

Helping military communities tackle the top five quality-of-life issues

THE FIVE

CHILDCARE | EDUCATION | HEALTHCARE | HOUSING | SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

THE WHY

Military family quality of life has strategic implications for our military and national security as it directly impacts recruitment, readiness, and retention.

THE PLAN

Five Lines of Effort:

- ★ Advocate for Quality-of-Life Improvements
- ★ Foster Community Partnerships
- ★ Consolidate Quality-of-Life Resources in a One-Stop Shop
- ★ Educate Military Families, Leaders, and Community Partners on Existing Efforts and Best Practices
- ★ Promote the Exceptional Value of the Military-Connected Spouse

THE MODEL

Military Community Quality-of-Life Experience (QX)

This innovative strategy creates positive outcomes by bringing military leaders, military-connected families, and community partners together to collaboratively create quality-of-life solutions.



In the trenches of our mission lies a fundamental truth – the strength and readiness of our military families are not just essential components of our societal fabric, they are critical pillars of our national security.

Marian Wilcox
**Co-founder &
Executive Director**



THE BOTTOM LINE

The Bottom Line: Five & Thrive strengthens our national security.

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ALL MILITARY FAMILIES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO:

- ★ Safe and affordable **childcare**.
- ★ Quality **education**, seamless educational transitions during relocations, and equitable resources for special education and other essential services.
- ★ Quality **healthcare**, including mental health services for the whole family.
- ★ Safe and affordable **housing**.
- ★ Equitable and meaningful **employment** for every military-connected spouse.



THE STATISTICS



Over **80%** of active duty families have difficulty finding **childcare**.¹

Most military children will attend **6 to 9** different schools during their K through 12 **education**.²



Almost **30%** of military families reported lack of **spouse employment** as a contributing factor to their financial stress.

21%

Military spouse unemployment rates are more than **5x** the national rate.

3.9%



Military spouses reported **childcare** being too expensive as the top reason they are not working.

More than **60%** of military families are burdened with paying more than they can comfortably afford for **housing**.³

+\$200

Out of the 60%, **80%** reported monthly housing expenses not covered by their BAH were in excess of \$200 out-of-pocket/month.³



Nearly **1 out of 4** active duty military families report they do not receive mental **healthcare**, but would like to.

44% indicated that finding an available provider was a reason they do not receive care.³

Although the order and degree of these five issues vary from installation to installation, they consistently rise to the top according to feedback from military families and surveys from multiple organizations. Note: Members of Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) are impacted in unique ways by each of the "Five & Thrive" QoL issues.

1 2021 Military Family Advisory Network: Military Family Support Programming Survey Executive Summary

2 Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3): Guide for Parents, School Officials and Public Administrators

3 Blue Star Families: Military Family Lifestyle Survey 2022 Comprehensive Report Executive Summary

4 National Military Spouse Network: Solving the Military Spouse Employment Puzzle: Seven Recommendations for the Future of Work