

What is the Special Needs Program?

The Special Needs Program, working in concert with other military and civilian agencies, provides a comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to community support, housing, medical, educational, and personnel services for Coast Guard families with special needs.

By following specific procedures and guidelines, efforts will be made to ensure that active duty personnel with family members who have special needs are assigned to duty stations where resources are available to support their needs with access to, and availability of, medical, educational, and community services.

Enrollment in the Special Needs Program does not preclude members from sea duty, normal sea/shore rotations, unaccompanied assignments, standing watches, or performing normally assigned duties.

The Special Needs Program is **mandatory** for all active duty members and members of the selected reserve on orders for 181 days or more who have dependent family members diagnosed with medical, psychological, physical, or educational special needs.

Who is eligible?

The Special Needs Program is open to any active duty member's family member who meets the following criteria:

1. Is enrolled in DEERS;
2. Has a chronic medical, psychological, physical, or educational condition or special need; and
3. Resides with the sponsor (exceptions include geographical bachelors and family members receiving long-term inpatient care or living in an educational setting).

Prior to enrollment in the Special Needs Program, eligibility is verified by a CG Senior Medical Executive for medical, psychological, and physical special needs or a Family Resource Specialist for educational special needs.

How do you enroll?

For all new enrollments and enrollment updates:

1. Have your family member's medical provider or school official complete the appropriate DD Form 2792 as applicable:
 - **DD Form 2792** for medical, psychological, and physical conditions.
 - **DD Form 2792-1** for educational special needs.
2. Submit completed forms to the servicing HSWL Family Resource Specialist.

The enrollment forms are available online at: www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/dd/ddforms2500-2999.htm

Do you qualify?

If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, contact your regional Family Resource Specialist for additional information and enrollment.

- Do you have a child with a disability?
- Do you have a dependent child over 21 in the incapacitated dependent program?
- Do you have a child receiving special education services at school?
- Do you have a spouse or child receiving treatment for cancer, lupus, heart disease, leukemia, diabetes, mental illness or other long-term illness?
- Do you have a family member in a residential treatment facility?
- Are you enrolled in the TRICARE Standard program for the disabled?
- Do you have a child receiving medical care through a state medical program?
- Do you have a family member receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits?
- Are you a geographic bachelor because of a family member's special medical or educational needs?

Coast Guard Special Needs Program helps to:

- Identify and support the special needs of a Coast Guard family and allow the active duty member to be mission ready.
 - Ensure that Coast Guard and the family's needs are met.
- To find out more about the Special Needs Program, contact the regional Family Resource Specialist at the Work-Life office nearest you. Call 1-202-475-5100 and enter the appropriate extension listed below:

- Alameda (6)
- Astoria (7)
- Boston (1)
- Cape Cod (1)
- Cape May (2; press 1)
- Charleston (3)
- Cleveland (5)
- Detroit (5)
- Honolulu (8)
- Houston/Galveston (4)
- Juneau/Ketchikan (9)
- Kodiak (9)
- LA/Long Beach (6)
- Miami Beach (3)
- New Orleans (4)
- New York (1)
- Petaluma (6)
- Portsmouth (2; press 3)
- San Diego (6)
- San Juan, PR (3)
- Seattle (7)
- St. Louis (4)
- Washington DC (2; press 2)
- Yorktown (2; press 3)

Useful National Toll-Free Numbers

American Epilepsy Society	(800) 332-1000
American Liver Foundation	(800) 465-4837
The Arc	(800) 433-5255 / (301)565-3842
Asthma and Allergy Hotline	(202) 466-7643
Autism Society of America	(800) 328-8476 / (301) 657-0881
Cleft Palate Foundation	(919) 933-9044
Deaf-Blindness Association	(800) 255-0411
Epilepsy Foundation of America	(800) 332-1000 / (301) 459-3700
International Dyslexia Association	(800) 222-3123
Juvenile Diabetes Hotline	(212) 785-9500
Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation	(800) 572-1717
National Assoc. for Alzheimer's	(800) 272-3900 / (312) 335-8700
National Cancer Institute	(800) 4-CANCER
Natl Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	(800) 344-4823 (301) 951-4422
Natl Down's Syndrome Society	(800) 221-4602 / (212) 460-9330
National Easter Seal Society	(800) 221-6827 / (312) 726-6200
National Kidney Foundation	(800) 622-9010
National Multiple Sclerosis Society	(800) 344-4867 / (212) 986-3240
National Org on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	(800) 666-6327
Scottish Rite Foundation (speech/hearing/language)	(202) 232-3579
Sickle Cell Disease Association	(800) 421-8453
Spina Bifida Hotline	(800) 621-3141
United Cerebral Palsy	(800) 872-5827

For additional information on national and local resources contact your regional Family Resource Specialist.

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COAST GUARD



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