

CELEBRATING



NATIONAL
MILITARY FAMILY
ASSOCIATION

National Military Family Association

Standing Behind Military Families for 51 Years

MIC3 Annual Business Meeting

November 4, 2021

A Bit of History

For more than 50 years, the National Military Family Association (NMFA) has worked to strengthen and protect each member of the military family through advocacy and programs that improve their quality of life and honor their sacrifices.

NMFA was founded in 1969 by a group of military wives who refused to stand by while their widowed friends weren't being taken care of. They marched to the Capitol and those were the first steps toward creating the Survivor Benefit Plan.

Today, we are the leading nonprofit dedicated to serving the families who stand beside the uniform.



Who We Serve

We are honored to stand behind families of currently serving, retired, wounded, or fallen members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

When a military member serves, their entire family serves, too. Supporting spouses and children of America's brave defenders of freedom allows the service member to focus 100% on the mission.



Advocacy

We're the go-to source for administration officials, members of Congress, and state and local leaders when they want to understand the issues military families face.

Our subject matter experts focus on every aspect of military life, including:

- Children's education
- Pay and compensation
- Health care
- Spouse employment & education
- Housing
- Caregivers
- Surviving family members

Key Legislative Victories

1972: The Survivor Benefit Plan becomes law – NMFA's first legislative success.

2016: The Department of Defense creates an urgent care pilot program at NMFA's recommendation

1989: The Military Child Care Act is passed as a result of NMFA's advocacy efforts

2019: Widow's Tax is eliminated, a victory NMFA had been fighting to win for decades

2000: NMFA leads the charge to get WIC funding overseas authorized

2020: NMFA led efforts to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, allowing military families to terminate a lease due to stop movement orders

2008: NMFA lead the way for the military expansions to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

2009: NMFA helps draft the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

2021: NMFA advocacy leads to establishment of Texas State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Advocating for our Children's Education

NMFA's government relations team advocates for our military families working with Congress, Department of Defense and other federal agencies, as well as the White House.

Through effective communications and expert knowledge on pressing issues, we collaborate with military service organizations and other stakeholders to effect positive change for all military families.

Major children's education issues for 2021:

- Full Funding for ED & DoD Impact Aid Program
- Respond to individual military family concerns regarding the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity for Military Children and implementation.



Operation Purple® Program

Designed to serve each member of the military family, our Operation Purple Program gives families a unique camp experience.

Operation Purple® Camp: A weeklong summer camp for children of service members; has served more than 64,000 kids since 2004

Operation Purple Family Retreats® : An outdoor camping retreat for military families experiencing a hardship like deployment, separation, or other military-connected absence

Operation Purple Healing Adventures® : A family retreat for military families who are learning to cope with a service-connected wound, illness, or injury

2021 Program Impact

2,250+

kids served at Operation Purple Camp in 2021

1,700+

military families spent much-needed time together at Healing Adventures since 2009

14

weeks of Operation Purple Camp (13 locations)

50%

of campers came from families of the wounded, ill, or injured

3,000+

military families joined Family Retreats since 2009

65K+

Service members and their families served since 2004



Military Spouse Scholarship & Employment Program

Established in 2004, our program helps prepare military spouses for meaningful employment so they can better contribute to their family's financial security.

Scholarships are awarded to military spouses, including those of the fallen, and are not limited to degree programs.

This funding allowed me to finish my master's program quicker. I took an entire extra class that financially I would have not been able to since I wasn't working at the time. I finished my MBA with a 4.0 GPA and found a great job that I love. Your funding really made a difference in my family's life! Thank you!

~Military Spouse Scholarship recipient

2021 Program Impact

488

Scholarships Awarded

Awarded to licensure/
certification seekers

\$509,445

Awarded in scholarships

4%

Awarded to
entrepreneurs to
support their businesses

76%

Awarded to degree
seekers

17%

\$7.3M⁺

Scholarships awarded since 2004

Child Care Fee Relief

Child care access is an ongoing crisis for military families, made worse by the pandemic with costs skyrocketing, and waitlists continuing. NMFA responded by launching a new program to help families with child care costs:

- Awarded \$3,677,643 to 2,497 recipients
- Each award is up to \$1500 for Active Duty, activated Reserves, National Guard on Title 10 orders
- Pay grades E-1 through E-6
- Single service members, dual service couples, or members with a spouse who is employed or enrolled in school



