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Members of the Military

With the significant increase of United States troop mobilization over the last decade, child support programs now provide services to more families where at least one parent is either active military or a veteran. These families face unique challenges, and the child support community strives to serve these families by being flexible and responsive during the transition from civilian life to full-time military duty or leaving active military service.

What Federal Resources Are Available for States and Tribes?

The Office of Child Support Enforcement provides resources and works with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Bar Association to help veterans address unresolved child support issues and other challenges.

Resources available to active-duty military or veteran families include:

- A Handbook for Military Families | The Administration for Children and Families[i]
- Veterans and Military Liaison Network | The Administration for Children and Families[ii]
- Child Support Collaborations to Engage and Assist Veterans - Veterans Toolkit | The Administration for Children and Families[iii]

What Best Practices Have Child Support Agencies Implemented to Serve Military and Veteran Families?

- Collaborating with nationally recognized veterans' organizations to develop policies and procedures to better serve members of the military.
- Implementing policies that promote the review of cases for members of the military leaving and returning from deployment.
- Providing an expedited review and adjustment process for members to ensure that orders match the member's ability to pay.
- Encouraging service members to formally designate a person to receive information from the child support agency in the member's absence.
- Developing training resources to help child support agencies explain the basics of the child support program to legal partners and veteran service provider partners.
- Creating publications specifically geared towards military and veterans' families.

[i] https://acf.gov/archive/css/outreach-material/handbook-military-families
[ii] https://acf.gov/archive/css/outreach-material/veterans-and-military-liaison-network
[iii] https://acf.gov/css/toolkit-childsupport-collaborations-veterans

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