

Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program

Early learning and child care centres

The new Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program consists of two parts:

Part 1: Funding for licensed child care

- Provides funding to licensed early learning and child care operators to reduce fee payments made by parents.
- Provides an additional payment to operators to reduce operational and administrative expenses and support program needs.

Part 2: Child Care Operational Funding (Formerly the Direct Operating Grant)

- Provides funding to support high-quality early learning environments.
- Provides funding to increase wages paid by operators to Early Childhood Educators.
- Provides additional funding to operators to support operational costs.

Part 1: Funding of child care spaces to licensed providers

A. Funding to reduce parent/caregiver fee payments to providers

This Government of Yukon funding is provided to licensed child care operators to directly reduce the amount paid by parents/caregivers to operators for early learning and child care services. The operator must agree to apply this funding directly to reduce the monthly payment made by parents/caregivers, and further agrees that each parent/caregiver is only required to pay the difference between this funding and the operator’s fee.

Funding to reduce fee payments is paid based on the assumption of regular full-time or part-time attendance. The Yukon Government does not provide funding for spaces during extended, voluntary absences.

	Funding per child per month (Parents paying full-time rates)
Infant*	\$700.00
Toddler*	\$700.00
Preschool *	\$700.00
Kindergarten	\$700 (full-time – not in school)
Kindergarten	\$350 (part-time – in school)
School age	\$300.00 (during the school year)
School age	\$500.00 (during the summer)

*Funding for part-time attendance will be prorated based on the number of hours a child attends the program as a percentage of the operator’s full-time hours of operation.

B. Administration payment

The Government of Yukon provides operators with a monthly administration payment equal to 10% of the amount of funding provided to the operator under section A above. This funding may be used by operators to support their operational needs, including the development of high-quality early learning programs.

Examples:

Number of directly funded spaces	Rate per month
8 children	8 x \$700 = \$5600.00 10% of \$5600 = \$560.00
18 children	18 x \$700 = \$12,600 10% of \$12,600 = \$1,260.00

Part 2: Child Care Operational Funding (Formerly the Direct Operating Grant)

Child Care Operational Funding is designed to support licensed operators in reducing their operational expenses and to support the provision of high-quality early learning programming. Child Care Operational Funding replaces the previous Direct Operating Grant and also provides operators with the following funding:

- A. Quality Program Enhancement
- B. Wage Enhancement
- C. Operational Expenses

A. Quality Program Enhancement Funding (Formally Child Care Centre Enrollment Unit Funding)

Quality Program Enhancement Funding provides funding to operators to promote high-quality early learning environments, based on the number of children attending an operator's program.

Whitehorse area programs

	Funding per child *Programs not offering meal program	Funding per child *Programs offering a nutritional meal program
Infant	\$206.10	\$238.16
Toddler	\$154.58	\$186.64
Preschool	\$114.50	\$146.56
School age Grade 1 and above	\$97.33	\$129.39

Rural programs

	Funding per child *Programs not offering meal program	Funding per child *Programs offering a nutritional meal program
Infant	\$242.10	\$298.59
Toddler	\$181.58	\$238.07
Preschool	\$134.50	\$190.99
School age Grade 1 and above	\$114.33	\$151.99

Children with Special Needs

Operators are provided with additional funding to support the inclusion of children with special needs in their early learning program. To be eligible for this funding, an operator must provide a current 'Individual Program Plan' (IPP) for each child with special needs attending its program.

	Funding per month Whitehorse area programs	Funding per month Rural programs
Toddler	\$54.96	\$64.56
Preschool	\$91.60	\$107.60
School age Grade 1 and above	\$114.50	\$134.50

To receive the Quality Program Enhancement Funding; operators must agree:

- ✓ They will keep a complete and accurate attendance record for each child.
- ✓ Funding for children for part-time attendance will be prorated based on the number of hours the child is attending the program as a percentage of the operator's full-time hours of operation.
- ✓ If the operator closes its operation for a period of time, the Quality Program Enhancement Funding will be prorated accordingly.

B. Wage Enhancement Funding

The government provides funding to operators in the form of a wage supplement for Early Childhood Educators employed by operators. The wage supplement will be paid based on the actual hours worked by each Early Childhood Educator to a maximum of 40 hours per week, and will include an additional 12% payment for mandatory employment-related costs (e.g., CPP, EI and WCB).

