

# Alberta



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# Alberta

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## ■ OVERVIEW

In Alberta, early learning and child care includes kindergarten (part of Early Childhood Services), regulated day care centres, part-day nursery schools, out-of-school care and family day homes.

Kindergarten is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education under the *Education Act*. Children who are five years old by December 31 may attend. Kindergarten is not compulsory, though it is available in most school divisions and 95% of children attend. Most kindergarten is part-day or full-school day on alternate days. Pre-kindergarten (under Early Childhood Services) is targeted to younger children who require additional specialized supports. Indigenous Services Canada provides funding for the 38 band-operated schools on reserve.

Child care is the responsibility of the Ministry of Children and Family Services under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*. Child care is delivered by non-profit, for-profit, and a small number of public operators. For-profit operators constitute 59% of centres but operate nearly twice as many spaces as non-profit and public operators combined. Alberta family day home providers are contracted by agencies, which became licensed in 2019. About half of family day home agencies are for-profit.

Alberta began licensing First Nations child care on reserve in 2017 and has five full-day and one part-day licensed centre on reserve in 2022. There are also four full-day licensed Indigenous-focused or led centres and two part-day nursery schools not on reserve.

Fees are not set by the province but determined by operators. Under the new agreement between Alberta and the federal government in 2022, fee increases are limited by provincial rules. Parent fee subsidies for lower income eligible parents may be used in any licensed program. Parents may be required to pay a surcharge if the operator charges a fee above the province's maximum subsidy rates, which changed in 2022.

Alberta signed the Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (Multilateral Framework Agreement) on December 15, 2017. This agreement allocated nearly \$137 million over three years; it was extended on June 4, 2020 with an additional \$45.4 million allocated to the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year, and renewed on July 23, 2021 with a further \$235 over four years.

The Canada-Alberta Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement was signed by Alberta on November 14, 2021. Through this agreement, the federal government will provide nearly \$3.8 billion over five years to:

- reduce fees to an average of \$10/day by 2025 – 2026;
- create at least 42,500 spaces in non-profit programs by 2025 – 2026;
- provide to Canada for approval the details of a for-profit expansion plan and cost control framework by 2023 – 2024;
- expand the implementation<sup>1</sup> of the FLIGHT curriculum framework;
- develop an engagement plan for Indigenous families, in partnership with Indigenous organizations;
- expand the existing Inclusive Child Care model; and
- support up to 4,000 early childhood educators in gaining or improving credentials.

In January, 2023, the federal government agreed to a new Cost Control Framework and For-Profit Expansion Plan, as per the Canada-Alberta Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. It will allow Alberta to expand and finance an additional 22,500 for-profit spaces by 2025 – 2026.

The Canada-wide agreement does not replace but runs parallel to the Multilateral Framework Agreement.

## ■ PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

*Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.*

### Number of children 0 – 12 (2021 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children (2021)
0	43,000
1	51,100
2	47,500
3	50,600
4	55,100
5	60,500
6	53,400
7	51,300
8	60,000
9	52,100
10	53,600
11	57,000
12	61,800
Total	696,900

<sup>1</sup> The [for-profit expansion plan and cost-control framework](#) were presented and approved by the federal government in January 2023.

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**Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2021 rounded estimate)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2021)</i>
0 – 2	141,600
3 – 5	166,200
6 – 12	389,200
Total	696,900

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**Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (2021 rounded estimate)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2021)</i>
0	25,900
1	31,400
2	27,200
3	28,200
4	33,100
5	32,500
6	32,000
7	30,600
8	34,500
9	33,900
10	34,700
11	36,900
12	40,500
Total	421,300

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**Number of children 0 – 12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2021 rounded estimate)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2021)</i>
0 – 2	84,500
3 – 5	93,800
6 – 12	243,100
Total	421,300

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**Number of children 0 – 14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2021)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>First Nations</i>	<i>Métis</i>	<i>Inuk (Inuit)</i>	<i>Multiple</i>	<i>Other</i>
0 – 4	13,015	8,965	200	515	280
5 – 9	14,765	10,750	360	475	290
10 – 14	16,070	11,530	355	550	330
Total	43,850	31,245	915	1,540	900

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**Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2021 rounded estimate)**

<i>Age of youngest child</i>	<i>Number of mothers</i>	<i>Participation rate (%)</i>
0 – 3	100,000	69.3
4 – 5	43,000	68.3
0 – 5	143,000	69.0
6 – 12	139,500	83.8

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### Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2021)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0 – 4	214,625	29,860	24,255	5,605
5 – 9	224,815	47,405	37,080	10,325
10 – 14	214,955	58,230	45,085	13,145

### Languages spoken most often at home (2021)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0 – 4	204,570	1,410	33,780	10,305
5 – 9	238,550	1,575	26,585	11,915
10 – 14	241,570	1,575	24,595	12,600
Total	684,685	4,565	84,965	34,805

### Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0 – 5 (2020)

Two-parent families	Male lone-parent	Female lone-parent
\$105,000	\$58,400	\$47,600

## PARENTAL LEAVE AND BENEFITS

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada outside Quebec are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. The federal government pays benefits under the Employment Insurance program (EI); provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation. EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute.

### LEAVE PROVISIONS

#### Maternity leave

16 weeks.

A pregnant employee who has been employed by the same employer for at least 90 days is eligible.

#### Parental leave

62 weeks for birth or adoption.

An employee who has been employed by the same employer for at least 90 days is eligible.

Parents can receive their weeks of benefits at the same time or one after another, unless they both work for the same employer and that employer exercises the right to approve only one at a time.

### PARENTAL LEAVE BENEFITS

#### Benefit options in 2022

Employment Insurance (EI) covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employed birth mothers up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth.

#### Two options for parental leave benefits

(parents must choose one)

Until December 3, 2017, there was one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of paid leave taken over 12 months, paid at 55% of average weekly insurable earnings (up to \$638/week in 2022). This option is now known as the Standard Parental Benefit; or

As of December 3, 2017, EI benefits include an additional option, the Extended Parental Benefit. This pays 61 weeks of parental leave benefits taken over 18 months and paid at 33% of average weekly earnings (up to \$383/week in 2022).

