



**Eielson Air Force Base
Child and Youth Program Town Hall
April 24, 2025
Questions and Answers**

Q1: For those families who have children currently in the Child Development Center (CDC), if they were to be supplanted or rooms were closed, what would it look like getting those families back into the CDC later?

A1: Families would go back on the waitlist with their Date Care Needed as their last day at the CDC. Management would change the Request for Care date to the date they started at the CDC. This will put those families above other families on the waitlist that have the same priority.

Q2: Will the Family Child Care (FCC) providers be providing for infants?

A2: This depends on the FCC provider's preference. FCC providers can choose the age group for which they wish to provide care. If they do offer infant care, FCC providers can care for only two children under 2 years of age at a time.

Q3: Currently on base, you are not allowed to have somebody care for your child full time in your home without them registering as an FCC provider. Would there be a possibility to make a waiver during this transition period?

A3: Having someone come to your own home to provide care for your own children is not against any rules. Military members coming to Eielson without childcare can apply for travel reimbursement for a family member to come here and provide childcare in the family's home. Families can also choose to pay a nanny to care for their children in their home. There are Air Force pilot programs to help cover the cost of these two options. You can learn more at [MilitaryChildCare.com](https://militarychildcare.com).

Unauthorized care is childcare provided outside of the member's own home for more than 10 hours per week. The Family Child Care Office will work with individuals that wish to provide childcare in their home to become certified FCC providers. The office will provide all necessary training and materials to support opening new FCC homes.

Q4: How much notice will families have that their CDC room is closing?

A4: The CDC will provide 30-45 days' notice to families.

Q5: How will families on the CDC waitlist stay updated? What will communication look like going forward?

A5: CDC waitlist numbers can change as often as multiple times per day. However, we do not anticipate any movement on the CDC waitlist throughout the entire summer because CDC providers are leaving due to PCS season faster than we can hire them.

Answers to ICE questions and any other updates will be posted on eielson.af.mil/newcomers. As we open new FCC homes, we will contact those higher priorities on the waitlist to notify them of potential spaces becoming available. We will also provide monthly status updates through email and Child and Youth Program Business Modernization System (CYPBMS) email.



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Q6: Is there any option to retain any of the current CDC or FCC staff if they and their military members want to extend?

A6: Military members should work through their leadership chain to request assignment and DEROS extensions.

Q7: What does the CDC define as “working full time” for civilian spouses? For some jobs, anything under 40 hours/week is part time. In other places, anything more than 20 hours/week is full time.

A7: A spouse that is guaranteed 30 hours/week is considered working full time. This is initially checked with pay stubs upon enrollment and verified annually.

Q8: When will the new CDC hours take effect?

A8: As a way to keep open as many rooms as possible at the CDC, the CDC will shorten its hours. The shortened CDC hours of 7:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. will take effect Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Eielson’s commanders are aware of this change. Please work with your chain of command if this will affect your work schedule.

Q9: Could we fly one of our parents up to watch our kids?

A9: There is a pilot program meant to reimburse service members up to \$1,500 for travel-related expenses incurred for a temporary childcare provider following a permanent change of station move.

The process begins with a service member visiting [MilitaryChildCare.com](https://militarychildcare.com) to apply for childcare at their new duty location. The website will provide instructions to affected service members and generate the necessary forms that allow service members to obtain the needed childcare.

Q10: Will there be a requirement for inbound members to prove that they have secured childcare before moving to Eielson?

A10: Currently there is no policy or plan to ask for proof of childcare before family members can travel. Sponsors need to have those conversations with their new members as soon as possible.

Q11: Are there hiring incentives for new FCC providers?

A11: There are already many incentives for new FCC providers. FCC incentives are listed on our Facebook page and posted at the FCC office, located in the Eielson Community Center. Please feel free to call the FCC office at 907-377-3635 with any questions. You can also email the FCC Office at 354FSS.FSYF.FCC@us.af.mil.

