

# Child Care Subsidy Program

## Expanded Eligibility Questions and Answers

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May 2022

### 1. Why is Manitoba increasing the net household income thresholds for the Child Care Subsidy Program?

Manitoba's current income levels for the Child Care Subsidy Program have not been adjusted since 2013. This means fewer families are eligible for childcare subsidies.

On Aug. 9, 2021 Manitoba entered into the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. The agreement provides \$1.2 billion in federal funding to increase access and affordability to high quality and inclusive childcare services for families.

Increasing childcare affordability is a key priority under the agreement, with the goal of reaching average out of pocket parent fees of \$10 per day.

The increase to net household income levels allows more families to have their parent fees reduced based on their ability to pay. Out-of-pocket fees for subsidized families will range from \$2 a day per child up to a maximum regulated parent fee rate.

### 2. What are maximum regulated parent fee rates?

In Manitoba, parent fees are regulated for childcare facilities that receive operating funding support under The Community Child Care Standards Act and Regulation. This has resulted in Manitoba having the second lowest fees in Canada.

Childcare facilities that receive funding from the province cannot charge parents more than the maximum regulated rates.

The Child Care Subsidy Program reduces these rates for eligible families by paying a portion on their behalf directly to the childcare provider.

Information on childcare fees can be found at

[https://gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/families/childcare\\_fees.html](https://gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/families/childcare_fees.html).

### 3. When does the increase to net household income thresholds come into effect?

The increase to the net household income thresholds came into effect on Feb. 6, 2022.

Applications can be made through Child Care Online at

<https://direct3.gov.mb.ca/CCO/FamilyEN>.

All applications approved before Feb. 6, 2022 were automatically re-assessed. Families already receiving a childcare subsidy do not need to re-apply.

Facilities are notified by email of the new subsidy levels and re-assessed parent fees for families enrolled in their program, and families will receive a letter with the same information.

#### **4. How does a 45 per cent increase to the income thresholds support increased eligibility under the Child Care Subsidy Program?**

A 45 per cent increase to the thresholds means households with average net incomes from \$23,883 to \$37,116 will be eligible for a full subsidy. Households with average net incomes from \$37,542 up to \$82,877 will be eligible for a partial subsidy.

With this increase, approximately 70 per cent of Manitoba families needing child care are expected to be eligible for a full or partial subsidy. This will make child care more affordable for lower- and middle-income families.

#### **5. Who should apply to the Child Care Subsidy Program?**

Eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy Program is based on a number of factors, including household income, family composition number and ages of children and type of care. For more information, visit:

[https://gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/families/families\\_faqs.html](https://gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/families/families_faqs.html).

All families who believe they may now be eligible for a child care subsidy as a result of the threshold increase are encouraged to apply.

Visit <https://direct3.gov.mb.ca/CCO/FamilyEN> to submit an application.

This includes any families who may have previously applied and received a decision of not being eligible before Feb. 6, 2022.

The child care Subsidy Estimator can be used by families to see if they may be eligible [here](#).

Actual child care subsidy decisions are based on more detailed information, however the Estimator can be a helpful tool.

#### **6. Does a childcare subsidy cover all childcare parent fees?**

Families may be eligible for either a full or partial childcare subsidy, dependent on household income, family composition and the number and ages of children and type of care.

A family receiving childcare subsidies are still responsible for paying the non-subsidized portion of parent fees. This is \$2 a day for fully subsidized families and between \$2 and the regulated maximum daily parent fees for partially subsidized families.

Manitoba's Child Care Regulation establishes the maximum daily parent fees facilities receiving provincial funding may charge. This includes:

- \$30 a day for infants
- \$20.80 a day for preschool children
- \$10.40 a day for school-age children enrolled in before-and-after programming

Nurse schools operate in sessions and may charge up to \$10.40 per session.

## **7. Is there any financial support offered to families during the subsidy assessment /application waiting period?**

**Yes.** Childcare facilities have received funding to prepay subsidized fees that families would normally be charged while waiting for their application to be assessed between Feb. 6, 2022 and July 23, 2022.

With this pre-payment, childcare facilities may waive parent fees for child care subsidy applicants for up to three consecutive months. This can also be extended to families already receiving a childcare subsidy.

The pre-payment allows facilities to immediately enrol children of families that may be eligible under the subsidy program without having to wait until their application has been assessed and approved.

## **8. Should a family tell their childcare provider if they have applied to the Child Care Subsidy Program?**

**Yes.** It is important for families to advise their childcare provider of their childcare subsidy application so the childcare provider may begin covering the parent fees for up to three months while their application is being processed. Lower and middle income families will be prioritized for the parent fee support.

## **9. What fees can families expect to pay to their childcare provider if a Child Care Subsidy Program application is approved?**

The pre-payment provided to child care facilities is an assessed amount to cover parent fees for families that may apply and potentially be eligible for a child care subsidy for up to a three-month consecutive period between Feb. 6 to July 23, 2022.

The payment is intended to support families and childcare providers with the initial increase in subsidy applications. This will allow facilities to adjust their business models to begin charging a range of parent fees based on families' ability to pay.

Childcare facilities are independent business and are in the best position to determine how to support their families. The intention of the pre-payments is to lower parent fees for low and middle-income families during the subsidy application and processing period for up to three months.

If a family is approved to receive a childcare subsidy, they would begin paying parent fees at the level assessed up to three months after making their application.

The pre-payment does not cover applications made after July 23, 2022.

After this date, the regular process will resume and families approved to receive a childcare subsidy will begin paying parent fees at the level assessed based on the effective date noted on their approval.

This information is emailed to the childcare provider when the assessment is completed and families will receive a letter with this same information.

## **10. What fees can families expect to pay to their childcare provider if a Child Care Subsidy Program application is not eligible?**

If family does not qualify for a childcare subsidy, they would begin paying fees at the current rate of their childcare facility.

## **11. What should a family do if they received a subsidy re-assessment on or after Feb. 6th, 2022 but continued to pay their childcare provider for parent fees?**

Lower and middle income families should contact their childcare provider to inquire about the options to have their child care fees covered for up to three months during the processing period.

The intention of the pre-payment is to ease the parent fee burden for families during the processing period and to provide an equitable benefit to existing families already receiving a subsidy.

## **12. Where can I get more information about the Child Care Subsidy Program?**

To learn more, contact your childcare provider or visit:

[https://gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/families/childcare\\_subsidies.html](https://gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/families/childcare_subsidies.html).