

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE PROGRAM CIRCULAR

Date: February 28, 2022

CIRCULAR NUMBER: ELCC-2022-04

To: All licensed child care facilities, Early Learning and Child Care Branch,
Child Care Subsidy Program

Subject: Subsidy Advance and Parent Fee Coverage

Effective Date: February 6, 2022

Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Required
	<input type="checkbox"/> Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only
	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Schools	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial	<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Group Homes	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsidy		

This circular is being sent to all licensed early learning and child care (ELCC) facilities advising of a six-month subsidy advance and three-months of coverage for the non-subsidized parent fee portion, for subsidized families.

As per circular ELCC-2022-02 dated February 3, 2022, recent amendments to the Child Care Regulation provided an increase to the net household income thresholds for the Child Care Subsidy Program, increasing the number of eligible children.

To support the implementation of the threshold increase, Manitoba is providing ELCC facilities with up to \$75M for a full six-month subsidy advance, and three-months of funding for the non-subsidized portion of parent fees for subsidized families, as of February 6, 2022. This means that families who have submitted an application for child care subsidy and/or are currently accessing child care subsidies will have their full fees covered during the first three-month period. This will allow facilities to immediately enroll children, reducing the risk of interruptions in child care services for families while their subsidy applications are being assessed.

Benefits:

- Allows child care facilities to immediately enroll children while their subsidy applications are being assessed;
- Provides time for facilities to receive mass-reassessment with new subsidy levels and re-assessed parent fees;
- Eliminates adjustments in parent fees collected during the re-assessment period; and
- Ensures stability of the system by supporting facilities to generate revenue by immediately enrolling children in vacant spaces while subsidy applications are processed.

The subsidy advance and parent fee coverage, will ease the transition between the existing subsidy program and in the re-development of Manitoba's new financial assistance program for income based parent fees, supporting the goal of achieving a \$10 per day out-of-pocket average parent fee under the Canada-Manitoba, Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement.

For more information on the Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement and action plan, visit www.manitoba.ca/fs/childcare/actionplan.html

Implementation

The six-month subsidy advance and three-months of non-subsidized parent fee coverage is effective as of the February 6, 2022, reporting period. Funds will be disbursed to facilities over the next several weeks as follows:

For children 0-6, child care facilities will receive one payment that covers:

- six-months of child care subsidies from February 6, 2022 to July, 23 2022
- three-months of funding for the non-subsidized parent fee portion from February 6, 2022 to April 30, 2022

For children aged 7-12, child care facilities will receive two payments that covers:

- two-months of child care subsidies from February 6, 2022 to April 2, 2022
- two-months of non-subsidized parent fees from February 6, 2022 to April 2, 2022
- four-months of child care subsidies from April 3, 2022 to July 23, 2022
- one-month of non-subsidized parent fees from April 3, 2022 to April 30th, 2022

In May 2022, facilities will be provided with status update that reflects actual subsidy uptake at their facility and if required, information about any adjustments that may be required.

The ELCC Finance and Accountability branch will audit attendance reports at the end of the six month period and if required, reconcile any overpayments through future subsidy payment adjustments to the child care facility.

Current attendance reporting and reporting periods remain unchanged.

Communication to Families

Families indicating that they will be applying for a child care subsidy should be encouraged to visit the Child Care Subsidy Estimator at:

www.manitoba.ca/fs/childcare/families/childcare_subsidies.html

Eligible families will have their full parent fee (including the non-subsidized portion) covered through April 30, 2022. Afterwards, parents will be responsible for paying fees that correspond with the level of approved subsidy.

If a family is deemed ineligible for a child care subsidy, they immediately become responsible for paying the parent fees charged by the facility. A facility will receive

notification if families are not determined to be eligible from the Child Care Subsidy Program.

If you have any questions regarding Child Care Subsidy Program eligibility, please email cdcsubsidy@gov.mb.ca or call Child Care Information Services at 204-945-8195 or toll-free: 1-877-587-6224.

For questions regarding Child Care Subsidy Program payments for your facility or Child Care Online registration process, contact cdcfacility@gov.mb.ca or call Child Care Information Services at 204-945-0776.

If your facility is not currently a Child Care Online user, please visit https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/centres_homeproviders/cco_login.html to register for a user name and password.

Thank you for your ongoing patience as we continue to adapt ELCC systems and services to meet the needs of Manitoba families and children, and the early learning and child care sector. As per the Government of Manitoba announcement regarding the new Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning on January 19, 2022, we will continue to work closely with our stakeholders to support this transition and our continued efforts to enhance the early learning and childcare system in Manitoba.

Early Learning and Child Care