

Child Care Sustainability Trust 2023/2024

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Child Care Sustainability Trust?

The Child Care Sustainability Trust is an endowment fund managed by The Winnipeg Foundation. The Trust supports one-time grant opportunities for Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) facilities to undertake infrastructure and innovative programming improvements.

On an annual basis, a portion of the interest earned is made available to successful applicants of licensed child care centres, nursery schools, and licensed family/group home providers. The annual available funds are dependent on market conditions and the spending policy determined by the Winnipeg Foundation.

2. Why was the Child Care Sustainability Trust established?

Manitoba's Budget 2020 committed to the establishment of an innovative Child Care Sustainability Trust to ensure the ongoing sustainability of licensed child care services through long-term sector investment. The endowment fund is intended to assist in rebuilding and strengthening child care services through the pandemic and into the future.

The goal of the Trust is to increase the sustainability, flexibility, accessibility and quality of child care services to support Manitoba families into the future by having dedicated funds available for the long-term.

3. Who is eligible for grants under the Trust?

All licensed child care/nursery school facilities and licensed family/group home providers are eligible to apply. Each centre with a unique facility identification number can apply separately. The maximum available per facility for grant funding is as follows:

- \$5,000 for family/group home
- \$20,000 for child care facilities with 50 spaces or less
- \$25,000 for child care facilities with 51 spaces or more

Facilities must submit a completed application form, provide a clear description of the project, provide a description of the facility, and include an itemized breakdown of costs and/or quotations (if applicable). Multiple quotations for the same item are not required.

4. What is the prioritization criteria under the Trust?

- Facilities with an average minimum utilization rate of 80% of licensed spaces
- Facilities in or serving Manitoba communities that are Indigenous, low-income, newcomer, Francophone, rural/Northern
- Facilities in communities with low child care coverage (high waitlist, few centres)
- Projects that address health and safety concerns. For example, fence for outdoor play space, countertop replacement to prevent bacteria growth

It is anticipated that more applications may be received than can be accommodated by available funds. All eligible projects will be reviewed and prioritized based on prioritization criteria listed above as based on the project outcomes described in question # 5.

5. What are the three funding streams under the Trust?

Facilities may choose the funding stream relevant to their project to request funds up to the maximum grant amount based on facility type. The three funding streams the Child Care Sustainability Trust is comprised of are:

Infrastructure Improvement: Improving the physical infrastructure of the facility including:

- Minor repairs relating to health and safety concerns
- Major repairs or maintenance for aging centres

Program Enhancement: Expanding and improving inclusive or accessible programming and practises in facilities through new and innovative approaches. For example:

- Pilot projects that expand or shift hours to meet the needs of their families
- Enhanced services, such as hosting parenting, behaviour, or nutrition classes for parents while providing child care on-site outside of operating hours
- Projects that ensure compliance with the Accessibility for Manitoban's Act. This may include physical improvements to create accessible indoor and outdoor spaces, website enhancements, translation of policies to plain or other languages
- Tools to support positive mental health strategies for children/staff such as, equipment/materials for promoting children's positive self-esteem, creation of a relaxation space for children, etc.

Professional Development: Initiatives or projects supporting ongoing skill development of staff to enhance programming or the provision of services in an innovative way including:

- Registration fees for conferences, short courses/workshops, or consultant/training costs specific to the following topics:
 - Diversity, equity and inclusion
 - Leadership development and/or advanced management skills
 - Positive mental health training/series to support children, educators and/or families
 - Curriculum, programming, nature education
 - Other professional development that enhances programming or the provision of services in an innovative way will be considered

6. What project outcomes does the Child Care Sustainability Trust support?

The project description in your application should clearly identify how the project meets one or more of the expected project outcomes:

- Infrastructure improvement resulting in an increase to quality/accessibility of early learning and child care services.
- Enhanced programming offered by expanding cultural/inclusive practices through new and innovative approaches to early learning and child care.
- Increased capacity of child care staff and/or board of directors with improved skills and knowledge in specialized areas.

7. What expenses are not eligible under the Child Care Sustainability Trust?

Expenses that are not eligible include:

- New capital development/expansion, purchasing of land/buildings
- Start-up equipment grants
- Recurring annual operating costs (salaries, benefits, administration, office/building, day-to-day program expenses, utilities such as phone bills, property maintenance)
- Staffing and training grants
- Travel/hotel expenses for out of province professional development
- Inclusion support grants; including services provided through the Inclusion Support Program such as enhanced staffing
- Expenses covered by other grant funding sources including federal and other provincial departments
- Gift cards, gifts, prizes, professional memberships, incentives for participation
- Direct fundraising events or activities that generate a profit
- Alcohol or cannabis related products
- Purchases that do not provide benefit to staff or children
- Work deemed to be inappropriate at the discretion of the department

8. When can facilities expect notification regarding the outcome of their application?

A completed Child Care Sustainability Trust Application and applicable quotations/ documentation must be received by September 30, 2023. Late applications will not be considered. Expected processing time is six to eight weeks from closing date. Facilities can expect to be informed of the project status by November 15, 2023.

9. What are the reporting requirements for approved projects?

Approved projects will be provided with a Project Tracker Update form to provide an update on on-going projects and submit copies of the receipts for items purchased. Once your project has been completed, please use the Project Status Tracker form provided to report back to Early Learning and Child Care. For larger projects, an update is required every three months until completion.

Proof of payment options accepted: formal receipt, detailed invoice, detailed quote for purchase, credit card statement, agreement for service with cost details.

Eligible items/costs must be purchased between the date of approval and March 31, 2025. All projects are expected to be completed by March 31, 2025.

10. Where can I find more information on the Child Care Sustainability Trust?

For more information, visit:

www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/centres_homeproviders/providers_resources/grants.html.

For additional inquiries, contact the Early Learning and Child Care Division–Diversity and Inclusion Unit by email ELCC-ISP@gov.mb.ca with the subject line “Child Care Sustainability Trust”.