

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE CIRCULAR

Date: February 23, 2023

CIRCULAR NUMBER: ELCC-2023-02

To: All licensed family/group home providers, Early Learning and Child Care Division

Subject: Quality Enhancement Grants

Effective Date: February 23, 2023

Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family/Group Homes	

The Manitoba government is pleased to announce the Quality Enhancement Grants, available to all licensed non-profit early learning and child care (ELCC) centres (including infant, pre-school, nursery, and school-age programs) and licensed family and group home-based child care providers.

The Quality Enhancement Grants are one-time grants made available through the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement and provincial funding, supporting the principles of quality, inclusivity, and sustainability. These grants provide Manitoba's early learning and child care providers with the flexibility to choose and apply funding to where it is needed most so that they are better positioned to build a stronger, more responsive early learning and child care system for the future.

The Quality Enhancement Grants include the following three grant funding streams for licensed family and group home-based child care providers:

- Quality Early Learning and Environment Grant** is designed to help facilities:
 - ensure safe environments by addressing aging infrastructure and equipment
 - make improvements to their indoor or outdoor physical spaces
 - provide rich learning environments by expanding the range of developmentally appropriate materials provided for children, families and staff
- Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant** is designed to help facilities:
 - advance diversity and inclusion in their facilities

- ensure all children feel a sense of belonging and have the ability to meaningfully participate in the program
- enhance children’s experience through an enriched curriculum
- enrich experiences in the home-based program through environmental modifications

3. **Retirement Enhancement and Retention Benefit** is designed to provide:

- recognition for home-based licensed holders for their dedication to the child care sector through an RRSP top-up of \$500

Grant Amount

Total funding amounts for the Quality Early Learning and Environments Grant and Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant available to eligible home-based providers are based on the number of total licensed spaces, and the grant amount per space as indicated in the table below.

The Retirement Enhancement and Retention Benefit offers an additional \$500 RRSP contribution for home-based providers, based on 2022 RRSP deposit receipts provided to the ELCC Division.

Quality Early Learning and Environments Grant	Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant	Retirement Enhancement and Retention Benefit
\$875 per licensed space	\$500 per licensed space	\$500 one-time RRSP contribution top-up for each license holder.

Accepting / Declining the Grant(s)

The option to accept or decline the Quality Early Learning and Environments Grant and the Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant will be made available in the weekly Manitoba Child Care Search (MCCS) facility update request emailed to facilities each Monday.

Beginning Monday, February 27, 2023 additional reporting fields about these grants will appear in the weekly Manitoba Child Care Search facility update request for facilities to make their selection and submit their response.

The deadline to accept or decline the Quality Early Learning and Environments Grant and the Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant in MCCS is **Monday, March 13, 2023**.

Exception: The Retirement Enhancement and Retention Benefit will be provided to all home-based license holders who contributed to an RRSP in the 2022 tax year. An option to accept or decline will not be available on MCCS.

Distribution of Funding

Eligible facilities who will receive the Retirement Enhancement and Retention Benefit and who have accepted the Quality Early Learning and Environments Grant and/or the Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant can expect to receive their allocated funding before **April 14, 2023**.

Terms and Conditions

In accepting any or all of the Quality Enhancement Grants, the management of the child care facility agree to spend this funding according to the purpose and criteria listed in the guidelines for each grant stream. Facilities are also expected to adhere to their organizational policies, bylaws, and exercise due diligence with any capital or leasehold improvements.

Coverage Period for Eligible Expenses

- Items previously purchased between **April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023** and
- Items purchased between **April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024**.

Reporting

- Grant recipients will be required to spend all funds by March 31, 2024.
- Two financial and program reports will be requested from grant recipients as follows:
 - **Mid-term report – by September 1, 2023**,
 - for expenses incurred during the period of April 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.
 - **Final report – by June 30, 2024**,
 - for expenses during the period of April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024.
- Facilities agree to keep a record of what was purchased along with all receipts.

Facilities authorize the Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning to collect information and documentation considered necessary:

- to verify that funds have been used to support its intended purpose and ensure accountability for provincial and federal funding, and
- for maintaining and analyzing statistical information as may be required by Manitoba and/or Canada

Additional Information

- A webinar will be held the week of February 27 to provide additional information about the Quality Enhancement Grants. Details of the webinar will be emailed to each facility.
- Further information about the Quality Enhancement Grants can also be found at: www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/centres_homeproviders/providers_resources/grants.html or in the Manitoba Child Care Search facility update request sent to each facility beginning February 27, 2023

For additional inquiries, email cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca with the **subject line “Quality Enhancement Grants”** or call Child Care Information Services at 204-945-0776 or toll-free: 1-888-213-4754.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of Manitoba families and children, and the early learning and child care sector.

Early Learning and Child Care