As of March 17, 2019, the Parental Sharing Benefit also became available to non-birth/second parent. Under this additional benefit, five weeks of Standard Benefits is available if parents share Standard Parental Benefits (40 weeks total) or an additional eight weeks of Extended Benefits is available when parents share Extended Parental Benefits (69 weeks total).

Parents' access to taking paid parental leave requires that provinces/territories' leave provisions must match federal benefits.

*Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the PARENTAL LEAVE AND BENEFITS in the front section of this publication.*

## ■ KINDERGARTEN (EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES)

Alberta Education is responsible for providing Early Childhood Services (ECS) under the *Education Act* and the Early Childhood Services Regulation. ECS is for children before Grade 1. Kindergarten is part of ECS. Kindergarten refers specifically to the educational program for children in the year before Grade 1 for children who are five years old before December 31 of the school year.

Pre-kindergarten is also part of ECS for children requiring additional specialized supports and services such as those with a mild, moderate or severe disability, moderate or severe language delay, learning English as a second language, francization in Francophone schools, or those who are gifted and talented. Children are eligible for pre-kindergarten at three years eight months; those with a severe disability or language delay are eligible at two years eight months.

In Alberta there are 42 public, 17 separate (Roman Catholic) and four francophone school boards. Public charter schools, private schools and private (non-profit) ECS operators all may offer ECS programming. ECS programming offered by any school authority or approved operator is fully funded.

While it is not mandated, most school divisions provide kindergarten for five-year-olds, and 95% of eligible children attend. Most kindergarten is part-day or full-school day on alternate days. Some school boards fund the additional cost of full-school day, every-day kindergarten in some schools.

Private ECS operators and accredited funded private schools must be non-profit entities. They may only charge fees for ECS programming for hours of instruction above 475 hours and may charge non-instructional fees to offset costs, such as supplies, snacks and field trips.

Indigenous Services Canada provides funding for the 38 band-operated schools on reserve.

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ministry of Education  
44 Capital Boulevard  
10044-108 Street  
Edmonton, AB, T5J 5E6  
Telephone: (780)-427-7235  
Early Childhood Services (ECS) website: <https://www.alberta.ca/education-guide-early-childhood-services.aspx>

## LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Alberta. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*. – SA2012, C E-0.3.

Alberta. Legislative. Assembly. *Education Act – Early Childhood Services Regulation*. RA 87/2019. Amended 44/2020.

*Ministerial Order on Student Learning*. 028/2020

## KINDERGARTEN (PART OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES)

### AGE ELIGIBILITY

Kindergarten is the year prior to entry into Grade 1. Children must be at least five years old as of December 31 of the year they start kindergarten.

### ENROLMENT

Kindergarten is not compulsory.

### ENTITLEMENT

All children who meet the eligibility criteria may attend kindergarten but school authorities are not required to offer it.

### INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS PER DAY / TYPICAL LENGTH OF A SCHOOL DAY

All school authorities that provide kindergarten must provide a minimum of 475 hours of instruction during a school year.

### CLASS SIZE

Alberta does not set class sizes for kindergarten.

### CURRICULUM

[Kindergarten – Grade 12 Curriculum](#) (updated for September 2022)

By September 2024, a new curriculum for all K to Grade 6 students is expected to be implemented, based on advice from the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group.

## GENERAL TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

In Alberta, Early Childhood Services teachers, including kindergarten teachers, must hold a valid Alberta teaching certificate based on a four-year university degree that includes a basic teacher preparation program (B.Ed.), or a bachelor's degree supplemented with a teacher preparation program (two-year post degree for teacher course work and practicum).

There are no specific ECE requirements for teaching kindergarten.

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN (PART OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES – ECS)

Pre-kindergarten is a targeted program intended for children who require additional support before kindergarten. Eligibility includes learning English as a second language or requiring francization, being gifted and talented, and being diagnosed with a mild, moderate or severe disability or delay.

### AGE ELIGIBILITY

Children with severe disability or a moderate or severe language delay may start pre-kindergarten at age two years eight months. All other eligible children may begin at age three years eight months.

### ENTITLEMENT

School authorities are not required to offer pre-kindergarten.

### INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

Part-day pre-kindergarten (ECS) must offer a minimum number of hours of teacher-directed instruction:

- children two years eight months to three years seven months – minimum of 300 hours;
- children three years eight months to four years seven months – minimum of 400 hours; and
- children four years eight months and older – minimum of 475 hours.

## GENERAL TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

A valid Alberta teaching certificate based on a four-year university degree that includes a basic teacher preparation program (B.Ed.), or a bachelor's degree supplemented with a teacher preparation program (two-year post degree for teacher course work and practicum).

## TOTAL ENROLMENT (SCHOOL YEAR 2020 – 2021)

Kindergarten (ECS)	46,180
Pre-kindergarten (ECS for children younger than kindergarten-age)	9,857

## CHILD CARE

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Ministry of Children and Family Services

Child Care Branch

3rd Floor Forestry Building

9920-108 St. NW

Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4

Telephone: (780) 422-1119

Parent information line: 1-866-714-5437

Website: <https://www.alberta.ca/child-care.aspx>

### LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Alberta. Legislative Assembly. *Early Learning and Child Care Act*. – SA2007 C E 0.1.

Alberta. Legislative Assembly. Early Learning and Child Care Act – *Early Learning and Child Care Regulations*. RA 143/2008.

### CHILD CARE SERVICES

#### UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unlicensed child care providers can care for up to six children not including their own at any given time. Unlicensed providers are not monitored by the Alberta government or licensed agencies.

*Note: Additional exemptions can be found in section 1 (“Definitions”) of the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*.*

#### REGULATED CHILD CARE

##### Day care

A centre-based child care program provided to infants, preschool-age children and kindergarten-age children for four or more consecutive hours in each day that the program is provided.

##### Preschool program (nursery school)

A centre-based child care program provided to preschool-age and kindergarten-age children for less than four hours per child in each day that the program is provided.

### **Out-of-school care**

A centre-based child care program provided to kindergarten-aged (four years or older) and school-aged children (under age 13) before- and after-school; during the lunch hour; and/or when schools are closed.

