



Manitoba

Overview	213	CHILD CARE FUNDING	234
Provincial context	214	Eligibility for CWELCC funding	234
KINDERGARTEN POLICY, PROGRAMS, AND DATA	217	Child care services' eligibility for funding	234
Kindergarten for five-year-olds	217	Types of funding	234
Kindergarten for four-year-olds (nursery)	217	Funding for regulated child care (fiscal year 2023 – 2024)	241
Curriculum framework	217		
Enrolment	218		
Recent or anticipated developments	218		
Other early childhood programs	218		
CHILD CARE POLICY AND PROGRAMS	219		
Administration	219		
Curriculum framework	220		
Children with disabilities	220		
First Nations, Métis, and Inuit child care	221		
Parent fees	222		
Workforce	224		
Standards and regulations	227		
Of interest	229		
CHILD CARE DATA	230		
Regulated child care space statistics	230		
Regulated child care enrolment statistics	233		



Manitoba

■ OVERVIEW

In Manitoba, the Ministry of Education and Early Childhood Learning is responsible for regulated child care centres, nursery schools, family child care, group child care homes, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care.

Licensed child care includes child care centres, nursery schools, family child care, group child care homes, and some before- and after-school child care programs. Before- and after-school programs operated by schools are not required to be licensed.

Centre-based child care is delivered by non-profit and for-profit operators, with non-profits making up almost all child care provision. There are no publicly operated child care programs in Manitoba.

Family child care and group child care homes (more than one provider) are individually licensed.

Manitoba offers non-compulsory part-day kindergarten for all five-year-olds. The provincial government does not provide kindergarten for four-year-olds. Some school divisions operate full school-day kindergarten and part-day programs for four-year-olds (termed nursery), but these programs are not provincially funded.

Manitoba has had set parent fees and operating grants in licensed funded centres and homes since the 1970s. Manitoba began operationally funding child care in 2000, with non-profit centres and family child care eligible for operating funding. In April 2023, Manitoba introduced a set fee of \$10/day for children 0 – 6 years in full-day care in funded centres and homes. The Child Care Subsidy Program provides provincial support to eligible families to help with the cost of child care. For-profit centres may accept fee subsidies, but they do not receive provincial operating funding.

In 2022, the province introduced a wage floor with minimum starting points and target wages based on job position and classification. Target hourly wages were updated for 2025 – 2026. Use of the targets is optional for centres.

Manitoba signed the Canada-Manitoba Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement in August 2021. It allocated \$1.2 billion over five years to the province.

In March 2025, Manitoba accepted the federal offer to extend its bilateral agreement until 2031.

Net growth in full-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years (2021 – 2025)			
	<i>2021</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>Increase (decrease) 2021 – 2025</i>
Non-profit	19,372	22,157	+2,785
For-profit	1,349	1,934	+585
Total full-day spaces	20,721	24,091	+3,370
Percentage of full-day spaces that were for-profit	6.5%	8%	+1.5%
Percentage of growth of full-day spaces that was for-profit	-	-	17%

■ PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0	13,900
1	14,900
2	15,400
3	14,500
4	17,400
5	15,500
6	18,900
7	17,400
8	17,100
9	17,600
10	16,000
11	16,100
12	15,800
Total	210,500

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	44,200
3 – 5	47,400
6 – 12	118,900
Total	210,500

Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0	8,500
1	9,500
2	10,400
3	9,500
4	11,300
5	10,900
6	12,400
7	11,300
8	11,500
9	11,500
10	11,100
11	11,100
12	11,100
Total	140,000

Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	28,400
3 – 5	31,700
6 – 12	80,000
Total	140,000

Number of children 0 – 14 years 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	14,855	7,425	60	360	220
5 – 9	15,500	8,160	60	345	170
10 – 14	15,935	8,300	70	355	175
Total	46,290	23,885	190	1,060	565

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age of youngest child</i>	<i>Number of mothers</i>	<i>Participation rate (%)</i>
0 – 3	32,300	76.0
4 – 5	14,000	81.4
0 – 5	46,300	77.6
6 – 12	41,900	85.5

Living arrangements by age of child (2021)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Living with two parents</i>	<i>Living with one parent</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>Lone mother</i>	<i>Lone father</i>	
0 – 4	62,355	11,915	2,480	14,390
5 – 9	63,630	14,085	3,695	17,780
10 – 14	60,875	15,235	4,245	19,485

Languages spoken most often at home (2021)

<i>Age</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Non-official</i>	<i>Multiple</i>
0 – 4	65,260	1,000	10,955	3,170
5 – 9	72,325	1,105	8,945	3,845
10 – 14	73,495	1,005	7,810	3,835
Total	211,075	3,105	27,705	10,855

