

COVID-19 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

**Manitoba Families
Early Learning and Child Care**

TEMPORARY CHILD CARE SERVICES GRANT

BACKGROUND:

On March 17, 2020, the Manitoba government announced the suspension of regular child care services in centres offering care to more than 16 children effective the end of day March 20th based on advice from public health officials. The direction did not apply to home-based child care, as they care for a smaller number of children.

As Manitoba moves forward with the staged reopening of the provincial economy, all families needing child care can now access the temporary child care system.

A new temporary licensed child care online search tool, www.eswchildcare.ca, launched April 14, 2020 supports the enrollment of children in facilities offering child care services as part of the COVID-19 response. This online tool helps families find available spaces and make child care arrangements directly with their preferred child care option.

The Manitoba government recognizes the reduction of licensed child care services due to COVID-19, and the impact to our families and the employment of Early Childhood Educators (ECE) working in licensed child care system.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

As part of the Manitoba's response to COVID-19, and to ensure dedicated child care spaces are available as we re-open the economy, a new Temporary Child Care Services Grant of \$3,000 is available for Early Childhood Educators (ECE) II or III, Child Care Assistants or new graduates of the Early Childhood Education program.

The Temporary Child Care Services Grant helps child care providers affected by closures or reductions in services to access immediate funds to begin independently offering child care services.

When first launched, the new grant program prioritized the provision of child care services to critical care workers, but now includes any family requiring child care as part of the staged re-opening of the economy.

The Temporary Child Care Services Grant is supported by a partnership between the Manitoba government, the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce to administer the grant, and to provide business mentorship and advice to child care providers under the program.

This innovative program helps to provide ongoing employment for Manitoba's Early Childhood Educators, and encourages the opening of child care spaces on an urgent basis for Manitoba families that have been affected by the reduction in service of regular child care facilities.

TEMPORARY CHILD CARE SERVICES GRANT CRITERIA:

To be eligible for start-up funding, you must:

- be an existing Child Care Assistant (CCA) or Early Child Educator (ECEII or ECEIII) or new graduate from the Early Childhood Education Program
- be a new child care home/facility that will provide child care services to critical service workers and to support the re-opening of Manitoba's economy or an existing unlicensed home child care provider currently caring for four or fewer children (including your own) and willing to temporarily expand your business
- identify and secure appropriate space (home or community-based) for providing care. Note: if more than four children are to be cared for, an applicant must meet the criteria for temporary authorization (see below).
- complete and meet safety assessment criteria, which will be recorded on a check-list.
- have cleared criminal records and child abuse registry checks for yourself and any other members who may have contact with the cared for children.
- charge regulated child care fees.

Allowable child care limits:

An ECE, CCA, or recent graduate can provide care for up to four children in their home or another appropriate space. Temporary authorization is required if care will be provided for up to eight children in a home or community location. Care for up to 16 children must be in an appropriate community location and be provided by two ECEs II/III's.

Additional Criteria for Temporary Authorization (if required):

- To care for up to eight children in a home, community space or facility requires groupings of 5 preschool – which includes up to three infants, and three school age children
- To care for nine to 16 children you must locate a community space or facility. To care for more than eight children, a minimum of two ECE II/III's is required.
Note: You may use space in an existing centre or nursery school not operating at this time or in a community-space such as a school, local community organization or business. The Early Learning and Child Care Program may be able to connect you with a community partner who is willing to make space available.
- Insurance will be required for either type of care (home-based or community-based).
- All safety requirements must be met in order for a child care provider to receive temporary authorization from the Department of Families Early Learning and Child Care program.