

## Funding Program for Early Learning and Child Care Centres

This program provides support to **early learning and child care centres** in the Yukon by providing funding to offset early learning fees and the cost of operating high quality programs.

This program has **six parts**:

**Part 1: Reducing the cost of early learning and child care for families**

**Part 2: Support for administration**

**Part 3: Support to enhance program quality**

**Part 4: Supporting children with diverse needs**

**Part 5: Funding to increase educator wages**

**Part 6: Funding towards operating costs**

## Part 1: Reducing the cost of early learning and child care for families

- This funding is intended to directly help licensed early learning and child care centres lower the amount parents or caregivers pay.
- This funding is based on children's enrollment and regular attendance — either full-time or part-time.
- If a child is enrolled/attends part-time, the funding will be adjusted based on how many hours they are enrolled/attend compared to full-time hours.
- Children must attend 75%\* of the time in order for child care centres to access this funding. There must always be space available for the child if the family is charged a fee, regardless of whether or not a child is in attendance. Attendance must be maintained at 75% of the registered use to maintain full funding.
- Families only pay the difference between the government funding and the full fee.
- It does **not** cover drop-in care.
- It does **not** cover the space when a child is away for more than **4 weeks in a row** (such as during long vacations).
- To receive this funding, centres must agree to keep complete and accurate attendance records for each child.

\* Funding is available during both voluntary and non-voluntary absences (e.g., family vacations up to 4 weeks of absence, sickness, medical travel, bereavement, First Nations harvesting, and cultural activities).

	Funding per child per month
Infant	\$700
Toddler	\$700
Preschool	\$700
Kindergarten	\$700 (full-time – not in school)
Kindergarten	\$350 (part-time – in school)
School-age	\$500 (during the summer)
School-age	\$300 (during the school year)

## Part 2: Support for administration

- This payment is 10% of the funding provided to lower parent or caregiver fees (from Section A).
- The intent of this funding is to support administrative needs related to operating a centre and fulfilling reporting requirements, such as hiring a part-time bookkeeper or administrative assistant.

Number of directly funded spaces	Rate per month
e.g. 8 toddlers (all full-time)	8 x \$700 = \$5600.00 <b>10% of \$5600 = \$560</b>
e.g. 18 preschoolers (all full-time)	18 x \$700 = \$12,600 <b>10% of \$12,600 = \$1,260</b>
e.g. 6 pre-school (full-time) 1 infant (part-time: 3 days a week) 2 infants (part-time: 2 days a week)	6 x \$700 = \$4200 1 x (\$700 x 0.6) = \$420 2 x (\$700 x 0.4) = \$560 <b>10% of \$5180 = \$518</b>

### Part 3: Support to enhance program quality

- The intent of this funding is to help support centres create high-quality early learning programs by supporting the costs of materials, supplies, and equipment.
- This amount is determined based on how many children are enrolled.
- Programs that charge an additional fee to parents/caregivers for a nutritional meal program are not eligible to receive the additional meal funding in this category.

<b>Whitehorse area programs</b>	<b>Quality funding per child</b> Programs without a meal program	<b>Quality funding per child</b> Programs with a nutritional meal program
Infant	\$206.10	\$238.16
Toddler	\$154.58	\$186.64
Preschool	\$114.50	\$146.56
Grade 1 and up	\$97.33	\$129.39

<b>Rural programs</b>	<b>Quality funding per child</b> Programs without a meal program	<b>Quality funding per child</b> Programs with a nutritional meal program
Infant	\$242.10	\$298.59
Toddler	\$181.58	\$238.07
Preschool	\$134.50	\$190.99
Grade 1 and up	\$114.33	\$151.99

### Part 4: Supporting children with diverse needs

- The intent of this funding is to support inclusion of children with diverse needs and abilities.
- Eligible expenses include supplies, technology, minor repairs, or specialized equipment.
- To receive this funding, centres must provide the ELCC branch with a current Individual Program Plan (IPP) for each child who needs extra support, including the goals they are working towards and what supports or equipment will help them achieve those goals.
- Centres must provide complete and accurate attendance records for each child.
- If a child is enrolled/attends part-time. the funding may be adjusted accordingly
- Operators may be eligible to apply to the Supported Child Care Program for children who require more intensive support.

	<b>Funding per month</b> Whitehorse area programs	<b>Funding per month</b> Rural programs
Toddler	\$54.96	\$64.56
Preschool	\$91.60	\$107.60
Grade 1 and up	\$114.50	\$134.50

## Part 5: Funding to increase educator wages

- The intent of this funding is to enhance the wage of early childhood educators, up to 40 hours per week.
- It also includes an extra 14% to cover employment-related costs like:
  - Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
  - Employment Insurance (EI)
  - Vacation pay
  - Workers compensation
- To receive this funding, centres must pay each educator, at a minimum, according to the established wage grid.
- Educators whose wages are already fully paid according to the wage grid through the Supported Child Care Program will not receive an additional wage enhancement.
- This funding is not provided when:
  - educators are sick or on vacation;
  - operators are not working directly in the program (ie: maternity leave, reside outside of the centre area, reside outside of the Yukon etc.)
  - program is closed for days that are not statutory holidays (i.e. Easter Monday and Heritage Day)
- The Level 0 wage supplement is only available in rural communities. To receive it, a program must have an approved training plan and a formal exemption from training requirements (granted by the Director of ELCC).

