The seeds for the Childcare and Youth Training & Technical Assistance Project (CYTTAP) were planted in 2010 to expand the availability of high-quality childcare for military families living off-installation. The University of Nebraska Lincoln and Penn State University’s Better Kid Care program, partnered together to develop and implement CYTTAP, which was funded under an agreement between USDA-NIFA and the Department of Defense Office of Family Readiness Policy.

The focus of CYTTAP is to increase the quantity and quality of early care and education for young children by providing research based professional development and technical assistance to professionals who care for young children in communities with a high concentration of off-installation military families. CYTTAP was introduced in late 2010 in the 13 states with a high density of off-installation military families, and has since expanded to 20 active states.

CYTTAP focuses on supporting our nation’s military families. Professional development opportunities are available to childcare providers within targeted counties at low or no cost, lifting the early care standards in state after state. CYTTAP efforts have led to:

- Systemic changes such as influencing policy and legislation, changing organizational practices and fostering coalitions and networks.
- Fostering relationships between organizations to facilitate better coordination of training delivery services.
- Success in getting state and local approval systems to accept online education as a quality training method thus increasing individuals’ capacity to gain knowledge and skills to use in their own childcare practices.

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Since CYTTAP 2011, more than 1,100 CYTTAP sponsored face-to-face training sessions have occurred. Also, over 54,000 modules resulting in almost 94,000 online training hours have been completed by participants in the project states.

The professional development clock hours participants earn are accepted for Child Development Associate (CDA) formal education hours and/or state approved professional development hours.

As of 2011, more than 31,000 individuals have participated in CYTTAP sponsored online and face-to-face events including childcare providers that work in facility- or homebased settings, professionals that work for local educational and governmental agencies, and individuals considering starting their own family child care business.

Coupled with online training, the impact has reached over 420,000 children.

For a more detailed overview of the successes and impact of the CYTTAP and MCCLI projects please refer to the following evaluation reports:

- 2015 Military Child Care Expansion Initiative Evaluation Report
- 2014 CYTTAP Training Evaluation Report
- 2013 Ripple Effect Mapping Executive Summary

To learn more about the training and technical assistance opportunities offered through CYTTAP please visit:

University of Nebraska–Lincoln CYTTAP website: http://child.unl.edu/cyttap

The Penn State University’s Better Kid Care Program: http://extension.psu.edu/youth/cyttap