Q12: Is there any risk the CDC will fully close?

A12: Right now, we do not forecast that.

Q13: Is there any priority for families with deployed members?



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A13: Policy does not allow us to pick and choose priority off deployment status. CDC priorities are set by the Department of Defense.

Q14: Has there been thought on reducing the time requirements and screening to hire CDC and FCC providers faster?

A14: Both the Non-Appropriated Funds (NAF) and Appropriated Funds (APF) offices have exhausted all their efforts to shorten the civilian hiring process. They are utilizing physical and drug test waivers, on-the-spot hiring events, direct hire authority where allowed for APF positions, etc. The offices must still follow legal and statutory requirements and complete centralized processes at the Air Force Personnel Center in San Antonio, Texas, which affect the hiring timelines.

Q15: Once providers have been hired, how long does their training and onboarding take?

A15: NAF positions under the previous process could typically onboard an individual within 2-4 weeks depending on pre-employment requirements. Since the hiring freeze for NAF positions has been lifted, the timeline to onboard an individual is undetermined. All selections made regardless of the type of position must be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) for approval before a tentative job offer may be issued. There is no estimated timeline for how long it will take to get OSD approval.

All APF positions remain on hold due to the hiring freeze. Any exempt positions must be approved by OSD and the civilian personnel office must be notified that they can move forward with the hiring action.

It typically takes 2 weeks for training. To speed up the process, we will be training people individually instead of waiting for groups.

Q16: Is there any plan to utilize people that already have FCC training?

A16: When someone moves to Eielson with FCC training, we would love to have them open an FCC home or work in one of our child and youth facilities. All training must remain current.

Q17: Has there been talks about shuffling employees between CDC and School age programs?

A17: Yes. However, after discussing it has been determined that cutting the hours is the best option for right now.

Q18: How many people are on the waiting list?

A18: There are 106 children with an unmet childcare need. (58 have an AD AF sponsor, 39 have an AD Army sponsor, 7 have a DoD sponsor, and 2 have another sponsor, such as a contractor)



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Q19: How many childcare providers are we losing, and how many will remain?

A19: We are losing 15 direct care staff, aka childcare providers. We had 34 direct care staff on April 5. On April 18, we had 32 direct care staff. We will have 28 direct care staff at the CDC in May. There will be 17 direct care staff at the CDC in September.

Q20: Is the 354th Force Support Squadron providing families with resources and options outside of Eielson-led programming? Where can that information be accessed?

A20: Our facilities refer families to Thread AK, the local resource and referral agency for childcare. This information is readily available in our childcare facilities.

For program search support, please refer to the [Child Care Referral Form](#).

For all licensed childcare program statistics in the state, contact the Child Care Program Office: 907-269-4500 or ccpo@alaska.gov.

For advertising early education employment opportunities on base, refer to Thread AK's [Post Your Job page](#).

Thread AK is available by phone on weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 907-265-3100.

Q21: Can someone from the Youth Center walk the kids over to the School Age Program from ACES?

A21: The 354th FSS currently do not have the staffing to support this. We are working with the school district transportation office to obtain bus transportation for next school year. The school district is required to provide bus service for distances greater than 1.5 miles, so there is not a guarantee because the School Age Program is less than 1 mile from ACES. However, the school district has been generous and is willing to support if busses and drivers are available. As soon as we have an update, we will share the information.

Q22: Could there be an incentive offered during the summer to families who will sometimes be out of town or have a reduced work schedule like teachers? Perhaps they could get some sort of discount for scheduling weeks when their children won't be there? This might decrease some of the class sizes and subsequently the needs for staff during the summer months. Currently there is financial relief for families as they are allowed to rent their space to ease financial burden when they go on vacation.

A22: The CDC accounts for full rooms of children and must staff accordingly. If one or two children are out, it will not reduce the amount of providers needed to staff to ratios. At least 50% of the children would need to be out at the same time for an extended period of time to reduce the amount of staff needed in the classroom.