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

<i>Two-parent families</i>	<i>Male lone parent</i>	<i>Female lone parent</i>
\$90,000	\$46,000	\$42,000

KINDERGARTEN POLICY, PROGRAMS, AND DATA

KINDERGARTEN FOR FIVE-YEAR-OLDS

Provincial responsibility

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning
Student Achievement and Inclusion Division
Phone: 204-945-0435
Email: SAI-ADM@gov.mb.ca
Website: edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/index.html

For French and French Immersion school programs:

Bureau de l'éducation française
Phone: 204-945-6916
Email: BEF@gov.mb.ca
Website: edu.gov.mb.ca/m12/index.html

Legislation

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. *Education Administration Act*. 1987- C.C.S.M, C-E10.
Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. *Public Schools Act*. 1987, C.C.S.M, C-P250.

Provision

Kindergarten provision

Definition Part-day program for all five-year-olds.

Eligibility Five years old by December 31.

Compulsory schooling Not compulsory.

Entitlement No entitlement, but all school boards offer it, and almost all children attend.

Instructional hours per day Minimum of 2.5 hours. Full-day is offered in some school divisions that fund it.

Class size Maximum 23 children.

Teacher qualifications and certification

The academic requirement for a permanent professional teaching certificate is a Bachelor of Education from a Manitoba or otherwise approved university or equivalent.

Kindergarten teachers do not have specific early childhood qualification requirements.

KINDERGARTEN FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS (NURSERY)

The provincial government does not provide kindergarten for four-year-olds. However, some school divisions fund and offer part-day programs for four-year-olds (termed nursery). These programs are different from nursery schools licensed under child care legislation. The province has no responsibility or guidance for nursery programs delivered by school divisions.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

The [kindergarten curriculum](#) is a mandatory curriculum framework for kindergarten in all public schools and publicly funded independent schools in Manitoba.

A Time for Learning, A Time for Joy: A Resource for Kindergarten Teachers (2015) is a voluntary but recommended pedagogical guide to play-based learning based on Manitoba's kindergarten curriculum.

■ ENROLMENT

Kindergarten enrolment (2024 – 2025 school year)

Enrolment in public schools

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds	12,982
Kindergarten for 4-year-olds (nursery)	1,462

Enrolment in funded and non-funded private/independent schools

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds	1,350
Kindergarten for 4-year-olds (nursery)	434

Enrolment in school division-administered First Nations schools

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds	297
Kindergarten for 4-year-olds (nursery)	237

Total kindergarten enrolment for 5-year-olds	14,535
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Total kindergarten enrolment for 4-year-olds (nursery)	2,133
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■ OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Centres de ressources éducatives à l'enfance

Centres de ressources éducatives à l'enfance are staffed French language family resource centres for children to attend with their families, featuring educational resources and programs in French. These centres are open to members of the *Fédération des parents de la francophonie manitobaine*; the public may purchase a membership for \$25 annually.

■ RECENT OR ANTICIPATED DEVELOPMENTS

Prématernelle

Prématernelle is a full school-day pilot project program for four-year-olds to promote the acquisition of French language skills. The full school-day (5.5 hours) program is offered in five *Division scolaire franco-manitobaine* schools and has a maximum class size of 23 children.

CHILD CARE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

■ ADMINISTRATION

Provincial responsibility

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning
Early Learning and Child Care Division

Phone: 204-945-0776

Email: cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca

Website: gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/

In January 2022, responsibility for early learning and child care (ELCC) in Manitoba moved from the Department of Families to the Department of Education, which was then renamed Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning.

Legislation

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. [The Community Child Care Standards Act](#). CCSM c. C158.

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. [Child Care Regulation](#). MR 62/86.

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. [Child Care Worker Retirement Benefits Regulation](#). MR 20/2011.

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. [The Early Learning and Child Care Act](#). SM 2021, c. 41.

(not yet in force)

The Early Learning and Child Care Act received royal assent in June 2021 and will replace *The Community Child Care Standards Act*. The new act will come into force upon proclamation at the same time as new ELCC regulations are finalized.

Service descriptions

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

There are no health, safety, or training requirements or provision for public oversight in unregulated child care. There may be attention by public officials on a complaint basis. See the [Child Care Regulation](#) for more information.

An unlicensed provider can care for a maximum of four children under the age of 12, including no more than two children under the age of two. These numbers include the caregiver's own children.

Child care on school premises for children in kindergarten to Grade 6 and nursery school programs during school hours provided by schools or other organizations under contract with a school are not required to be licensed.