### **Family day homes**

Alberta terms regulated family child care “day homes”. The Alberta family day home (FDH) program uses an agency model; licensed agencies are responsible for providing oversight and monitoring of family day home providers. Family day home providers are not licensed, but operate under an agreement with a licensed agency to provide child care from their home.

The maximum number of children in a family day home is six not including the provider’s own children.

Before February 1, 2021, family child care agencies held contracts with the province to monitor family day homes but were not licensed. In 2021, family day homes agencies were required to become licensed under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*.

Licensed agencies and the family day home programs they oversee are required to operate in accordance with the [\*Family Day Home Standards Manual\*](#).

### **Group family child care program**

Group family child care is provided in the private residence of the license holder to a maximum of 10 children. Group family child care homes were licensed and required to have two providers on record.

As of February 1, 2021, Alberta no longer licenses new group family child care programs. Existing group family child care programs were granted open-ended licences and allowed to operate indefinitely under the former *Child Care Licensing Act* and Child Care Licensing Regulation.

### **Innovative program**

A centre-based child care program approved by the provincial government statutory director that is designed to meet the unique child care needs of the community in which it is provided.

As of February 1, 2021, Alberta no longer licenses Innovative child care programs. Existing Innovative child care programs were granted open-ended licences and allowed to operate indefinitely under the former *Child Care Licensing Act* and Child Care Licensing Regulation.

## **CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK**

*Flight: Alberta’s early learning and care framework* is designed to build a common language across delivery settings about the importance of play in early learning, emergent curriculum planning and responsive caregiving.

Implementation of the *Flight* curriculum is not mandatory. It is available free of charge to all centres or any educator who wants to engage with the ideas and concepts.

The framework was introduced in 2014 and originally titled *Play, participation, and possibilities: An early learning and child care curriculum framework for Alberta*. In 2018, the curriculum framework was renamed *Flight: Alberta’s early learning and care framework*.

Licensed child care programs interested in engaging in more in depth training and exploration are invited to participate in curriculum initiatives as funding permits. Funding for curriculum training and on-site pedagogical support is provided to the Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement (ARCQE) and McEwan University.

## **CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

*(Alberta uses the term children with extra support needs)*

Alberta has two programs that provide services to children with extra support needs in child care: The Inclusive Child Care (ICC) program provided through the Children’s Services ministry, and Family Supports for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program provided through the Community and Social Supports ministry.

Funding covers all eligible children.

All types of licensed/regulated child care programs are eligible to receive funding.

Access to supports for Inclusive Child Care (ICC) does not require a diagnosis, however eligibility for FSCD services and supports does.

The ICC program, replacing regional Supported Child Care services, provides funding to the child care program overall to include children with extra support needs rather than funding specific children. It provides intensive consultation and coaching supports to early childhood educators to build their capacity for and confidence in inclusive practices.



The program increases families' access to inclusive child care, and prevents the exclusion or removal of children from child care programs.

A new provincial Inclusive Child Care (ICC) program is being implemented in 2022, replacing regional Supported Child Care services. The ICC program is delivered by community agencies with expertise in early learning and child care and inclusion of children who have extra support needs.

The FSCD program provides funding specific to the individual child. It defines a disability as “a chronic developmental, physical, sensory, mental or neurological condition or impairment but does not include a condition for which the primary need is for medical care or health services to treat or manage the condition unless it is a chronic condition that significantly limits a child’s ability to function in normal daily living.”

FSCD supports may include funding the cost of an aide to enable a child with a disability to participate in licensed child care and assistance with the extraordinary cost of child care or out-of-school care that exceeds normal parental child care expenses.

A non-profit community program, Getting Ready for Inclusion Today (GRIT), is funded to deliver the Access, Support and Participation (ASaP) program. ASaP partners with licensed child care programs who have staff committed to a long-term learning process (up to two years). For more information, see [the ASaP Project website](#).

## FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT CHILD CARE

### FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT CHILD CARE ON RESERVES AND ON INUIT LANDS

Alberta historically did not regulate or fund on reserve child care programs. However, in 2016, Children’s Services staff were requested to work collaboratively with Kapawe’no First Nation to establish a provincially licensed day care program and enable the program to access provincial funding. On July 10, 2017, Kapawe’no First Nation Child Care Society received a provincial child care licence for 31 spaces, becoming the first licensed on reserve program in Alberta.

As of March 31, 2021, there were five full-day licensed centres and one part-day nursery school on reserve. These spaces are included in the overall provincial space statistics.

### Number of licensed spaces on reserve (March 2021)

<i>Full-day spaces</i>	
Infants	40
Toddlers	47
Preschool-age	77
<b>Total full-day spaces</b>	<b>164</b>
<i>Part-day spaces</i>	
Nursery school/preschool	16
Before- and after-school care	16
<b>Total part-day spaces</b>	<b>32</b>

Licensed child care centres on reserve are eligible to receive the same funding as other provincially licensed centres, including wage enhancements, funding for children with special needs and parent fee subsidies.

There are no licensed family day home agencies on reserve.

### Number of unlicensed child care centres on reserve 39

Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR) programs may be licensed by invitation.

### Number of AHSOR programs on reserve 49

## INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE OTHER THAN ON RESERVE

There are four full-day licensed Indigenous-focused or led child care centres and two part-day nursery schools not on reserve.

### Number of licensed spaces not on reserve

<i>Full-day spaces</i>	
Infants	0
Toddlers	38
Preschool-age	140
<b>Total full-day spaces</b>	<b>178</b>
<i>Part-day spaces</i>	
Nursery school/preschool	44
Before- and after-school care	25
<b>Total part-day spaces</b>	<b>69</b>

Some, but not all Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) programs are licensed. Some fall under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act* and some are under the umbrella of Alberta Education.

There are 16 licensed ASHUNC programs operating 363 spaces for preschool-age children and four unlicensed ASHUNC programs in Alberta.

## OTHER INDIGENOUS-SPECIFIC RESOURCES/ INITIATIVES

Alberta has two Indigenous post-secondary institutions, University Blue Quills and Maskwacis Cultural College. Both offer early childhood educator diploma programs with a focus on Cree culture and language, and traditional Indigenous knowledge and child care practices.

Children’s Services has initiated a project to enhance access to cultural resources for all child care staff and programs. The initiative aims to increase understanding of the important role of culture, language, and heritage, and to improve access to child care for diverse communities, including Indigenous communities as well as racialized and Francophone communities. This will include supporting advisory tables to guide development of a culturally responsive workforce framework for Alberta’s child care sector and implementation and scaling up of existing evidence-informed resources, training, and professional development in partnership with diverse communities.

Work is underway to develop formal relationships with Indigenous organizations and tables, including working through protocol tables between treaty area organizations and Alberta to share information and partner on Early Learning and Child Care programming.

Children’s Services is also working with specific Indigenous communities and organizations on opportunities to increase Indigenous early childhood educator staff and create access to culturally appropriate child care spaces.

There are two provincially funded Family Resource Networks on reserve providing caregiver capacity building supports.



## SPACE STATISTICS

### NUMBER OF REGULATED SPACES (March 31, 2021)

<i>Centre spaces</i>	
<i>Full-day centres</i>	
Infants (< 12 months)	2,273
Infants (12 months – < 19 months)	7,333
Toddlers (19 months – < 3 years)	16,562
Preschool-age (3 years – < 4 years)	11,432
Preschool-age (4 years +)	20,823
<i>Part-day centres</i>	
Preschool-age (19 months – < 3 years)	1,259
Preschool-age (3 years – < 4.5 years)	14,350
<i>Other</i>	
Innovative child care (no age grouping)	497
<i>Centres – \$25/day pilot projects (March 31, 2021)</i>	
Infants (< 12 months)	211
Infants (12 months – < 19 months)	825
Toddlers (19 months – < 3 years)	1,828
Preschool-age (3 years – < 4 years)	1,159
Preschool-age (4 years +)	2,264

*Note: The \$25/day pilot project ended March 31, 2021.*

**TOTAL CENTRE SPACES (0 – 5 years) 80,816**

### Before- and after-school care (licensed, regulated, approved or authorized)

*Total number of spaces in before- and after-school care for children in kindergarten and Grades 1 – 6* 50,985

**TOTAL CENTRE SPACES (0 – 12 years) 131,801**

### Regulated family child care

<i>Family day homes</i>	<i>Enrolment</i>
Full-day (children not attending school)	7,825
Part-day (children attending school)	757
<i>Group family child care</i>	
Full-day (children not attending school)	117
Part-day (children attending school)	9
<i>Total approved family child care spaces (enrolment)</i>	8,708

**TOTAL REGULATED SPACES  
(centres spaces and family child care enrolment) 140,509**

<b>Number of child care centres (2021)</b>	
<i>Total number of centres</i>	2,120
<i>Centre-based programs</i>	
Number of centres providing a full-day program	1,113
Number of centres providing a part-day (preschool) program	597
Number of centres a part-day program for children attending school (approx 4.5 – 12 years)	1,158
Number of centres providing infant care (less than 19 months) – Daycare only	864
Number of centres providing toddler care (19 months – < 3 years)	1,188
Number of centres providing preschool-age care (3 – 4.5 years)	<i>Not available</i>
Number of centres providing non-standard hours care	109
Number of \$25/day centres on March 31, 2021	98
Number of centres in publicly delivered and funded schools	<i>Not available</i>
<i>Note: The number of non-standard hours centres only includes those receiving parent fee subsidies. It does not include centres with unsubsidized spaces or family day homes.</i>	
<i>For a definition of non-standard hours child care in Alberta, see <a href="#">Non-standard work and child care in Canada (pg. 89)</a>.</i>	
<b>Number of regulated family child care homes</b>	
<i>Number of homes</i>	
Number of approved family day homes (active)	1,782
Number of licensed group family child care homes	19
Number of family child care agencies	61
<b>Municipal delivery</b>	
Number of municipalities or municipal entities operating child care centres (i.e. are the licence holder)	4
<i>Note: The municipalities of Drayton Valley, Beaumont, Jasper, and the Municipal District of Opportunity operate child care centres.</i>	
<b>Programs by auspice (2021)</b>	
<i>Centres</i>	<i>Number of centres/agencies</i>
For-profit	1,244
Non-profit	866
Publicly operated	<i>(estimate)</i> 10
<i>Note: Public operated centres include four municipalities/municipal entities that operate centres and six licensed on reserve centres. It is an estimate, as the municipal entities may be operating more than one centre.</i>	
<i>Family child care agencies</i>	
For-profit	28
Non-profit	33

<b>Centre spaces by auspice</b>				
	<i>Full-day spaces</i>	<i>Part-day spaces<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>BASC spaces<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Total spaces</i>
For-profit	49,132	7,051	31,021	87,204
Non-profit	15,414	8,542	19,948	43,904
Publicly operated <sup>3</sup>	164	16	16	196
<i>1 Nursery school/preschool part-day spaces</i>				
<i>2 Before- and after-school (Grade 1 – 6)</i>				
<i>3 Municipality/municipal entity, school authority, other government agency or Indigenous governance organization</i>				
<i>Note: For a profile of child care auspice in Alberta, see <a href="#">Risky Business</a>.</i>				

## FEE SUBSIDIES (2021)

### Children receiving subsidies in licensed, regulated, or approved child care (March 31, 2021)

Full subsidy	15,620
Partial subsidy	7,347

**TOTAL CHILDREN RECEIVING FEE SUBSIDIES 22,967**

## SPECIAL NEEDS/DISABILITY SUPPORT FUNDING

**Children in licensed, regulated, or approved child care being supported by special needs/disability support funding (March 31, 2021)** *Not available*

For a list of all licensed programs and services in Alberta, see this [directory](#).

