

Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative

To help more families throughout B.C. save money on child care fees, the ChildCareBC Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) is saving families up to \$900/month per child for children in kindergarten and younger. Starting September 1, 2023, fee reductions will be expanded with savings of up to \$145/month per child for children enrolled in licensed preschool programs and children in Grade 1 and older.

About the Program

The CCFRI is a voluntary program intended to help licensed child care providers reduce fees for families.

On a monthly basis, participating providers receive:

- fee reduction funding to be passed along to families
- provider payments that can be used to support their programs' operational costs

This funding is on top of Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) Base Funding that the provider also receives.

Providers who enrol receive the following funding amounts per month, per child.

PROVIDER TYPE	RATE CATEGORY	FEE REDUCTION	PROVIDER PAYMENT	TOTAL PAYMENT
Group	Under 36 months	\$900	\$96.00	\$996.00
	3 years to Kindergarten	\$545	\$ 52.60	\$ 597.60
	Kindergarten	\$320	\$42.00	\$362.00
	Grade 1 to Age 12*	\$115	\$26.00	\$141.00
	Preschool*	\$95	\$12.60	\$107.60
Family	Under 36 Months	\$600	\$62.80	\$662.80
	3 Years to Kindergarten	\$500	\$42.00	\$542.00
	Kindergarten	\$320	\$31.20	\$351.20
	Grade 1 to Age 12*	\$145	\$20.60	\$165.60
In-Home Multi-Age	Under 36 Months	\$600	\$65.80	\$665.80
	3 Years to Kindergarten	\$500	\$44.40	\$544.40
	Kindergarten	\$320	\$33.60	\$353.60
	Grade 1 to Age 12*	\$145	#21.80	\$166.80

*Starting September 1, 2023



Eligibility

Basic eligibility

To be eligible, child care providers must:

- offer licensed child care in any of the following categories:
 - Group Child Care (Under 36 Months)
 - Group Child Care (30 Months to School Age)
 - Group Child Care (School Age)*
 - Family Child Care
 - Multi-Age Child Care
 - In-Home Multi-Age Child Care
 - School Age Care on School Grounds*
 - Preschool*
- be in receipt of CCOF
- indicate a parent fee for CCFRI to reduce
- be approved for all eligible care categories on the same facility licence

*Starting September 1, 2023

Eligible Indigenous-led child care programs

- Federally funded Aboriginal Head Start Preschool programs (starting September 1, 2023)
- Licensed Indigenous-led child care facilities not in receipt of provincial Aboriginal Head Start child care funding
- Facilities where not all licensed spaces are fully funded by the provincially funded Aboriginal Head Start Child Care program

Ineligible Indigenous-led child care programs

Child care spaces that are fully funded by the provincial Aboriginal Head Start Child Care program (through the First Nations Health Authority or Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia) are not eligible as these spaces already receive full funding for operating costs.

Program Requirements

When applying, child care providers are required to:

- indicate their monthly parent fees and any recent or planned fee increases
- set parent fees at or below the child care provider's regional 2023-24 Affordability Benchmark, as outlined on [page 11 of the 2023-24 CCFRI Funding Guidelines](#)
- declare any periods of facility closure for which parent fees are charged, as outlined on [page 12 of the 2023-24 CCFRI Funding Guidelines](#)

Providers approved to participate in CCFRI are required to:

- notify parents in writing about approved participation, including fee reduction amounts, as well as any approved fee increase(s)
- reduce fees for parents by the fee reduction rates
- notify facility staff if a fee increase was approved based on the intention to increase their wage(s)
- remain enrolled for the duration of the CCOF funding agreement, unless approved in writing
- advise parents of any relevant information to this agreement in the form and frequency directed by the ministry in writing

Note: The same monthly enrolment report that you submit to receive CCOF Base Funding is used to calculate your payment.

Low and No-Fee Child Care Programs

We know that some Indigenous-led child care programs, such as Aboriginal Head Start preschool programs, offer no-fee child care while other programs offer significantly below-market fees in order to reduce barriers for families accessing care.

Low and no-fee child care programs are eligible to enrol in CCFRI and put the fee reduction and provider payment funding toward their operational costs.



Indicating a parent fee

In order to participate, providers must indicate a parent fee when applying for CCFRI. This is for calculating your payment only. You will not be required to charge families more out-of-pocket fees.

In general, CCFRI does not reduce fees below \$10 a day (or \$7 a day for part-time). Providers who currently charge below these amounts will be supported to continue doing so. Families will not pay more as a result of their provider participating in CCFRI.

Under the Parent Fee Increase Exceptions Policy, facilities that have historically provided low or no-fee care to Indigenous children and families can indicate monthly parent fees up to the amounts shown in the following table, to support the operational viability of your program.

Parent Fee to Indicate for Low- or No-Fee Programs

PROVIDER TYPE	CARE CATEGORY	PARENT FEE
Group	Under 36 months	\$550
	3 years to Kindergarten	\$300
	Kindergarten	\$300
	Grade 1 to Age 12*	\$315
	Preschool*	\$235
Family	Under 36 Months	\$400
	3 Years to Kindergarten	\$260
	Kindergarten	\$260
	Grade 1 to Age 12*	\$345

*Starting September 1, 2023

Low or no-fee providers seeking to set fees above these amounts may be asked to explain the increase to their fees. For more information, please see the [2023-24 CCFRI Funding Guidelines \(pages 6-8\)](#).

Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement

For most child care providers, participation in CCFRI is required to be eligible for the Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement (ECE-WE). Providers who offer no-fee child care and who do not want to participate in CCFRI are eligible to receive the wage enhancement. Ministry staff may reach out to confirm the reason for opting out of CCFRI when your ECE-WE application is assessed.

We are committed to supporting First Nations, Métis, and urban Indigenous child care programs and services, and welcome any questions you may have.

CHILD CARE SERVICE CENTRE

Please inform us if you are contacting us from an Indigenous-led child care centre. We will be happy to connect you to the right program supports.

Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Toll Free: 1-888-338-6622 (Option 2)

Local Phone: 250-356-6501 (Victoria)

Email: CCOF@gov.bc.ca

LEARN MORE AND APPLY

Applications for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative are accepted throughout the year.

Visit the [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative](#) website.

