

Ministry of Education

**Funding Guidance During COVID-19
Pandemic**

Child Care Reopening

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FUNDING GUIDANCE

- Licensed child care centres may re-open following strict health and safety requirements and will have reduced capacity
- EarlyON centres will remain closed under the provincial Emergency Order
- Prohibition on parent fees and holding of space continues for those not accessing care
- Home based child care continues to operate
- Emergency Child Care ends

Funding Methodology

- Cash flow to continue at original 2020 allocation levels per October 2019 budget schedule release until the reconciliation process between CMSMs/DSSABs and the Ministry takes place.
- Administration funding will continue at the original 2020 levels identified in the October 2019 budget schedules.

Core Principles

- Funding will cover costs for vacancies in centres with reduced capacity
- Funding will cover costs for increased staffing (additional staff for screening etc.)
- Funding will cover costs for required PPE
- Funding will cover costs for enhanced cleaning (over and above regular cleaning costs prior to COVID-19)
- Provincial funding for child care centres reopening will be contingent on operators not increasing parent fees. Parent fees must not be higher than the fees charged prior to the closure period (i.e. in March 2020).
- Centres/programs that remain closed will continue to be funded through the sustainability plan principles

Child Care Centres That Open

- It is assumed that there will be reduced capacity in centres.
- With new procedures, it is also assumed that all staff (pre-closure levels) will be required even though there will be fewer children in attendance.
- Funding will be provided as follows:

	Provincial Funding	Additional Funding Sources	Notes
Staffing Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial funding (general operating and fee subsidies) resumes, proportional to capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent fees resume for children in care Federal programs to support salary and wages (such as CEWS) 	Between resumed provincial funding, parent fees, and federal programs, staffing costs will be met – including any gaps left by federal programs.
Overhead (operating costs and rent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial funding (general operating and fee subsidies) resumes, proportional to capacity Provincial sustainability plan funding continues, proportional to unoccupied spaces, for eligible overhead costs and rent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent fees resume for children in care 	Between resumed provincial funding, parent fees, and continued provincial funding for proportion of eligible overhead, operating costs and rent should be met.
Enhanced cleaning and PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial funding 		
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial funding continues 		

- Proportion of provincial funding (general operating and fee subsidies) resumes for children in care.
- Operators to maximize all federal supports for salary and wages (such as CEWS).
 - The CEWS has been extended until August 29, 2020 to support 75% of employee wages – up to \$847 per employee per week – for up to 24 weeks for all eligible staff.

- Between provincial funding and CEWS, all wages should be supported (including any wage gaps)
- Funding will be provided to support the proportion of operating costs (such as eligible fixed overhead and rent) as a result of vacancies/reduced capacity.
- Provincial funding will support the increased costs associated with PPE and enhanced cleaning (over and above regular cleaning costs prior to COVID-19).
- Wage Enhancement may resume per the following:
 - Wage enhancement costs should continue to be included in gross pay where applications to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program continue.
 - Provincial wage enhancement funding resumes for portion for wage enhancement not covered by CEWS (including full Wage Enhancement for staff not eligible under CEWS)
- School Boards will be required to not charge rent for child care centres located in schools during this phase of child care reopening until schools reopen in September.
- Provincial funding for child care centres reopening will be contingent on operators not increasing parent fees. Parent fees must not be higher than the fees charged prior to the closure period (i.e. in March 2020).

If Child Care Centres Remain Closed

- Sustainability Plan principles continue – summarized below:
 - Eligible fixed overhead costs covered by provincial funding (including rent for centres not located in schools – as CECRA will likely have ended).
 - Federal programs to be used for salaries and wages. Municipal and federal funding can be used to cover CEWS wage gap.
 - It is expected that Federal ELCC funding and municipal contributions will be sufficient to cover the 25% top-up portion of wages. If there is a shortfall, provincial funding can be used to support this commitment in order to not create undue municipal pressures.
 - Wage Enhancement amounts should be included in gross pay when applying for CEWS.
- School Boards will be required to not charge rent for child care centres located in schools during this phase of child care reopening until schools open in September.

Home Child Care

- Sustainability Plan principles continue – summarized below:
 - Base Funding for Licensed Home Child Care continues for child care agencies

- Regular funding including fee subsidy and wage enhancement continues for active home providers
- Closed home providers should rely on federal supports (i.e. CERB)

EarlyON

- Centres remain closed and virtual programming can continue.
- Funding continues as per sustainability plan – summarized below:
 - Provincial funding for eligible fixed overhead (including rent for centres not located in schools – as CECRA will likely have ended)
 - Provincial funding for days/hours worked to deliver virtual programming.
 - Operators must maximize all federal supports for salary and wages for staff not working.
- School Boards will be required to not charge rent for EarlyON centres located in schools during this phase of child care reopening until schools open in September.

Special Needs Resourcing

- Operating funding for Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) will continue to be provided for services provided.
- The province will continue to fund eligible fixed overhead costs for SNR agencies that can be apportioned to child care services and are normally provided by CMSMs/DSSABs to SNR agencies for child care services.

Indigenous Led Programs

- Similar to EarlyON, funding continues to be provided for days/hours worked to provide programming.
- Overhead funding continues to be provided to support centres that are closed.

Authorized Recreation and Camps

- Fee subsidy can be provided for children attending when the programs reopen.
- No funding will be provided for fixed overhead costs.

Municipal, University, School, Hospital (MUSH) Operated Child Care Centres

- For child care centres that are reopening, please follow the direction in the “Child Care Centres That Open” section. Note, provincial funding will support staff wages where they are not eligible for CEWS.
- For child care centres that remain closed, sustainability plan principles continue – summarized below:

- Eligible fixed overhead costs covered by provincial funding (including rent for programs not located in schools).
- Provincial funding for salaries & wages while the centre is closed will be provided at an equivalent level to centres that are eligible for federal supports for salaries and wages (i.e. 75% provincially funded, 25% municipally funded/ federally funded through ELCC).
- Extended day programs run by school boards fall under this category
- School Boards will be required to not charge rent for centres located in schools until schools reopen in September.