



Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Respite Care Reimbursement Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the EFMP respite care program?

The EFMP Respite Care Program is intended to reduce the stress on sponsor families by providing temporary rest periods for family members who care for a family member that has special needs. Respite care is a non-entitlement benefit intended to provide brief rest periods, that is, not more than 6 hours per day, for the primary caregiver(s) such as, a date night, lunch with a friend, or to use the gym.

Respite care **may not** be used to fund pre-school programs, day care or babysitting, to allow the sponsor or family member to work or attend school, or therapy sessions or therapeutic recreation, for the exceptional family member (EFM).

Am I eligible to enroll in the respite care reimbursement program?

- ✓ EFMP enrollment is current.
- ✓ Respite care needs of the EFM have been assessed by EFMPHQ as a Level on Need (LoN) 3 or 4.
- ✓ EFM legally resides with the sponsor. Exceptions include: TAD, Official schools, Deployment, Approved Continuation on Location (CoL) or OCONUS tour where dependent travel has been declined by HQMC EFMP or Overseas Screening, due to a lack of care for the EFM.
- ✓ Sponsor has provided supporting documentation of the provider's qualifications such as, a copy of his/her certification or license.
- ✓ Sponsor or power of attorney has signed the EFMP Respite Care Program forms.

How is Level of Need (LoN) determined?

HQEFMP medical screeners use a standardized assessment process to determine the LoN. The medical screeners review the sponsor's submitted documentation including the DD2792, DD2792-1, IEP, IFSP and other relevant documentation to assess the need(s) of the EFM and identify the minimum level of provider skill required, to maintain the health and safety of the EFM.

- **LoN 3:** Refers to children 18 years old and younger that have severe special needs. The respite care provider will be over the age of 18 and have valid certification through a state or national agency. Appropriate certified provider will vary depending upon the needs of the EFM. (Examples include: CNA, mental health technician, BCaBA).
- **LoN 4:** Applies to family members of all ages that have profound special needs. The respite provider will be over the age of 18 and hold a valid professional license. The appropriate licensed provider will vary depending upon the needs of the EFM. (Examples include: RN, LCSW, BCBA, LMFT, special education teacher).

What if my EFM's condition changes? EFM care needs may change and require a change in identified LoN. An enrollment update, with additional supporting documentation, is required for a review of LoN.

What if I disagree with my current Level of Need (LoN)? Please contact the EFMP office as there is a standardized review process that HQEFMP undertake. Additional supporting documentation maybe required. Your family case worker will advise of the process and outcome.

What is the difference between a category and Level of Need (LoN)? USMC EFMP does not use categories to make decisions. USMC EFMP initiated the LoN determination. Categories are used for administrative purposes only and will not impact respite care, assignments, or enrollment/endorsement decisions.

Are adult EFMs eligible for respite care? Adult EFMs, who are LoN4, are eligible for respite care for themselves.

Can EFMP respite care funds be used to provide child care for siblings of an EFM or child of an adult EFM?
No

Can a family member provide EFMP respite care services? Yes. Family members are eligible to provide care.

Can a neighbor provide EFMP respite care services in the sponsor's government owned or leased home without being FCC certified? Yes. If the neighbor meets the provider requirements and the care complies with Base Orders. Respite care provided in the home is not regulated by Marine and Family Programs, if the care is limited to the children of a single family and the children of the individual providing services, and care is less than 10 hours per week. EFMP respite care is not to exceed 6 hours per day.

How many hours of respite care can I receive? Families are eligible for up to 20 hours of respite care, per month.

If we don't use the 20 hours of respite care one month, can the remaining hours be used the next month?
No. The 20 hours per month does not accrue.

What is my reimbursement rate for respite care? Payment amounts are determined locally and will not exceed the established reimbursement hourly rates outlined in Marine Corps Bulletin 1754.

For further information:

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