## ENROLMENT STATISTICS

### Number of children enrolled in regulated centre-based programs (March 31, 2021)

<i>Full-day centres</i>	
Infants (< 12 months)	436
Infants (12 months – < 19 months)	2,795
Toddlers (19 months – < 3 years)	9,375
Preschool-age (3 years – < 4 years)	10,421
Preschool-age (4 years +)	11,281
<i>Centres – \$25/day pilot projects (ended March 31, 2021)</i>	
Infants (< 12 months)	51
Infants (12 months – < 19 months)	360
Toddlers (19 months – < 3 years)	1,323
Preschool-age (3 years – < 3 years)	1,458
Preschool-age (4 years +)	1,575
<i>Part-day centres</i>	
Part-day preschools	12,687

**TOTAL ENROLMENT (0 – 5 years) 51,762**

Before- and after-school care	23,796
<b>TOTAL CENTRE ENROLMENT (0 – 12 years)</b>	<b>75,558</b>
<b>Overall enrolment in centres and day homes (March 2021)</b>	
<i>Number of children enrolled</i>	
Day care centres (full-day)	39,075
Out-of-school programs	23,796
Preschool programs (part-day)	12,687
Family day home	8,582
Group family child care programs	126
Innovative child care programs	Not available
<b>TOTAL ENROLMENT</b>	<b>84,266</b>

## PARENT FEES

Child care fees in Alberta are not provincially set. Fees are set by individual operators and providers. Since the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement took effect in 2022, fee increases have been capped by the provincial government.

Between 2017 and 2021, the Early Learning and Child Care Centre Pilot program set parent fees at \$25/day in selected centres across the province. The program began and ended in two phases, the first ended on June 30, 2020, and the second, which was federally funded, ended on March 31, 2021.

### PROVINCIAL DATA ON AVERAGE FEES

Centres	Average daily parent fees (2020 – 2021, 2021 – 2022)	
	Full-time 2020 – 2021	Full-time 2021 – 2022
Infant	\$50.57	\$54.94
Toddler	\$45.75	\$48.28
Preschool-age	\$42.53	\$44.60
School-age (school year)	\$25.29	\$26.21
<i>Family day homes</i>		
Infant	\$38.62	\$39.08
Toddler	\$38.39	\$39.08
Preschool-age	\$37.47	\$38.39
School-age (school year)	\$26.21	\$26.21

Note: Effective January 1, 2022, affordability grants were provided to centres to reduce the fees of all families with children younger than school-age. These fee reductions are not reflected in the fee table.

## Median monthly fees in Alberta: Annual Fee Survey

In 2021, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included the following Alberta cities:

### Median monthly fees for full-time child care

City	Infant	Toddler	Preschooler
Calgary	\$1,400	\$1,295	\$1,150
Edmonton	\$1,205	\$1,063	\$1,025
Lethbridge	\$900	\$970	\$865

Source: Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2022). *Game Changer: Will provinces and territories meet the new federal child care fee targets? Canadian child care fees 2021*. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre-based child care and regulated family child care.

## WORKFORCE

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATION

The Alberta government has the legislative authority and responsibility under the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#) to certify early childhood educators.

There are three levels of certification.

#### Level 1 (formerly Child Development Assistant)

- A 45-hour (three credit) post-secondary course related to child development; or
- CCS 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, and 3150 through an Alberta Career and Technology Studies program; or
- Alberta Child Care Orientation Course (54 hours); or
- The Step Ahead Family Day Home Training or Family Child Care Training Program

#### Level 2 (formerly Child Development Worker)

- One-year post-secondary early learning and child care certificate program; or
- Approved educational equivalency

#### Level 3 (formerly Child Development Supervisor)

- Two-year post-secondary early learning and child care diploma program; or
- Approved educational equivalency

The Alberta Child Care Orientation Course is for child care staff who do not have post-secondary educational studies in early learning and child care, or high school students interested in a career in early learning and child care.

Professional development is not a requirement to remain certified, and there are no renewal requirements for certified early childhood educators.

## Equivalencies

Alberta grants ECE certification for individuals with other, non-ECE post-secondary qualifications. For a full list of equivalencies approved for certification as an early childhood educator, see Appendix B of the [Certification guide for early childhood educators](#).

## STAFF WAGES

Wages and benefits of early childhood educators and child care workers are set by individual operators. There is no wage grid or scale.

Wage top-up funding is allocated to child care programs as a grant to administer additional pay for certified staff and family day home providers over and above the employer-paid wage.

## Provincial wage data

### Mean average wages: Employer-paid, provincial top-up and total (2022)

Certification level	Average employer-paid wage (September 2020)	Provincial top-up	Mean wage with top-up
Level 1	\$16.75	\$2.14	\$18.89
Level 2	\$17.87	\$4.05	\$21.92
Level 3	\$19.55	\$6.62	\$26.17

Source: [Alberta Child Care Grant Funding Program](#)

Note: Wage top-ups were increased as of January 1, 2023 to \$2.64/hour, \$5.05/hour and \$8.62/hour for Levels 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

The wage top-up grant is for frontline certified paid staff and contracted family day home providers who:

- provide direct child care, including program supervisors and alternate supervisors (as defined in the Child Care Licensing Regulation), as well as people hired in the role of family child care consultants/coordinators with a licensed family day home agency;
- are certified as a Level 1, 2 or 3; and
- meet the hour eligibility requirements.

Eligible hours for wage top-ups are defined as direct child care hours by staff in licensed centre-based programs and family day home providers, as well as administrative hours by program supervisors in facility-based programs and agency coordinators and home visitor/consultant employed at a family day home agency.

For more information, see [Alberta Child Care Grant Funding Guide: For Wage Top-Ups and Professional Development](#).

## Median annual employment income (\$) and median hourly wage range (\$) for Early Childhood Educators and Assistants working in day care services full-time, full-year

Median annual employment income	\$32,800
Median hourly employment income	\$15.77 – 18.02

Note: Calculated using 2,080 hours/year (40 hours/week) and 1,820 hours/year (35 hours/week).

Source: *Canadian Census (2021)*. Special run by Statistics Canada.

Note: These data include Early Childhood Educators and Assistants, as defined in NOC 4214 and “working in the day care services industry in centre-based environments with children aged 0 – 12 years”, as defined in NAICS 6244. Included are individuals who worked full-time (30+ hours/week) and full-year (48+ weeks/year), did not work at home, and were not self-employed. Included are supervisors but not managers. Employment income refers to income from all jobs if the Early Childhood Educator or Assistant holds a second job providing a wage, salary or commissions.

Note: See Table 18 in this report for comparable data from other provinces/territories and Canada average.

## STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

### REGULATED CHILD CARE CENTRES

Centre-based child care is licensed and regulated under the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#) and [Early Learning and Child Care Regulations](#).

### Ratios and group sizes

Alberta does not set a maximum number of children permitted in a child care centre.

### Full-day centres' staff:child ratio and maximum group size

Age group	Staff:child ratio	Maximum group size
Infants (< 12 months)	1:3	6
Infants (12 months – < 19 months)	1:4	8
19 months – < 3 years	1:6	12
3 years – < 4 years	1:8	16
4 years and older	1:10	20
Kindergarten-age or older (out-of-school care)	1:15	30

Note: A centre is permitted to mix children of different age groups (older than 19 months) throughout the day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Ratios for mixed-age groups are determined based on the age of the majority of children in the group.

### Part-day preschool programs staff:child ratios

Age group	Staff:child ratio
19 months – < 3 years	1:6
3 years and older	1:12

*Note: Parent volunteers are allowed to act as staff members in the staff:child ratio for preschool programs. There is no maximum group size.*

### Staffing requirements for centre-based programs

This section describes the minimum staffing required for a regulated centre-based program to operate. It includes early childhood qualification requirements for centre staff and centre supervisors/directors and other requirements (e.g. age, first aid, background check).

In Alberta, early childhood qualification requirements of centre staff are considered at a centre level rather than a group or room level.

“Primary staff member” means a staff member of a facility-based program whose primary duty is child care and who is actively engaged in the supervision of children in the program.

When seven or more children are present within a child care centre, two staff must be present, with at least one being a primary staff.

#### *Early childhood qualification requirements for centre staff*

In a full-day day care centre at all times between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., at least one in every three primary staff members involved in providing child care must be certified at Level 2 and the remaining primary staff are certified as Level 1. At all other times, every primary staff member must be certified at least at Level 1.

In an out-of-school care or a preschool program, at least one of every four staff members involved in providing out-of-school care or preschool is certified at Level 2 and the remaining staff members must be certified at Level 1.

#### *Exemption to early childhood qualification requirements for centre staff*

In a day care centre or out-of-school care program, a primary staff member may be hired before obtaining Level 1 certification but must become certified within six months of employment.

In a preschool program, a staff member may be hired before obtaining a Level 1 certification and must become certified within six months of employment.

A centre may also be granted exemption from other early childhood qualification requirements of staff (described in the previous section) for a period of time upon the statutory director’s approval. The period of time is flexible, and at the discretion of the statutory director.

In 2020 – 2021, 687 exemptions were granted to early childhood qualification requirements for centre staff.

#### *Early childhood qualifications for centre supervisors*

All day care centres must have a program supervisor who is certified as a Level 3 early childhood educator. There must be a designated program supervisor on duty at all times when children receiving care are on the program premises.

School-age only programs are required to have a designated program supervisor but there are no certification requirements beyond a Level 1 for that position.

#### *Exemption to early childhood qualification requirements for centre supervisor*

A centre supervisor may be exempted from early childhood qualification requirements for a specified period of time upon the statutory director’s approval.

A program supervisor can designate a staff member to assume their responsibilities in their absence. In the case of an absence of one month or longer, the program must obtain the statutory director’s approval if the staff member is not certified at Level 3.

In 2020 – 2021, there were four kinds of program supervisor-related exemptions given to 88 programs.

#### *Other requirements*

One in two primary staff members must have first aid certification. At least one staff member with first aid certification must be on duty at all times.

Each staff member and volunteer must have a criminal record check including a vulnerable sector search. A criminal record check can be provided within eight weeks of employment provided that the person does not have unsupervised access to children during that time. A criminal record check may not be required upon the statutory director’s approval if the person is the parent of a child currently enrolled in the program.

### **Licensing, monitoring and enforcement of regulated child care centres**

Issuing of licenses is authorized under the authority of the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#). – SA2007 C E 0.1 and Regulations.

As of February 2021, initial licenses were provided for between one and three years, at the discretion of the statutory director. After the initial license is renewed, the term of the license is indefinite and determined by the history of non-compliance, complaints, incidents or enforcement actions (risk-based monitoring).

As of February 2021, risk based inspection tools were still under development.

An inspection can occur at any reasonable hour and the statutory director must provide the operator with a report of the results. A statutory director may issue a notice of non-compliance during an inspection that is immediately remedied. The statutory director may place time frames on improving the child care facility upon results of non-compliances from the inspection.

If a licence is suspended by a statutory director, a probationary licence with terms and conditions for remedying non-compliances is issued for no more than three months. If the operator fails to meet the requirements, then the licence is not reinstated.

### **REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE**

In Alberta, a regulated family child care home is called a family day home. Family day homes are now licensed under the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#) and regulated by the [Early Learning and Child Care Regulations](#) and the [Family Day Home Standards Manual for Alberta](#). Family day home agencies may be non-profit or for-profit.

Family child care must be provided in the provider's personal residence.

#### **Model of organization**

Alberta uses an agency model. As of April 1, 2021, family day home agencies are licensed by the Alberta government, rather than approved. Day homes continue to operate as approved under their now-licensed agencies.

A family day home agency is responsible for complying with and monitoring providers' compliance with provider standards, incidents and complaints.

### **Maximum capacity**

A family day home provider may not provide care for more than six children ages 0 – 12. This may not exceed more than two children under the age of two and three children under the age of three.

As of February 2021, the total did not include the provider's own children.

### **Family child care provider requirements**

Family day home providers (known as day home educators in Alberta) are required to hold ECE Level 1 certification within six months of operation.

Family day home providers must be 18 years old and have a criminal record check with a vulnerable sector search, first aid certification, personal references, and a physician's note stating the applicant is mentally and physically able to care for children.

Other adults who reside in the residence where the family day home operates must complete a criminal reference check with a vulnerable sector check. This must be updated every three years.

Each provider is required to develop, with the agency, a training plan to cover areas such as child development, child guidance and employing culturally respectful strategies.

Family day home agencies are also required to bring providers together at least six times each year for training, consultation, information sharing, or problem solving to reduce provider isolation.

### **Licensing, monitoring, and enforcement**

Family day home agencies are required to make scheduled and unscheduled visits to each day home at least six times per year.

Agency staff responsible for monitoring providers must be certified at minimum at Level 2. Exemptions for current agency staff who do not meet the requirements must be provided in writing with an action plan on how to achieve the requirements.

