

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** April 13, 2021

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** 2020-189r - COVID-19

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**To:** Community Living disABILITY Services shift-staffed residential service providers, Child and Family Services group care/community care providers, and Early Learning and Child Care facilities

**Subject:** Pandemic Staffing Support Benefit

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**Type:**  Policy

Procedure

**Effective Date:** immediately

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The Department of Families has been regularly communicating with funded organizations/sectors, and listening to the pandemic-related challenges they have expressed.

Service providers have advised that the pandemic **continues to cause** staffing challenges including reduced staffing complements and increased overtime, sick leave and replacement costs.

**In response to these needs, the Manitoba government is extending the Pandemic Staffing Support Benefit program** for the adult disability, child welfare, and child care sectors.

The Pandemic Staffing Support Benefit provides assistance to organizations for their additional staffing costs that cannot be accommodated from within their existing revenue / resources as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The benefit is intended to assist in offsetting the costs for overtime, sick time and staff replacement for the period of **April to September 2021**. Benefits could also support ongoing staffing costs if public health directs the temporary closure of an early learning and child care facility or isolation/quarantine of a specific child care cohort in response to a case of COVID-19.

Eligibility

Non-profit Community Living disABILITY Services shift-staffed residential service providers, Child and Family Service agency and/or community care provider operated group homes,

and child care facilities licensed and funded by the Department of Families are able to apply for this benefit.

Application

Organizations must apply monthly and complete all sections of the application including submission of all required information. A statement of operations must be provided on a monthly basis.

Recognizing that individual organizations' level of need will change as COVID-19 cases or suspected COVID-19 cases are identified, applications will be taken on an ongoing basis until **September 2021**.

More information about the Pandemic Staffing Support Benefit, including eligibility criteria and the application form, is posted online at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/pandemic-staffing-support-benefit.html>.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Gerrard, Deputy Minister  
Manitoba Families