Operators must agree that the wages paid to each Early Childhood Educator, before the addition of the wage enhancement, must be no less than the minimum wage under the *Employment Standards Act*.

Whitehorse wage enhancements

Child care worker level	Current wage enhancement	2021 increase	New wage enhancement
Level 0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Level 1	\$2.12	\$2.00	\$4.12
Level 1A	\$4.01	\$2.00	\$6.01
Level 2	\$5.44	\$2.00	\$7.44
Level 2A	\$7.96	\$2.00	\$9.96
Level 3 equivalent	\$10.31	\$2.00	\$12.31
Level 3	\$10.31	\$5.00	\$15.31

Rural Wage Enhancements

Child care worker level	Current wage enhancement	2021 increase	New wage enhancement
Level 0	\$1.85	Not Applicable	\$1.85
Level 1	\$2.49	\$2.00	\$4.49
Level 1A	\$4.71	\$2.00	\$6.71
Level 2	\$6.39	\$2.00	\$8.39
Level 2A	\$9.35	\$2.00	\$11.35
Level 3 equivalent	\$12.11	\$2.00	\$14.11
Level 3	\$12.11	\$5.00	\$17.11

Operators must provide the government with any records they require in order to confirm that they are providing the wage supplement to their Early Childhood Educators as required.

Early Childhood Educators whose wages are paid through the Supported Child Care Program are not eligible for the wage supplement.

The Level 0 wage supplement is only available to programs operating in rural communities, and an approved training plan and exemption from the training requirements must be approved and in place.

C. Operational Expenses for child care centres

The funding provides \$0.37 for Whitehorse area programs and \$0.43 for rural community programs for every \$1.00 that the program spends monthly on building expenses.

If requested by Government of Yukon, operators must be able to verify all building expenses with the following documentation:

- ✓ receipts;
- ✓ income and expense sheets prepared by a bookkeeper;
- ✓ lease, contract, or rental agreements, or an annual statement from the landlord verifying rent cost; and
- ✓ photocopies of both the front and the back of cancelled checks.

Allowable building expenses include:

Rent or mortgage	Dry cleaning—dress-up clothes
Insurance (vehicle ins. not included)	Carpet cleaning
Janitorial cleaning supplies	Internet costs
Janitorial wages	Electricity
Water	Fuel (not including vehicle fuel)
Sewer	Recurring phone costs
Garbage	Recurring costs for cell phone costs to a maximum \$60 per month.
Snow removal	Short term rental equipment (e.g., snow blower)
Minor repairs (to a max. of \$500 per month)	Security system

Expenses not included under building costs:

Toilet paper	Costs for business licenses
Tissues	Advertising
Rubber gloves	Fire extinguisher maintenance
Paper towels	Tools
Vehicle fuel	Chlorine Strips
Light bulbs	Garbage bags
Rodent control	Hand soap
Vehicle insurance	Dish towels/cloths/face cloths
Costs for fire, building and electrical inspections	

Note: Only the portion of expenses incurred for the child care program can be claimed. For example: if you are heating the whole building and only 50 percent is used for the child care program, then only 50 per cent of the fuel costs can be claimed.

Understandings

Focus on quality

Operators will collaborate with the Department of Education by participating in discussions regarding continuous improvement activities, professional development and engaging with early learning support specialists.

FEES

Whitehorse area fees

The new funding model introduces limits on the amount by which child care centres can raise their fees. Annual fee increases are limited to 3% for those charging within 10% of Yukon average, and 1% for those charging 10% or more than the Yukon average.

Centres that require a parent fee increase that is greater than the 1% to 3%, due to operational pressures, can contact the Department of Education to request an exemption.

Rural Yukon fees

Fee increases will be considered on an individual bases depending on program needs.

Establishing fees for all new programs

Through the licensing process, fees for new child care operators who are accessing Government of Yukon funding must be approved by the Department of Education. New operators will not be able to charge more than 3% of the Yukon average fee. The Department of Education will consider exceptions for operators based on the specific circumstances of their proposed operation.

Accessible fee schedule

- Fees charged by operators will be published by the Department of Education.
- Operators will report all fee changes to the Department of Education.
- The average rates will be published annually.
- Fees can be increased annually on April 1st starting in April 2022.
- Fees will be included in the transfer payment agreement signed with the Government of Yukon.

For more information or to ask questions, please email earlylearning@yukon.ca