

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE CIRCULAR

Date: August 10, 2026

CIRCULAR NUMBER: ELCC-2026-03

To: All licensed early learning and child care facilities, Early Learning and Child Care Division, and Child Care Subsidy Program

Subject: Elimination of Family Contribution and Non-Subsidized Daily Fee for Subsidized Families

Effective Date: September 13, 2026

Type:	☐ Policy	☒ All Facilities	☒ Action Required
	☐ Procedure	☐ Centres	☐ Information Only
	☐ Licensing	☐ Nursery Schools	
	☒ Financial	☐ Family/Group Homes	
	☒ Subsidy		

This circular is being sent to all licensed early learning and child care facilities, advising of upcoming changes to the Child Care Subsidy Program, that will eliminate the **family contribution** and the **non-subsidized daily fee** for all children under the program. Families who currently receive Child Care Subsidy will no longer be required to pay parent fees if they do not exceed their allowable absent days within their approval period.

Program changes will take effect on September 13, 2026. Eliminating these fees for families that are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program will help ensure that Manitoba families with low incomes can access high-quality, affordable licensed child care, by removing cost as a barrier, reducing financial pressures and creating greater opportunities to pursue work, education, or training. This change will also simplify fee administration for facilities.

This initiative is being delivered through a partnership between the Governments of Canada and Manitoba.

Implementation

Families currently receiving Subsidy are **not** required to submit a new application to the Child Care Subsidy Program for the changes to take effect.

The department is working to provide updated Subsidy approval letters to all families currently eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program and to their child care facilities, ahead of September 13, 2026. The updated letter will advise that all fees for child care have been eliminated as long as the family remains eligible. The updated letter will also advise families of their allowable absent days, and serves as a reminder that fees may be charged by the child care facility if allowable absent days are exceeded.

A letter from the department has been shared with facilities for their records, clarifying these changes. This letter is being shared in advance of new, individualized Subsidy Approval letters, so facilities can adjust their invoicing processes.

Facility Reporting and Renumeration

There will be no changes to the process for facilities to report attendance to the department.

Effective September 13, 2026, child care facilities and home providers will receive, through the Facility Attendance report process, the payment that is normally collected from the families receiving Child Care Subsidy. This includes both the non-subsidized fee and any family contribution. The department will remit these amounts directly to facilities.

Process:

- Non-subsidized fees, previously billed to families by facilities, will now be paid by the department as an “Additional Payment” to facilities.
- The department will issue full Subsidy for all families eligible under the Child Care Subsidy Program.

Please note how this impacts charges related to exceeding allowable absent days. If a child under the program has exceeded their allowable absent days, the family remains responsible for paying all fees associated with the absent days, as these are not covered per the Child Care Subsidy program policy. These charges will not be remitted by the department and the facility may bill the family directly.

Implementation Resources

- For additional information, see [Elimination of Family Contribution and Non-Subsidized Daily Fee for Subsidized Families – Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Register for one of the following webinars. Registration links are provided in the cover email for this circular.
 - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2026
 - 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2026

- General information about the Child Care Subsidy Program, including the online application forms, is available on the Early Learning and Child Care website at: manitoba.ca/childcaresubsidy

Note: The online Subsidy Eligibility Estimator will be updated on September 13, 2026.

- For a copy of the circulars and FAQs, to view past webinar sessions or to access general operational updates, visit the Early Learning and Child Care website at: www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/childcare_news/current_circulars.html

If you have any further questions regarding the information in this circular, please email Child Care Subsidy Program at cdcsubsidy@gov.mb.ca with subject line “Subsidy Program Updates” or call 204-945-8195 (toll free: 1-877-587-6224).

Thank you for your continued dedication to providing high-quality early learning and child care services to children and their families.

To request this document in an alternate format, please contact cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca.