

# A PEATC

Do You Know....



## Fact Sheet for Virginia's Parents Earned Priority: Medicaid Waivers for Military Families

### Challenges for Military Family Members

**One of the unique challenges that military families experience are frequent moves.** Those **relocations** make obtaining supplemental financial support for family members with special needs very difficult. When military families relocate to a new state, they are required to start over and re-establish relationships with schools, doctors and support networks for their family. **When a member has a dependent with an intellectual or developmental disability**, this can be even more challenging especially when considering individual states' Medicaid eligibility requirements.

The **TRICARE ECHO** program provides supplemental care services for military family members with special needs, but these benefits are lost when families leave service. At that point, they generally have to start the entire Medicaid application process again in the state in which they settle. This results in long waiting periods without services, and families incur significant debt while paying for a family member's care.

The Department of Defense initiative **USA4Military families** has worked to engage policymakers to address these challenges. It encourages states to support transitioning families by allowing them to register in advance for state Medicaid waivers - instead of waiting until they have left the service – thereby reducing waiting times for needed community-based services.

### Retaining Earned Priority for Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Waivers

To better serve military families, legislation has been introduced or passed in some states, to **allow the dependent of an active duty military member to maintain his or her position on the waiting list (earned priority)** following a transfer of the active duty military member to an assignment outside a state, as long as the active duty military member **maintains that state as his or her legal residence** to which he or she intends to return following completion of military service.

Some states have **modified an existing Medicaid waiver category to include military families** transitioning out of the military. This can also expedite services during or after an assignment.

### Resources on Medicaid Waivers for Military Families

**U.S. Department of Defense**  
*Military State Policy Source*  
<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/>

**Virginia Legislative Information System**  
<https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/amendment/2017/1/SB900/Introduced/MR/306/18s/>

**Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services**  
*Medicaid Waivers*  
<http://dmas.virginia.gov/#/longtermwaivers>



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