

## Common misconceptions about the Exceptional Family Member Program

### ***“I will be labeled”***

Registry in the program will not be an element of the Manpower Management System, individual record books or parent command records of the sponsor.

### ***“I will be forced into assignments that will hinder promotions and career opportunities”***

Enrollment cannot prejudice advancement or career opportunities of sponsors. The sponsor has the option of accepting an assignment while the family is supported in another location.

### ***“As an EFMP sponsor, I cannot be deployed”***

The program has no impact on the deployment responsibilities of the sponsor. Overseas unaccompanied, unit deployments and standard deployments must be carried out without interruption.

### ***“Enrollment in the program will allow me to select a duty station”***

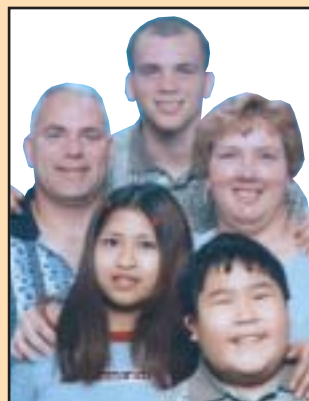
The program ensures that the sponsor will be assigned to a location where appropriate services exist. When the monitor’s “first pick” assignment is not suitable for the sponsor’s family, the EFMP Manager at HQ Marine Corps will examine the most recent case information and determine the best assignment based on the needs of the Marine Corps, the sponsor’s career pattern and the special needs of the family.

### ***“I will not be eligible for an overseas accompanied assignment as an EFMP sponsor”***

Overseas screening is the same for all families anticipating accompanied orders if the special need of your family member can be met by the receiving location. If the special needs of the family member can be met by the receiving location, an accompanied assignment may be authorized.

### ***“Accepting preferential treatment from the program indicates an inability to carry out my responsibilities”***

The program only prescribes an agreed upon and systematic manner to communicate your special needs when a random assignment is not suitable for you. In fact, most special needs can be accommodated at Quantico, VA and Camp Pendleton, CA. In many cases, the situation can be addressed with a standard East or West Coast assignment.



***For additional information contact  
Your installation’s EFMP Coordinator***

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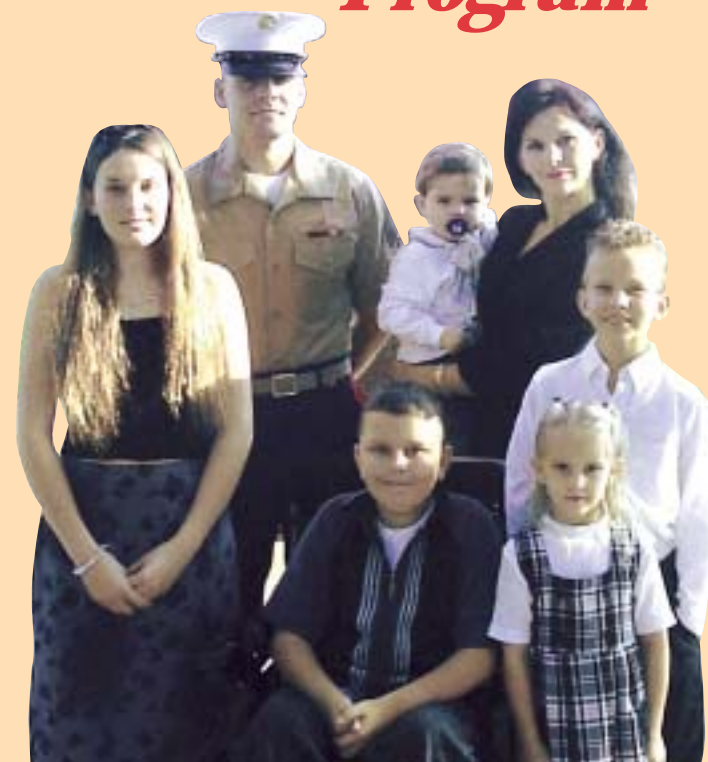
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Or visit the Marine Corps Community Services web site at:  
**<http://www.usmc-mccs.org>**



***U.S. Marine Corps***

# ***The Exceptional FAMILY MEMBER Program***



## ***Questions & Answers***

## What is the Exceptional Family Member Program & how am I eligible?

The *Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)* is designed to provide assistance to active duty personnel with family member(s) who have special needs before, during and after relocation due to Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders. It is a mandatory enrollment program (MCO P1754.4A) for active duty.

An exceptional family member is an authorized family member (spouse, child, stepchild, adopted child, foster child or a dependent parent) residing with the sponsor who may require special medical or educational services based upon a diagnosed physical, intellectual or emotional need. This includes Asthma, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Dyslexia, ADD, ADHD, Autism, Oppositional Defiant Disorder or Depression. Disabilities may range from mild to severe.



## How do I enroll in the program?

1. Ensure your family is enrolled in DEERS.
2. Contact your EFMP Coordinator at Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) who will assist you in obtaining medical and educational evaluations and provide the necessary forms for you, your medical provider and your child's school official, if necessary.
3. Return the completed forms to the EFMP Coordinator who will forward them to the Central Screening Committee and to Headquarters Marine Corps for processing and category assignment.

## What are the enrollment categories?

After your completed EFMP forms have been processed, you will receive a letter from Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, which will contain one of the following categories:

### Category 1:

Needs generally do not limit assignment.

### Category 2:

Pinpoint assignment overseas and within the Continental United States.

### Category 3:

No overseas assignment.

### Category 4:

Major medical areas within the Continental United States.

## How long may I be enrolled in the program?

For as long as necessary. You may dis-enroll from the program due to a change in marital status or a change in dependency or medical status of the enrolled member. A letter from a medical doctor is needed stating that services are no longer needed.



## What are the other benefits of the program?

### 1. Access to Information on Groups & Programs

- \* Local support groups
- \* State & National Parent Training Centers
- \* Protection and Advocacy Groups
- \* Tricare Region and local Tricare Service Centers
- \* Local school district special education offices: DoDEA, DDESS, DoDDs schools
- \* Special programs, services and adaptations that are unique to the local installation and its surrounding community.

2. A Sponsor Assigned as a Category 4 in the EFMP may be authorized priority assignment to government housing (no priority housing overseas).

### 3. Structural Adaptations to Government Housing

If a sponsor enrolled in the program resides in government housing, necessary structural adaptations will be made in compliance with PL 93-112 and DOD 1020.1 regulations.

### 4. EFMP Coordinator Support

Coordinators serve as advocates for local program activities and issues.