

## **Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program**

### **Early learning and child care centres**

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

#### **Part 1: Funding for licensed programs**

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

#### **Part 2: Child care operational funding**

- 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

### A. Funding to reduce parent or caregiver fee payments to providers

This funding is provided to licensed child care operators to directly reduce the amount paid by parents or 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 or caregivers, and further agrees that each parent or 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. Funding is not provided for drop-in attendance or for spaces during extended, voluntary absences (longer than 4 consecutive weeks).

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

\*Funding for part-time attendance will be prorated, based on the number of days 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 toddlers (all full-time)	8 x \$700 = \$5600.00 <b>10% of \$5600 = \$560.00</b>
18 preschoolers (all full-time)	18 x \$700 = \$12,600 <b>10% of \$12,600 = \$1,260.00</b>
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*0.6) = \$420 2 x (\$700*0.4) = \$560 <b>10% of \$5180 = \$518.00</b>

## Part 2: Child care operational funding

Child care operational funding is designed to support licensed operators in reducing their operational expenses and providing high-quality early learning programming. Child care operational funding provides operators with the following funding:

- A. Quality program enhancement,
- B. Wage enhancement, and
- C. Operational expenses.

### A. Quality program enhancement 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. In order to receive the funding to support a meal program, the cost of the meal **must** be included in the regular monthly fee.

#### Whitehorse area programs

	Funding per child Programs without meal program	Funding per child Programs with a nutritional meal program
Infant	\$206.10	\$238.16
Toddler	\$154.58	\$186.64
Preschool	\$114.50	\$146.56
School-age (Grade 1 and up)	\$97.33	\$129.39

#### Rural programs

	Funding per child Programs without meal program	Funding per child Programs with a nutritional meal program
Infant	\$242.10	\$298.59
Toddler	\$181.58	\$238.07
Preschool	\$134.50	\$190.99
School-age (Grade 1 and up)	\$114.33	\$151.99

### Children with diverse needs

Operators are provided with additional funding to support the inclusion of children with diverse 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 diverse needs attending their 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 up)	\$114.50	\$134.50

### To receive the quality program enhancement funding, operators must agree:

1. they will keep a complete and accurate attendance record for each child,
2. 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, and
3. if the operator closes its operation for a period of time, the quality program enhancement funding will be prorated accordingly.

### B. Wage enhancement funding

Funding is provided 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 14% payment for mandatory employment-related costs (e.g., Canada Pension Plan, employment insurance and workers' compensation).

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

Early childhood educator level	Current wage enhancement	Minimum wage plus enhancement	2022 mandatory minimum wage
Level 0	Not applicable	Not applicable	\$15.70
Level 1	\$4.12	\$15.70 + \$4.12	\$19.82
Level 1A	\$6.01	\$15.70 + \$6.01	\$21.71
Level 2	\$7.44	\$15.70 + \$7.44	\$23.14
Level 2A	\$9.96	\$15.70 + \$9.96	\$25.66
Level 3 equivalent	\$12.31	\$15.70 + \$12.31	\$28.01
Level 3	\$15.31	\$15.70 + \$15.31	\$31.01

### Rural wage enhancements

Early childhood educator level	Current wage enhancement	Minimum wage plus enhancement	2022 mandatory minimum wage
Level 0	\$1.85	\$15.70 + \$1.85	\$17.55
Level 1	\$4.49	\$15.70 + \$4.49	\$20.19
Level 1A	\$6.71	\$15.70 + \$6.71	\$22.41
Level 2	\$8.39	\$15.70 + \$8.39	\$24.09
Level 2A	\$11.35	\$15.70 + \$11.35	\$27.05
Level 3 equivalent	\$14.11	\$15.70 + \$14.11	\$29.81
Level 3	\$17.11	\$15.70 + \$17.11	\$32.81

Operators must provide the Early Learning and Child Care unit ([earlylearning@yukon.ca](mailto:earlylearning@yukon.ca)) with any records they require in order to confirm that they are providing the wage supplement to their early childhood educators.

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.

### C. Operational expenses for early learning and 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 eligible building expenses. Operators must be able to verify all building expenses (if requested by the Early Learning and Child Care unit) with the following documentation:

1. receipts,
2. income and expense sheets prepared by a bookkeeper, and
3. lease, contract, or rental agreements, or an annual statement from the landlord or bank verifying rent or mortgage costs.

#### Eligible building expenses include:

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	Recurring phone costs
Insurance (vehicle insurance not included)	Recurring costs for a cell phone (to a maximum of \$60 per month)
Snow removal	Security system
Minor repairs (to a maximum of \$500 per month)	Short term rental equipment (e.g., snow blower)

#### Expenses not eligible:

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

**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% is used for the child care program, then only 50% of the fuel costs can be claimed.

## Understandings

### Focus on quality

Operators will collaborate with the Early Learning and Child Care unit by participating in continuous improvement activities, professional development, and engaging with early learning program specialists.

## Fees

### Whitehorse area fees

The new funding model limits the amount by which child care centres can raise their fees. Annual fee increases are limited to 3% for those charging within 10% of the 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 Early Learning and Child Care unit to request an exemption.

### Rural Yukon fees

Fee increases will be considered on an individual basis 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 Early Learning and Child Care unit 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 Early Learning and Child Care unit.
- Operators will report all fee changes to the Early Learning and Child Care unit.
- The average rates will be published annually.
- Fees can be increased annually on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Fees will be documented in the transfer payment agreement signed with the Government of Yukon.

For more information or to ask questions, please email [earlylearning@yukon.ca](mailto:earlylearning@yukon.ca)