Nursery schools operated as early intervention programs by school boards are not required to be licensed. These programs are different from nursery schools licensed as part-day child care centres (see below).

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Child care centre

Full-day child care centres provide child care for more than four continuous hours per day for three or more days per week to more than three infants, four preschool-age children, or four children who are enrolled in school from kindergarten to Grade 6.

Nursery school

Nursery schools are part-day centres that provide child care for up to four continuous hours per day or, when more than four continuous hours per day, for less than three days per week to more than three infants or four preschool-age children. These licensed nursery schools under child care aegis are different from school board-provided "nurseries," which are not required to be licensed, but may choose to be.

School-age child care

School-age centres provide child care to more than four children ages 6 – 12 years before- and after-school or full-day when school is not in session.

Family child care

A family child care home is located in the home of a licensed provider who cares for up to eight children 12 years of age or less, including the provider's own children.

Group child care homes

A group child care home is in a licensed private home in which two or more caregivers care for 8 – 12 children aged 12 or younger. The care must be provided in the home of a licensee. The resident provider's own children must be included in the maximum number of children.

■ CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[*Early Returns: Manitoba's Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework for Preschool Centres and Nursery Schools*](#) (2011) and its companion document, [*Early Returns: Manitoba's Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework for Infant Programs*](#) (2013), are voluntary curriculum frameworks in Manitoba. The frameworks outline what to include in regulation-required curriculum statements for each type of program. They focus on children 2 – 6 years and 12 weeks – 2 years, respectively.

■ CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Terminology and approach

Manitoba uses the terms “children with additional support needs” and “children with exceptional additional support needs” to encompass children with disabilities.

All licensed facility types are eligible to receive inclusion services.

The province provides inclusion funding specific to the individual child.

Programs supporting inclusion in ELCC

The [Child Care Inclusion Support Program](#) assists licensed, non-profit child care centres, nursery schools, and licensed family and group child care homes to reduce or remove barriers to allow a child with additional or exceptional additional support needs to participate in daily programming activities. Funded services are determined through eligibility, assessed need, and available program resources.

Child Development Services, delivered by department staff, provide short-term interventions, programming recommendations, behavioural strategies, and resources and training for facility staff to ensure inclusive practices for all children in ELCC environments. Child Development Services focus on the environment, programming, and staff-child interactions. Child Development Services are intended to build staff capacity and adapt the environment and programming to better meet the needs of all children.

If eligible facilities do not have the capacity to effectively support a child's inclusion in programming and activities, they may receive funds to support a service response for an identified need, such as:

- Training for regular staff;
- Behavioural interventions;
- Equipment/modifications;
- Modification to the premises to support mobility needs; and
- Guaranteed space payments or enhanced staffing ratios to support inclusion.

The [Guaranteed Space Payment](#) pays an eligible family or group child care home provider to keep an open, subsidized space within the total number of licensed spaces in order to accommodate a child with additional support needs. While receiving the Guaranteed Space Payment, the provider must ensure that one space remains unused.

In Manitoba, there is no child care service solely or primarily for children with disabilities.

Access to inclusive ELCC

All non-profit licensed child care centres and family child care homes are required to accept children with disabilities.

A diagnosis by a qualified professional is not required to receive inclusion support.

Newly constructed or renovated facilities are required to meet the [Manitoba Building Code](#) and the accessibility standards in the [National Building Code](#).

In Manitoba, there is no wait or delay for inclusion support services, but time may be required to review the application and implement the services.

Child care programs providing inclusive child care must have a written inclusion policy, provide inclusive programming, and ensure individual program plans are in place.

■ FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT CHILD CARE

In Manitoba, 18% of the total population identified as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit in the most recent census (2021). There are 63 First Nations and 376 reserves in Manitoba. Approximately half of First Nations people in the province live on reserve.

First Nations child care on reserve

Child care on reserves in Manitoba is regulated by the First Nations governing bodies and is not required to be provincially licensed. However, any child care centre in a First Nations community that wants to be licensed by the province may apply to become licensed. Manitoba provides ELCC consultation and guidance to First Nations communities at their request.

If the facility is licensed as a non-profit and meets all regulated licensing requirements, it is eligible to receive the same types of provincial grant funding available to all other licensed facilities in the province.

In 2025, there was one licensed centre on reserve, with 35 full-day spaces. Ka-Ka-Kwe-Ke-Je-Ong Daycare, located on Ebb and Flow First Nation, is a non-profit organization. There was no licensed family child care on reserve.

The number of unregulated child care centres on reserve is not available.

Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR) programs may be licensed at their request. In 2025, 42 unlicensed AHSOR programs operated on reserves.