Ministry staff monitor agency operations, activities, and records, including a minimum of one in person visit to each contracted agency annually. Ministry staff visit a minimum of 10% of the agency's active homes annually.

## ■ FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE

### CHILD CARE SERVICES' ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

Licensed non-profit and for-profit child care facilities are eligible for all applicable funding programs.

*Note: A number of operational and one-time funding programs that were in place in 2020 and early 2021 are no longer operating (Infant Care Incentive, Northern Allowance, Accreditation Funding, \$25/day Centres, Benefit Contribution Grant, Child Care Staff Attraction Grant, and Family Child Care Consultant and Coordinator Funding). Details of these programs can be found in the Alberta section of [Early childhood education and care in Canada 2019](#).*

### TYPES OF FUNDING

#### FEE SUBSIDIES

Alberta modified its fee subsidy program in January 2022 as part of the Canada-Alberta Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, increasing subsidy income eligibility levels and changing subsidy rates as the new Affordability Grants were introduced (see details in the tables below).

#### Eligibility criteria

Valid reasons for care for a parent to be eligible for subsidy include:

- working;
- attending school;
- looking for work (maximum four month approval of subsidy in a 12 month time period – per applicant); and
- special needs applicant or child.

#### Financial eligibility

Income eligibility is determined by the family's annual gross income, less education-related and medical-related tax deductions.

Financial eligibility for fee subsidy has been adjusted several times since 2019: in 2020, in 2021 and in 2022.

In August 2020, the subsidy model changed from a slope model to a step model (i.e., provides a simplified formula for parents and child care programs).

#### Income eligibility for subsidy (2019 – 2022)

Year	Maximum income for full subsidy	Income at which partial subsidy ends
2019	\$49,999	Varied <sup>1</sup>
2020	\$49,999	\$74,999
2021	\$49,999	\$89,999
2022 <sup>2</sup>	\$119,999	\$179,999

1 Depending on the number of children requiring care, number of dependents and family structure.

2 For children 0 to kindergarten-age in kindergarten and also attending child care during regular school hours.

*Note: Financial eligibility for families in 2022 with a child in kindergarten (attending kindergarten and only attending child care outside regular school hours) to Grade 6 remains at the 2021 levels.*

#### Service providers' eligibility to deliver subsidized child care

Child care fee subsidies may be used in non-profit and for-profit day care centres, out-of-school centres, preschool centres and family day homes.

#### Subsidy rates

The maximum subsidy rate is the amount the government pays a centre or licensed family home on behalf of a fully subsidized parent, to cover all or part of the parent fee.

The subsidy rates for children younger than school-age were reduced in January 2022.

#### Maximum monthly subsidy rates in licensed child care (August 1, 2020)

	Centre-based care	Family child care
<b>Full-day programs</b>		
Infant (under 19 months)	\$741	\$614
Preschool-age (19 months – not yet in Grade 1)	\$644	\$516
<b>Part-day programs</b>		
School-age care (Grades 1 – 6)	\$366	\$366

*Note: An additional \$100/month is available for eligible families. See [Extended hours subsidy](#) for more details.*



*Maximum monthly subsidy rates in licensed child care (January 1, 2022)*

<i>Full-day programs</i>	<i>Centres</i>	<i>Family day homes</i>
0 – kindergarten-age (in kindergarten and also attending child care during regular school hours)	\$266	\$266
<i>Part-day programs</i>		
Children in kindergarten to Grade 6 only enrolled in a licensed program outside regular school hours		
– Kindergarten (100 hours)	\$644	\$516
– School-age care (Grades 1 – 6) (50 hours)	\$366	\$366
Part-day preschool	\$125	<i>Not available</i>

*Note: The extended hours subsidy rate remains the same as in 2020 but it does not apply to part-day preschool programs.*

*Note: Effective January 1, 2022, Affordability Grants (subsidies) were provided to centres to reduce the fees of all families with children younger than school-age. These affordability grants have no social or financial eligibility criteria.*

**Surcharges above the fee subsidy**

Programs may surcharge subsidized parent fees above the maximum subsidy rate, in which case the parent must pay the difference. Fees in Alberta are set by individual operators.

**Entitlement to a fee subsidy**

There are no waitlists for child care subsidies in Alberta. All families who are eligible can receive a subsidy.



**Other programs that subsidize the individual family or child**

**Preschool subsidy**

Families with an annual income of less than \$180,000 who meet the child care subsidy eligibility requirements and have a child(ren) enrolled in a licensed preschool program are able to apply for a subsidy of \$125/month. Families can only receive one type of child care subsidy, and those who have children enrolled in other licensed programs will receive the subsidy type with the highest subsidy rate.

**Extended hours subsidy**

The aim of the extended hours subsidy is to assist families who require care outside the regular hours of 6 am to 6 pm or on weekends. The extended hours subsidy provides an additional \$100 per month per child.

In order to qualify, families must: meet general child care subsidy eligibility, attend a licensed program that is approved to offer extended hours care, require four or more hours of care, and must not be receiving an overnight affordability grant.

**OPERATIONAL FUNDING**

**Affordability Grants**

In January 2022, Alberta began to provide Affordability Grants to licensed centre-based and family child care specifically to reduce fees for all families. This grant is funded by the Canada-wide agreement to reduce parent fees by 50% by the end of 2022.

Funding is provided on behalf of each child care space, based on age range and type of care. All licensed child care programs providing child care to infants, toddlers and preschool-age children are eligible.

Affordability Grants must be used by operators to reduce parent fees. Amounts are calculated using average program fees across the province, per space per month, based on the type of child care and the age group.

Programs receiving the grant are required to limit fee increases to 3% over the year.

*Affordability Grants to licensed centres and family child care (per space per month) (2022)*

	Infant <sup>1</sup>	Toddler <sup>2</sup>	Preschool-age
Day care centre – full-time	\$635	\$510	\$450
Day care centre – part-time	\$317.50	\$255	\$225
Daycare centre – Overnight full-time	\$952.50	\$765	\$675
Daycare centre – Overnight part-time	\$476.50	\$382.50	\$337.50
Family day home – full-time	\$350	\$325	\$300
Family day home – part-time	\$175	\$162.50	\$150
Family day home – Overnight full-time	\$525	\$487.50	\$450
Family day home – Overnight part-time	\$262.50	\$243.75	\$225

1 Less than 19 months

2 19 months – < 3 years

3 3 years – kindergarten-age

4 Part-time programming for four or less hours per day for children 19 months up to kindergarten

*Note: Affordability Grants for programming for 4 or fewer hours per day for children 19 months – kindergarten are \$75 a month in centres and family child care.*

For further details on grant amounts see: [Affordability rate charts](#).