Food Insecurity Among Military Families

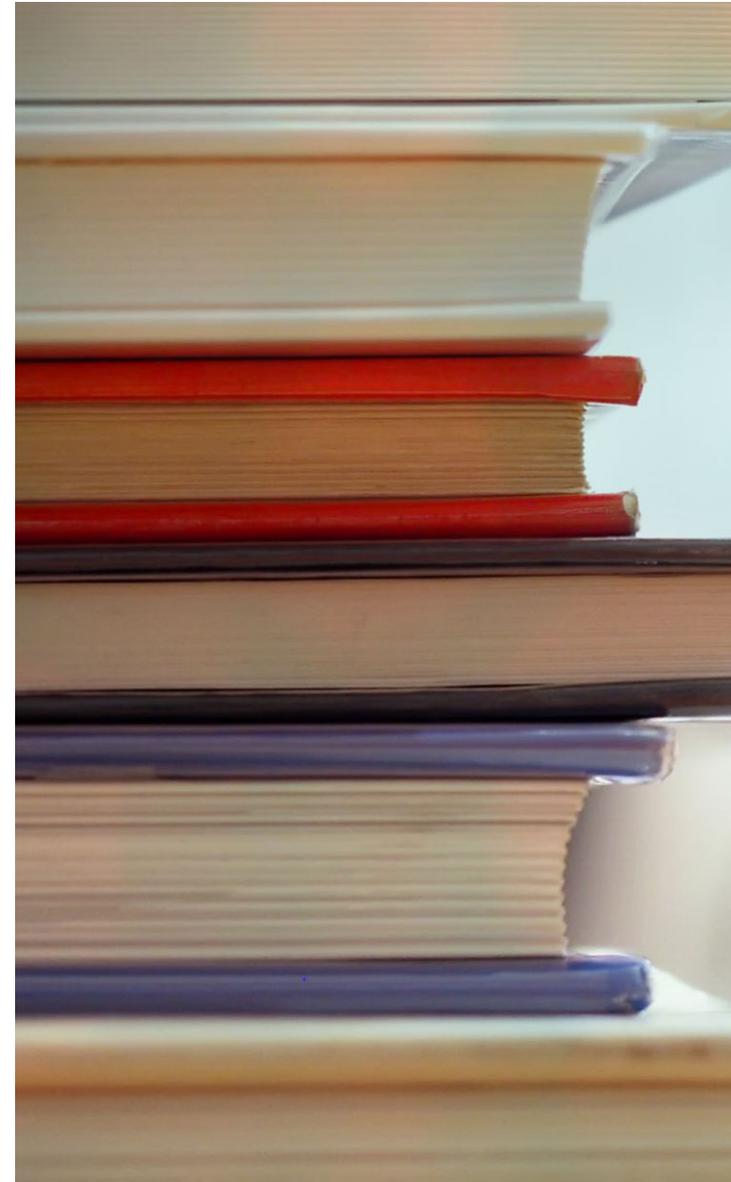
More than 11,000 applicants for child care fee relief were asked if they had visited a food pantry to make ends meet.

14% said yes.



The Military Teen Experience: A Snapshot of America's Military Teenagers and Future Force

- Bloom: Empowering the Military Teen, created to highlight & connect teens worldwide
- Surveyed 2,000 military teens 13-19 years old in May 2021
- 64% attended 1-5 schools;
28% attended 6-10;
6% attended 11 or more
- 31% denied participation in extracurriculars because of military status or PCSs
- 87% reported low or moderate mental wellbeing (at risk)
- 36% of respondents expressed concern for food insecurity
- 39% difficulty transferring credits or taking desired classes due to PCS





The Military Teen Experience In Their Own Words

- “My IEP doesn't transfer well, and I often get left behind in class because I struggle to keep up and they won't slow down for me or give me the accommodations I need.” -Age 14, active duty (W-3) Army, 8th grade, public school
- “...transferring schools was very difficult...quite often the credits and classes that I was taking before would not transfer to my new school.” – Age 18, active duty (E-6) Air Force, college freshman
- “I would say my biggest struggle is where one school says ‘Oh, you’ll learn this later on.’ Then we move, the next school says, ‘You should have already been taught this.’ – Age 17, active duty (O-5) Marine Corps, 12th grade, public school



Together we're stronger®

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