to the spouse and VA benefits paid to the surviving spouse before deductions for taxes. TFI calculations must also include quarters subsistence and other allowances appropriate for the rank and status of military or civilian personnel whether received in cash or in kind. For dual military living in government quarters include Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) RC/T of the senior member only.

TFI does not include alimony, and child support received by the custodial parent, SSI received on behalf of the dependent child, reimbursements for educational expenses or health and wellness benefits, cost of living (COLA) received in high cost areas, temporary duty allowances, or reenlistment bonuses.

Q5. Does the Army have to follow the DoD Child Care Fee Policy?

A5. Yes. The Military Child Care Act of 1989 requires the DoD to establish uniform child care fees based on TFI for use by all branches of the Service.

Q6. When will the new child care fees go into effect?

A6. The SY12-13 CYS Services installation fees are effective NLT 1 Oct 2012. Charts containing the fee schedule are available at your child's center or program.

Q7. How are child care fees determined?

A7. There is no change to the process for determining the fees. DoD established nine TFI Categories and fees/fee ranges for each category. Parent fees are based on their TFI Category.

Q8. Will I need to have my TFI category revalidated?

A8. TFI is generally only validated during CYS Services annual registration. Exceptions occur when there is a change to the Family's total income.

Q9. What happens if I do not provide the required income documents to determine my TFI Category?

A9. Families who do not show proof of income are charged the TFI Category 9 fee.

Q10. What happens if I am unable to pay child care fees?

A10. Commanders may authorize financial hardship waivers for Families with documented financial hardships. Information is available at the local CYS Services Office.

Q11. What programs are available for Army children with a deployed parent?

A11. Deployment Support Services are available while a Soldier or Department of Army (DA) Civilian parent is deployed. Information is available at the local CYS Services. Services include:

- a. Respite Child Care (16 hours/Child/month) is provided at no cost to Families of Deployed Personnel. Respite Child Care Hours cannot be deducted from regular child care fees.
- b. Free hourly care is offered for mandatory deployment support activities such as mandatory deployment meetings.
- c. Free child care for attendees of memorial services.
- d. 20% child care fee reduction.
- e. SKIES Unlimited *Instructional* Program fees up to \$300 per child per deployment.
- f. Sports activity fees up to \$100 per child per deployment.

g. \$2.00 per hour fee for reduced hourly child care after 16 hours of free Respite Care are exhausted.

Q12. Do Wounded Warriors or Survivors of Fallen Soldiers receive fee assistance?

A.12. Army Wounded Warriors/Warriors in Transition and Survivors of Fallen Soldiers in TFI Categories 2-9 will be assigned to TFI Category 1 regardless of income. Families whose TFI already places them in Category 1 will receive a further fee reduction of 20%. Warriors in Transition also receive free child care for medical appointments and therapy.

Q13. Do Families using Army Child Care receive a discount when they have more than one child enrolled?

Q13. Yes. The full fee is paid for the child enrolled in the most expensive child care option and the remaining children receive a 15% Multiple Child Reduction (MCR). The full fee is applied to the most expensive child in the FCC Home when children are enrolled in both FCC and Center Based programs. For details visit the appropriate CYS Services Office.

Child and Youth Services Programs are a force enabler that impact Soldier readiness and retention. Child & Youth Programs help minimize the conflict between mission requirements and parental responsibilities and give military children a better quality of life. These programs are an investment in the future of the Nation and Army.