### Whitehorse wage enhancements

ECE Level	Current wage enhancement	Minimum wage + enhancement	2026 mandatory minimum wage
Level 0	Not applicable	Not applicable	\$18.51
Level 1	\$4.12	\$18.51 + \$4.12	\$22.63
Level 1A	\$6.01	\$18.51 + \$6.01	\$24.52
Level 2	\$7.44	\$18.51 + \$7.44	\$25.95
Level 2A	\$9.96	\$18.51 + \$9.96	\$28.47
Level 3 eq	\$12.31	\$18.51 + \$12.31	\$30.82
Level 3	\$15.31	\$18.51 + \$15.31	\$33.82

### Rural wage enhancements

ECE Level	Current wage enhancement	Minimum wage + enhancement	2025 mandatory minimum wage
Level 0	\$1.85	\$18.51 + \$1.85	\$20.36
Level 1	\$4.49	\$18.51 + \$4.49	\$23.00
Level 1A	\$6.71	\$18.51 + \$6.71	\$25.22
Level 2	\$8.39	\$18.51 + \$8.39	\$26.90
Level 2A	\$11.35	\$18.51 + \$11.35	\$29.86
Level 3 eq	\$14.11	\$18.51 + \$14.11	\$32.62
Level 3	\$17.11	\$18.51 + \$17.11	\$35.62

## Part 6: Funding towards operating costs

- The intent of this funding is to support centres to pay for the cost of operations (such as rent, mortgage, heating, or supplies).
- In **Whitehorse**, **37%** of the cost of eligible operating expenses is provided.
- In **rural communities**, **43%** of the cost of eligible operating expenses is provided.
- Centres can only claim the part of an expense used directly for the child care program. For example, if the child care program operates in a shared building, but only 50% of the space is for child care, only 50% of the heating cost is an eligible expense.
- To receive this funding, centres must be able to show proof of expenses. This can include:
  - Receipts
  - Income and expense records from a bookkeeper
  - Lease, rental, or mortgage agreements, or a yearly statement from the landlord or bank

### These expenses are eligible:

Rent or mortgage	Dry cleaning (e.g. dress-up clothes)
Cleaning supplies	Carpet cleaning
Janitorial wages	Internet costs
Water	Electricity
Sewer	Fuel (not including vehicle fuel)
Garbage	Phone costs (land line)
Insurance (does not include vehicle insurance)	Cell phone costs (maximum of \$60 per month)
Snow removal	Security system
Minor repairs (maximum of \$500 per month)	Short-term equipment rental (e.g., snow blower)
Vinyl gloves	Paper towels
Toilet paper	Facial tissue
Garbage bags	Hand soap

### These expenses are not eligible:

Vehicle fuel	Advertising
Light bulbs	Fire extinguisher maintenance
Rodent control	Tools
Vehicle insurance	Chlorine strips
Costs for fire, building, and electrical inspections	Dish towels, dish cloths or face cloths
Costs for business licenses	

# Other important things to know

## Fee increases

Every child care centre can only raise their fees once per year on April 1.

### Whitehorse area:

- If a centre's fees are within 10% of the Whitehorse average, they can be increased by up to **3%** per year.
- If a centre's fees are higher than 10% of the Whitehorse average, they can be increased by **1%** per year.

### Rural Yukon:

- If a centre's fees are within 10% of the rural Yukon average, they can be increased by up to **3%** per year.
- If a centre's fees are higher than 10% of the rural Yukon average, they can be increased by **1%** per year.

If your centre is facing higher costs and needs to raise fees more than this, please discuss the need with the Early Learning and Child Care branch who will work with you on options. Decisions will be based upon the program's profit/loss for previous period, budget for future period, rationale for request, and enrolment trends as proportion of licensed capacity.

## Setting fees for new child care programs

New centres that receive Government of Yukon funding must have their fees approved during the licensing process.

- New centres cannot charge more than **3% above the Yukon average fee**.
- The Early Learning and Child Care branch may approve higher fees based on the centre's situation.
- If a program includes a meal program, this cost must be part of the regular monthly fee charged to families.

## Fee reporting and transparency

Centres must follow these rules about fees:

- You must report all fee changes to the Early Learning and Child Care branch.
- The branch will calculate the average Yukon fees each year.
- The branch will share the average fees when requested.
- Your approved fees will be listed in your official agreement with the Government of Yukon (your transfer payment agreement).

## Working together

Centres are encouraged to work closely with the Early Learning and Child Care branch to continue improving their programs.

This includes:

- Taking part in professional development and training
- Working with early learning program specialists
- Making ongoing improvements to program quality
- Seeking information or support on regulations and reporting requirements

If you have any questions, please email [earlylearning@yukon.ca](mailto:earlylearning@yukon.ca)