### Wage top-up funding

Child care programs receive wage top-up funding as a grant. Wage top-up is for additional pay for eligible certified staff over and above the employer-paid wage. See the September 2021 [child care funding guide](#) for further details.

The wage top-up is considered to be a “wage”, and the program is required to assume the costs associated with administering the top-up in accordance with all applicable provincial and federal legislation. Family day home agencies must also administer payments to providers in accordance with all applicable legislation.

Wage top-ups are paid up to a maximum of 181 hours/month. In 2022, wage top-ups by certification level were as follows:

- Level 1 Early Childhood Educator \$2.14/hour;
- Level 2 Early Childhood Educator \$4.05/hour; and
- Level 3 Early Childhood Educator \$6.62/hour.

*Note: Wage top ups were increased as of January 1, 2023 to \$2.64/hour, \$5.05/hour and \$8.62/hour for Levels 1, 2 and 3 respectively.*

### Early Learning and Child Care Centres Pilot Project Grant

Beginning in 2017 and ending March 31, 2021, Alberta had a pilot program of operationally funded early learning and child care centres in which parents paid \$25/day across the board. The program was open to non-profit centres for children aged 0 – kindergarten-age and had two phases.

The initial 22 centres in Phase 1 were provincially funded, while an additional 100 centres (Phase 2) were funded by the first Alberta-Canada bilateral ELCC agreement (Multilateral Framework).

The ELCC \$25/day pilot project ended in two phases. Funding for the provincially funded centres was discontinued June 30, 2020 and, for the 100 federally funded centres on March 31, 2021.

An evaluation of this project was conducted and can be found online at [\\$25/day pilot evaluation](#).

### Specialized Child Care (includes Inclusive Child Care)

The Inclusive Child Care Program provides support to facilitate inclusion of children with special needs in Alberta’s regulated or contracted child care settings.

Program delivery and funding may vary depending on the needs of the child and type of service required. Funds are paid to licensed or contracted operators on behalf of eligible children.

### ONE-TIME FUNDING

On January 25, 2021 the Child Care Capacity Building Expression of Interest (EOI) was released offering one-time funding for start up totaling \$9.7 million to qualified existing Family Day Home (FDH) agencies and new and existing day care centres to create new child care spaces in areas of need.

A total number of 44 grants were provided to create 1,604 new spaces, as follows.

Region	Centre – Day	Centre – Overnight	FDH – Day	FDH – Overnight
Calgary	143	15	180	19
Central	109	16	54	6
Edmonton	178	9	100	15
North	198	14	313	49
South	51	10	96	29
Totals	679	64	743	118

*Note: These funds are not part of an ongoing program.*

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### Professional development funding

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Licensed centre-based child care programs and licensed family day home agencies can receive professional development funding to help eligible staff with the costs of approved post-secondary education and approved conferences or workshops. This funding is intended to support staff to obtain higher levels of certification as well as new early childhood education skills and knowledge.

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### Release time grant

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As of September 1, 2021, a [release time grant](#) is available to all staff who are eligible for the professional development grant funding. This grant allows staff to be paid while completing post-secondary coursework, and/or attending workshops that have been approved for professional development funding. Programs are required to apply for release time grants on behalf of their staff.

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## PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2020 – 2021)

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### FEE SUBSIDIES

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Day care centres	\$61,713,000
Family day homes	\$11,173,000
Out-of-school care	\$22,351,000
Extended hours	\$357,000

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<b>Total fee subsidies</b>	<b>\$95,594,000</b>
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### OPERATIONAL (PREVIOUSLY RECURRING) FUNDING

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<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Infant care incentive	\$6,090,000
Wage top-ups, professional development	\$78,701,000
Specialized child care (includes Inclusive Child Care)	\$7,973,000
Family day home agency	\$6,128,000

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<b>Total operational funding</b>	<b>\$98,892,000</b>
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### ONE-TIME FUNDING

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#### One-time funding

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<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Capital grant	-
Space creation	\$10,260,000
Curriculum	\$4,700,000

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<b>Total one-time funding</b>	<b>\$14,960,000</b>
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<b>TOTAL FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (fee subsidies, operational funding and one-time funding)</b>	<b>\$209,446,000</b>
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### OTHER ELCC FUNDING

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<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Family Resource Networks	\$59,839,000

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### FEDERAL TRANSFERS TO PROVINCE

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<i>Federal transfer</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework – Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements	\$42,947,000
Safe Restart	\$72,880,000
Critical Worker Benefit	\$11,750,000
Total federal transfers	\$127,577,000

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### COVID-19 RELATED SUPPORTS

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Child Care Relief	\$41,151,000
Working Parent Benefit	\$17,028,000
Critical Worker Benefit	\$15,666,000

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## ■ OF INTEREST

### MUNICIPAL ROLE

Historically, municipalities in Alberta had a significant but not legislated role in child care delivery. Between the 1970s and 1990s Alberta municipalities funded 11 public child care centres and supported more than 60 centres altogether.

Currently, Alberta has a small municipal service provision role, with four smaller municipalities supporting services. For some years, the municipalities of Beaumont, Jasper, Drayton Valley and the Municipal District of Opportunity have been operating child care centres.

### FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS

[Family Resource Networks](#) provide prevention and early intervention services and supports for children 0 – 18 years. Supports include home visitation, parent support groups, early childhood development programs focused on early learning and play. Seventy family resource hubs, including 35 serving rural communities, as well as 10 Indigenous hubs and one Francophone hub serving both urban and rural communities, help coordinate services in all geographic areas of the province and across 136 service agencies.

## ■ PROVINCIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

[Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta](#)

[Alberta Family Child Care Association](#)

[Child Care Now – Alberta](#)

