

COVID-19 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

**Manitoba Families
Early Learning and Child Care**

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR HOME BASED PROGRAM - NEW TEMPORARY CHILD CARE SERVICE GRANT

BACKGROUND:

On March 17, 2020, the Government of Manitoba announced that licensed child-care centres will suspend services from the end-of-day on March 20 until April 10, based on advice from public health officials. Parents were asked to begin making alternative arrangements for child care immediately, with the goal of reducing the number of children in centres as soon as possible. The direction did not apply to home-based child care, as they care for a smaller number of children.

Planning has been underway to ensure parents who provide critical services, such as front-line health-care providers, will have a way to continue to access child care options. Families who meet this criteria and cannot make other arrangements and who have not yet contacted Early Learning and Child Care by phone or email, are asked to make their request using the Essential Services Worker Child Care Request Online Form.

The Government of Manitoba recognizes that many families will be impacted by the reduction of licensed child care services due to COVID-19, and the employment of Early Childhood Educators (ECE) currently working in licensed child care may also be impacted.

NEW TEMPORARY CHILD CARE SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM:

As part of the Government of Manitoba's response to COVID-19, and to ensure dedicated child care spaces are available for front-line workers, a new grant is available for Early Childhood Educators (ECE) II or III and Child Care Assistants.

The new Temporary Child Care Service Grant helps child care providers affected by closures or reductions in services at their centre to access immediate funds to begin independently offering child care services. The ECE or CCA could provide, exempt from licensing, care to up to four children in their home or another appropriate space, or become a licensed home-based provider, and care for up to eight children or in a child care centre setting to care for up to 16 children in combination with another ECE.

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At this time, the new grant program will prioritize the provision of child care services to health care workers who are unable to make alternate child care arrangements and require child care in order to work at this time.

In order to assist with the establishment of new child care services, a \$3000 provincial grant will be available to approved applicants. The Government of Manitoba has partnered with the Manitoba and Winnipeg chambers of commerce to administer the grant, and to provide business mentorship and business advice to child care providers under this program.

The new grant program will help provide ongoing employment for Manitoba's Early Childhood Educators, and encourage the opening of child care spaces on an urgent basis for families that have been affected by the reduction in service of regular child care facilities and are providing critical services to Manitobans.

TEMPORARY CHILD CARE SERVICE GRANT CRITERIA:

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

- Be an existing Child Care Assistant or Early Child Educator (ECEII or ECEIII)
- Identify and secure appropriate space (home or community-based) for providing care.
Note: if more than four children are to be cared for, a child care coordinator will work with you on creative solutions to licensing requirements.
- Complete and meet safety assessment criteria, which will be recorded on a check-list.
- Confirmation of enrolment of children of critical service workers is required prior to payment to successful applicants.

For the purposes of this grant program, **critical services** are defined as follows;

- Health Care Providers
- Emergency Service Providers
- Corrections Workers
- Law Enforcement Workers
- Fire and Paramedic
- Direct Social Services and Child Protection Workers