

## EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE PROGRAM CIRCULAR

**Date:** February 3, 2022

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** ELCC-2022-02

**To:** All licensed child care facilities, Early Learning and Child Care Branch, Child Care Subsidy Program

**Subject:** Expanded Eligibility to the Child Care Subsidy Program

**Effective Date:** February 6, 2022

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|--------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Type:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Action Required             |
|              | <input type="checkbox"/> Procedure            | <input type="checkbox"/> Centres                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only |
|              | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing            | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Schools           |  |
|              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial | <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Group Homes        |  |
|              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsidy   |  |  |

This circular is being sent to all licensed early learning and child care (ELCC) facilities to advise of an increase to the household income thresholds for the Child Care Subsidy Program, meaning more Manitoban's can qualify.

Amendments to the Child Care Regulation under The Community Child Care Standards Act, in-force February 1, 2022, will support an increase to income thresholds and allowable deductions by 45 per cent resulting in a significant expansion of eligible children.

**As of February 6, 2022**, household income thresholds for the Child Care Subsidy Program will be effective in the Child Care Online system and subsequent application process as per information outlined below.

### **Improving Affordability:**

Manitoba's current income threshold for the Child Care Subsidy Program has not been re-indexed since 2013, resulting in fewer families being eligible for parent fee subsidies.

In August 2021, the governments of Canada and Manitoba jointly announced the Canada-Manitoba Canada-wide ELCC Agreement, providing Manitoba with \$1.2 billion in federal funding over five years. The subsidy threshold increase is Manitoba's first step toward improving access to quality, affordable, inclusive early learning and child care for Manitoba families, providing substantially more families with assistance to participate in the workforce and maintain employment.

The increase to household income thresholds for the Child Care subsidy Program, will further help in the re-development Manitoba's financial assistance program, supporting the goal of achieving a \$10 per day out-of-pocket average parent fee under the Canada-

Manitoba, Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement.

For more information on the Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement and action plan, visit [www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/actionplan.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/actionplan.html).

### **Child Care Subsidy Program – Expanded Eligibility:**

Child care subsidies are based on net household income and family composition including the ages and number of children.

For example, the increase to net household income thresholds could mean that lone-parent families with two preschool-aged children may be eligible for a full subsidy with a net income of up to \$28,294 or a partial subsidy with a net income up to \$55,612. Two-parent families with two preschool-aged children may be eligible for a full subsidy with a net income of up to \$32,705 or a partial subsidy with a net income up to \$60,023.

As each application is assessed taking into account a families' unique situation, facilities should encourage families to use the online Child Care Subsidy Estimator tool if they enquire about eligibility or the potential impact to their current parent fees.

### **Updates to Child Care Online (CCO) and Subsidy Application Process:**

The income threshold increase will become effective in CCO on **February 6, 2022** – which aligns with the current subsidy reporting period. To support implementation, the following enhancements will be made in the CCO system and to the subsidy application process on **February 6, 2022**:

- The Child Care Subsidy Estimator tool and CCO system will be updated to reflect the increased income thresholds.
- Facilities will receive a system generated mass re-assessment email sent to the email address on file with the ELCC Branch. The email will contain a Subsidy Approval Letter for all of their currently approved subsidized children, indicating their new level of subsidy and re-assessed parent fees.
- Families with subsidized children will receive a Subsidy Approval Letter indicating their new level of subsidy and re-assessed parent fees.

Due to the significant number of families who may become eligible as a result of the increased income threshold, facilities may choose to wait to collect parent fees until after they receive the facility Subsidy Approval Letter with the new parent fee details.

Current attendance reporting and reporting periods remain unchanged.

Facilities should encourage families who have recently applied but were not approved for a child care subsidy, to reapply online after **February 6, 2022**.

**Important:** No further action is necessary for applicants who have been approved for a child care subsidy or have recently applied and not yet received a response. These applications will be automatically re-assessed and adjusted under the new subsidy threshold rates. Families will receive a Subsidy Approval letter after February 6, 2022 indicating their new level of subsidy and re-assessed parent fees.

For more information including the access the Subsidy Estimator and Online Subsidy Application form visit:

[https://www.manitoba.ca/fs/childcare/families/childcare\\_subsidies.html](https://www.manitoba.ca/fs/childcare/families/childcare_subsidies.html)

Please monitor your facility's inbox for the re-assessment email. If you do not receive a reassessment notice, ensure that the email has not been redirected to "junk" or "spam" folder. If it has not been received by February 13, 2022, email [cdcfacility@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdcfacility@gov.mb.ca).

Families that do not receive their re-assessed Subsidy Approval Letter, should be advised to contact the Child Care Subsidy Program at [cdcsubsidy@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdcsubsidy@gov.mb.ca) or call 204-945-8195 in Winnipeg or 1-877-587-6224 (toll free).

If you have any questions about these policies or practices, please contact your Child Care Coordinator.

If your facility is not currently a Child Care Online user, please visit [https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/centres\\_homeproviders/cco\\_login.html](https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/centres_homeproviders/cco_login.html) to register for a user name and password. If you have questions about the registration process, please email [cdcfacility@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdcfacility@gov.mb.ca) or call Child Care Information Services at 204-945-0776 or toll-free: 1-888-213-4754.

Thank you for your ongoing patience as we continue to adapt ELCC systems and services to meet the needs of Manitoba families and children, and the early learning and child care sector. As per the Government of Manitoba announcement regarding the new Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning on January 19, 2022, we will continue to work closely with our stakeholders to support this transition and our continued efforts to enhance the early learning and childcare system in Manitoba.

Early Learning and Child Care