



ARMED SERVICES YMCA

Information Kit • 2020

ARMED SERVICES YMCA

COVID-19 OVERVIEW



Military children learning in a virtual environment.

As the COVID-19 story continues to impact our nation, Armed Services YMCA has assessed how best to meet the needs of military families in this dynamic environment. Operating in nine different states, both on and off installations, our Staffs adapted to unique circumstances and state mandates while remaining focused on supporting our currently serving population. With Service members still deployed and local circumstances changing daily, our junior enlisted families remain resilient but they do face challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools are closed, and child care centers on military installations across the country have restricted access to essential personnel. Hospitals remain open, but spouses' ability to find care for their children while tending to their own medical requirements is more challenging than ever. Many military spouses have already lost their jobs, while others face reduced hours and struggle alone at home with kids while their service member remains focused on our nation's security.

SUPPORT FOR URGENT SERVICES NEEDED

Emergency Food Assistance

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, military families have demonstrated a greater need in terms of food insecurity, whether because children are no longer receiving meals in school or because second incomes have been lost or decreased. Armed Services YMCA Branches provide critical support in this regard in many locations.

Child Care for Essential Personnel

Child Development Centers on military installations are restricted to essential personnel only, and are by instructor-to-child ratios unique to the COVID-19 environment. Armed Services YMCA Branches in multiple locations have continued existing programs or started new ones to support local essential personnel, while ensuring the safety of both the children and the Staff.

Military Children Education

As schools closed and families began to shelter in place, Armed Services YMCA was forced to curtail our in-person education programs – including early learning programs, Operation Little Learners and Operation Hero. With school in every location transitioned to online only, our Branches have created virtual opportunities for parents and children to continue the education process in myriad ways.



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Amidst these dynamic circumstances, Armed Services YMCA Branches innovate to provide continued care and service to our military families in three primary areas.

 **asymcaelpaso** @asymcaelpaso · Mar 27
-Last week we gave 200 food bags and baby supplies for our #militaryfamilies to help them to relief, some of the extra cost regarding the #covid_19 outbreak. We are here for you and we will pass this together! #elpasostrong #asymcaelpaso #GIVINGTUESDAYMILITARY #fortbliss



 **Armed Services Y SD** @ASYSanDiego · Mar 27
The Armed Services YMCA San Diego team packed boxes of non-perishable food for 500 military families yesterday while practicing social distancing and safe operations. We couldn't do this without the support of our generous partners. Together we are #StrengtheningOurMilitaryFamily



EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- Prior to COVID-19, San Diego Armed Services YMCA served an average of 400 families per month; they now average 400 families each week.
- Fort Bragg Armed Services YMCA provides a literal drive-up service, with families scheduling times to stop at the Branch where one of our Staff members place non-perishable food packages in their vehicle's trunk.
- Alaska Armed Services YMCA provides Lyft codes for families in the interior to travel to school sites and pick up meals, and has seen a three-fold increase in families seeking support for basic necessities.
- El Paso Armed Services YMCA coordinates directly with Fort Bliss leadership to arrange support to families and deliver via a drive-up service.

MILITARY CHILDREN EDUCATION

- Alaska Branch provides activity packets to share with children in grades Kindergarten- 5th, and provides resources each week to support at-home learning.
- San Diego built a video studio at the Branch complete with multiple cameras and boom microphones to build a week of content, including STEAM projects for online delivery in their After School Achievement Academy, Operation Hero classes, and Operation Little Learners. Delivery methods include Facebook Live and YouTube Live, and they also provide learning kits to families via Google-Drive.
- Hampton Roads and Hawaii Branches provide virtual delivery of Operation Little Learners and Operation Hero.

CHILD CARE FOR ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL

- Our Children's Waiting Rooms – drop-off child care in Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) – have continued in multiple locations in order to provide opportunity for military spouses to care for their own health needs. Other locations curtailed operations due to the limited access allowed by the hospital, and instead repurposed their physical spaces for potential use as a child care center or for the MTF to provide other services during COVID-19.



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For more information or to help
Strengthen Our Military Family
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To donate visit: www.asymca.org