

CIRCULAR

Date: September 2, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19: 2020-136

To: All licensed child care facilities, Manitoba Child Care Association, ELCC Program staff

Subject: Child Care Expansion Fund

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date: Immediately

Early learning and child care services have continued to adapt to meet the evolving needs of Manitoba families as part of the provincial COVID-19 response.

To support the restarting of the economy and restoring services, on August 26, 2020, a provincial news release announced four new one-time start-up grants available under the Child Care Expansion Fund. This includes the workplace, enhanced home-based, satellite and diversity child care start-up grant funding streams.

- The Workplace Child Care Start-Up Grant is targeted towards workplaces developing new, on-site child care or childminding services for children of their employees, with ongoing operating expenses covered by employer contributions and/or parent fees.
- The Enhanced Home-Based Child Care Start-Up Grant is targeted towards child care entrepreneurs developing a new child care program in their homes.
- The Satellite Child Care Start-Up Grant is targeted towards licensed child care centres moving existing spaces to smaller satellite sites located in homes and/or community settings. These child care programs will be retained under the same licence of the existing child care centre, which will assume responsibility for the oversight of the satellite programs.
- The Diversity Child Care Start-Up Grant is targeted towards community organizations to develop child care options that address service gaps by meeting the unique needs of their families (e.g., language, accessibility, non-standard/extended hours of care, rural/remote location, and culturally appropriate and safe programming).

These new grant programs are supported through a partnership between the Department of Families, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. The Department of Families will review and assess applications received, and will approve applications and funding amounts. The Chambers will issue funds to proponents, and will be available to provide business mentoring.

Program information, eligibility criteria and FAQs have been available online since the news release was announced. Interested proponents can now find application forms and a business plan outline under each grant program to help with the development of a business plan that must be submitted along with an application form.

For more detailed information, please visit:

<https://gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/resources/grants.html>.

Early Learning and Child Care Program