National Children's Alliance®
The Force Behind Children's Advocacy Centers

Military Memorandums of Understanding

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the military memorandums of understanding (MOUs)?

NCA has established seven memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with Military Criminal Investigative Organizations (MCIOs) and DoD Family Advocacy Programs (FAPs) to allow CACs to work collaboratively with the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force. The national MOUs eliminate the need for CACs to negotiate and sign individual MOUs with local military installations.

Where can I view and download the MOUs?

Please visit the NCA Engage Military MOU page to view and download the MOUs as a PDF. Please note you must be logged in to access the MOUs.

Which CACs should participate in the MOUs?

All accredited CACs are eligible to participate in the Military MOUs. Military families live everywhere, even in communities without military installations. As such, all accredited CACs are encouraged to participate to ensure that military families in your community have access to coordinated care to meet their unique needs.

Are there downsides to participating in the MOUs?

The MOUs do not ask CACs to provide any services they aren't already providing. Most CACs are already serving military families now and are just not aware of the military connection. The MOUs state that CACs are not required to serve children in the absence of the resources to do so.

What are the benefits of participating in the MOUs?

First and foremost, participating in the MOUs ensures that CAC services are available to military families and that military families have access to the DOD services and support they are eligible for. In addition, participation in NCA's military MOUs is a potential avenue for future funding. By opting to participate in the MOUs now, you are positioning yourself to be eligible for future federal funds that may become available for CACs.

What do participating CACs need to do?

The MOUs require CACs to screen for military-affiliation at intake and track the number of military-affiliated families served. In addition, CACs are asked to notify applicable military criminal investigative organization and Family Advocacy Programs in accordance with federal, state, local laws and CAC policies. Beyond that, the MOUs encourage CACs to include military partners as part of the MDT including allowing participation in MDT meetings, case review, and information sharing, in accordance with federal, state, local laws and CAC policies. The MOUs allow CACs and their military partners flexibility in determining local protocols for collaboration that meet their community's needs.

How do I participate?

Each primary contact at accredited CACs received a unique participation form link. If you need the link resent, please contact Wendy Luikart at wluikart@nca-online.org. Once you have your link, you can complete the participation form and submit to opt in. NCA will take the information you provide on the form and populate it into a map that military partners use to view participating CACs.

What if something changes?

The information you provide on your participation form can be updated any time by contacting NCA at the contacts below. Also, CACs may opt-out of MOU participation at any time by notifying NCA.

Who can I contact for more information?

NCA's federal partnerships team is available to answer questions, provide MOU orientation, and support your CAC and partners in working with military programs.

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