

Early Learning and Child Care Centres

Alberta's new Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Centres

An ELCC Centre will focus on space creation, job creation and affordability in child care with maximum fees of \$25/day.

Improvements and concepts

There are five approaches the Early Learning and Child Care Centres will focus on:

- space creation,
- affordability of \$25/day,
- quality,
- improvements to address gaps in the current system, and
- program evaluation.

ELCC focus

Early Learning and Child Care Centres will cap parent fees at \$25 per day. In the current child care system, child care fees range from \$14 to \$39 in licensed day cares.

Early Learning and Child Care Centres may offer flexible child care for parents who work part-time or shifts that are outside typical day care hours (7 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or offer care in accessible settings such as hospitals and other public buildings. Currently, this flexibility is not readily available to parents.

The ELCCs will also implement an early learning child care curriculum, which is not currently used in the majority of child care programs.

Finally, ELCCs will provide supports for children with diverse needs. The current

system does not offer a broad focus on supports for children with diverse needs. Instead, child care programs can decide what supports to offer families.

By offering these and other concepts, our government hopes to make significant improvements to the child care system as a whole and create new child care spaces for Alberta families.

Number of centres

There will be approximately 18 centres located across the province. Locations will be determined through an expression of interest process.

Expression of interest process

An expression of interest is an application to become one of the 18 sites. This application outlines all the steps and criteria necessary to be considered. For more information, please read [Appendix A](#).

Locations

The centres will be located across the province. Exact locations will be announced early 2017.

Funding

Successful programs will be given operating grants of up to \$500,000.

Length of grants

Each centre will receive up to \$500,000 in year one, with the potential to receive two more years of funding for a total of three years.

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New and old programs

The number of existing and new programs will depend on the expression of interest applications. We expect both existing and new programs to apply.

Program applicants

Existing not-for-profit organizations, licensed programs and those in the process of becoming licensed can apply.

We will work with successful applicants in the licensing process.

Successful applicants must be licensed prior to receiving the operating grant.

Get an expression of interest package

[Access an expression of interest package.](#)

Application deadline

Applicants must submit a completed application by **January 20, 2017**.

Criteria used to select successful applicants

A comprehensive list of criteria is included in the expression of interest package. [View the package.](#)

Proposal review and grants

The proposals will be reviewed by representatives from the Ministries of Human Services and Status of Women.

Application review

The proposals will be reviewed using a comprehensive list of criteria to ensure consistent evaluation.

Announcement date

Successful programs will be announced in early 2017.

Operation date

Grant funding comes into effect April 1, 2017.

Licensing process

The licensing process takes a minimum of 90 days.

We will work with successful applicants in the licensing process.

Evaluation and monitoring

Over the three-year period, each centre will participate in ongoing evaluation processes based on the new concepts.

Participating children

We anticipate that approximately 1,000 children will benefit from the Early Learning and Child Care Centres.

New child care jobs

We anticipate that Early Learning Child Care Centres will create approximately 230 new positions for child care staff members.

Increased labour force participation of women

Accessible and affordable child care enables

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more women to participate in Alberta's workforce. Accessibility and affordability of child care has been identified as a barrier to women working full time. Other jurisdictions with accessible and affordable child care have higher rates of work force participation by women with young children.

Child enrollment process

Once successful centres are announced in early 2017, we will have more information regarding locations. We do anticipate that centres will be located across the province and that each site will include several new spaces.

Centre locations will be based on several factors including:

- space creation;
- capacity and enrolment trends;
- supply and demand pressures; and,
- community needs assessments.

\$25/day child care

All 18 Early Learning and Child Care Centres will charge up to \$25/day.

Our government will need to take a careful, measured approach to a new child care system. This new approach will be rolled out in stages, beginning with the 18 ELCCs.

We will move forward with implementing universal \$25/day child care as the province's finances permit.

Child care subsidies

The child care subsidy will remain in place.

You can apply for a subsidy if:

- You or your spouse/partner, or the child receiving care are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada and live in Alberta.
 - You or your spouse/partner are an Alberta resident.
 - Your children are 12 years of age or younger and are not yet attending Grade 7.
 - You and your spouse/partner are currently working, attending school, looking for work or have special needs
- OR
- You or your spouse/partner stay-at-home and have your child(ren) enrolled in a licensed pre-school or approved early childhood development program.

For more information about child care subsidies, [click here](#).

Child care accreditation

Child care accreditation will remain in place.

Accreditation is available to all licensed day care centres and out-of-school care programs as well as approved family day home agencies in Alberta. Participation in accreditation is voluntary.

For more information about child care accreditation, [click here](#).

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More information about the Early Learning and Child Care Centres

[Learn more](#) about the Early Learning and Child Care Centres

The ELCC approach

Our government intends to move forward with Early Learning and Child Care Centres to illustrate what a new child care system could look like based on space creation; job creation; and, accommodating women who wish to enter the workforce. These initial ELCCs can be scaled up in the future as we learn more and as finances permit.

Licensed day care operators

Licensed child care programs will continue to operate as usual.

Outcomes from the ELCCs will be evaluated and learnings will be shared with licensed operators.