

# Military Children **Six** Foundation

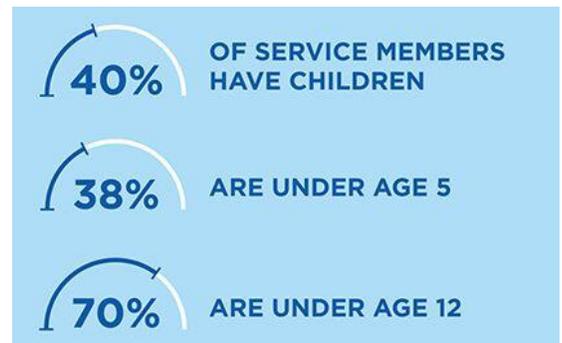


## Military Child Care Advocacy

Military families commonly struggle to find high-quality, affordable childcare. While a lack of affordable childcare is a national issue, the problem is even more acute for service members, who move frequently, often work irregular hours, or live far from extended family. [Read more here.](#)

## Child Care is a Readiness Issue

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## Here's What We Know

- Nearly 40 percent of service members have children.
- The largest cohort of military children (38%) are under age five.
- Seventy percent of military-connected kids are under the age of 12.

## No Access Means Difficult Choices

The service member parent may have to miss work, threatening the readiness of an entire unit. For many military members, however, that simply isn't an option. More often, the burden falls on military spouses.

**! CHILD CARE IS A READINESS ISSUE !**

 <b>IT'S NOT AFFORDABLE</b>	 <b>IT'S NOT EASY TO FIND</b>	 <b>IT'S NOT ALWAYS HIGH QUALITY</b>
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## The Burden Falls On Military Spouses

Finding employment is already a challenge for military spouses, who move every two to three years. A lack of affordable childcare makes that challenge even greater.

Many military spouses report that they have left the workforce because childcare was unavailable or too expensive. At a time when most families rely on two incomes to make ends meet, a military spouse's inability to work due to a lack of childcare can have a significant impact on a family's financial well-being.

A shortage of high quality, affordable childcare is a national problem. There are no quick fixes or easy answers. But there are steps DoD and Congress could take to ease the stress on military families.



## Child Care Priorities Suggestions



Institute public-private partnerships between installations and community childcare providers to increase the number of spaces for military families.

- Allocate funds to construct and renovate installation child development centers.
- Expand funding for and participation in the childcare fee assistance program.
- Allow service members to participate in dependent care flexible savings accounts.

## Legislation We Support

H.R. 148, *Jobs and Childcare for Military Families Act of 2021*

S. 1532, *Jobs and Childcare for Military Families Act of 2021*