

# USA4MilitaryFamilies

*Department of Defense and States Partnering to Support Military Families*



Many issues surrounding quality of life and family well-being can only be addressed by states. Because of this, the Department of Defense started the USA4 Military Families initiative through the DoD State Liaison Office to engage state policymakers, not-for-profit associations, concerned business interests and other state leaders about the needs of military members and their families. By developing state/military partnerships, the DoD seeks to work with states to remove unnecessary barriers and significantly improve the quality of life for military families.

## Current Issues Addressed by the USA4 Military Families Initiative

The DoD State Liaison Office is focusing on key issues, which promote the well-being of service members and their families. Detailed information on the following issues, the status for each state and identified best practices are available at [www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil](http://www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil) for the following key issues:

- ▶ Facilitate separating service members receiving licensure and academic credit for military education, training and experience
- ▶ Facilitate military spouse transition through licensure portability and eligibility for unemployment compensation
- ▶ Provide authority for establishing Veteran Treatment Courts
- ▶ Increase access to quality child care for military families
- ▶ Promote consumer protections and enforcement of the DoD predatory lending regulation
- ▶ Waive required waiting time to establish residency for separating service members so they can obtain in-state tuition rates
- ▶ Improve absentee voting for military members and their families
- ▶ Minimize school disruption for military children during transition and deployment
- ▶ Ensure deployment separation does not determine child custody decisions
- ▶ Comport state laws with DoD rules on disposition
- ▶ Allow service members to retain their earned priority for receiving Medicaid home and community care waivers
- ▶ Assign an identifier for military children in education data systems
- ▶ Create statewide memorandums of understanding between the DoD and the state child welfare agency to standardize relationships among local courts, agencies and military communities