Indigenous child care other than on reserve

Licensed child care facilities in Manitoba may self-declare as Indigenous programs. In 2024, 44 facilities – 25 centres, 11 homes, and eight part-day nursery schools – self-declared as having First Nations, Inuit, or Métis components/programming.

Licensed spaces in self-declared Indigenous programs not on reserve (2024)

<i>Program type</i>	<i>Number of spaces</i>
Full-day (infant)	251
Full-day (preschool-age)	748
Part-day (nursery school)	194
Before- and after-school (school-age)	284
Total licensed spaces	1,477

In 2025, Manitoba had three licensed Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) programs providing 66 spaces, along with 18 unlicensed AHSUNC programs.

Indigenous-specific resources/initiatives

Nine Manitoba post-secondary early childhood educator (ECE) diploma programs include a three-credit (40-hour) course based on Indigenous history and worldviews. Every program is expected to have Indigenous ways of being, knowing, and doing woven throughout their curriculum. For example, the University College of the North has integrated Indigenous-based learning outcomes into every course offered in their ECE diploma program.

The Child Care Qualifications and Training Committee, which provides recommendations to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning regarding ECE pre-service and certifications, has revised the competencies required for an ECE II classification in Manitoba. All ECE diploma programs must weave Indigenous ways of being, knowing, and doing into their curriculum for their graduates to receive the ECE II classification.

Louis Riel Vocational College offers Indigenous-focused ECE diploma programs. Many of Manitoba's post-secondary institutions work in collaboration with Indigenous governments, communities, or organizations to provide training cohorts in or for the community.

The Early Learning and Child Care Division has developed a partnership with the Manitoba First Nations Education and Resource Centre (MFNERC), including enhancing early childhood education in the North and in First Nations communities. MFNERC offers support and resources to licensed and unlicensed child care across the province.

Under Manitoba's Action Plan in the Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (Multilateral Framework), Manitoba increased funding for the Indigenous Programming Grant by 600%, increasing the total funding allocation from \$50,000 in previous years to \$300,000 in 2021 – 2022.

In 2015, the *Community Child Care Standards Act* was amended, directing the Minister to establish a First Nations, Inuit, and Métis ELCC policy framework to support positive outcomes for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children within three years of the amendment coming into force.

■ PARENT FEES

Manitoba has had set parent fees in licensed funded centres and homes since the 1970s. Historically, the set fees varied by age of the child and hours of care. Manitoba began operationally funding child care in 2000, with non-profit centres and family child care eligible for operating funding.

On April 2, 2023, Manitoba introduced a set fee of \$10/day for children 0 – 6 years in full-day care in funded centres and homes.

Beginning December 8, 2024, the province reduced parent fees for school-age child care on non-school days, including in-service days and school holidays, to \$10/day.

Until 2025, family child care providers classified as ECE II or III could charge higher maximum daily fees, equal to child care centres' fees. In 2025, parent fees for all funded licensed full-day child care were set at \$10/day.

Provincially set fees in funded centres and family child care homes (2022, 2024)

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Hours of care/day</i>	<i>Centres and homes where licensee is ECE II or III (2022)</i>	<i>Homes where licensee is not ECE II or III (2022)</i>	<i>Centres and homes (2024)</i>
<i>Infant and preschool-age</i>	<4 hours	\$15.00	\$11.10	\$5.00
	4 – 10 hours	\$30.00	\$22.20	\$10.00
	>10 hours	\$45.00	\$33.30	\$15.00
<i>School-age (in-service days and school holidays)</i>	<4 hours	\$10.40	\$9.10	\$5.00
	4 – 10 hours	\$20.80	\$18.20	\$10.00
	>10 hours	\$31.20	\$27.30	\$15.00
<i>School-age (regular school days)</i>	1 period	\$6.15	\$6.15	\$6.15
	2 periods	\$8.60	\$8.60	\$8.60
	3 periods	\$10.30	\$10.30	\$10.00

Unfunded non-profit centres, unfunded regulated family child care, and for-profit centres (unfunded) may set their own fees.

Licensed child care facilities that receive provincial operating grant funding for any of their licensed spaces are known as funded facilities (centres and home child care). Some non-profit facilities choose not to receive provincial funding and may set their own fees. Funded facilities that have expanded spaces may have mainly funded spaces but may be temporarily waiting for funding approval of new/expanded spaces.

Manitoba does not report on average fees in unfunded centres.

Additional fees

Operators are not permitted to charge waitlist fees. They may charge optional fees for food, transportation, and field trips. However, families must have the option to supply their own food and transportation, and child care must be provided for families who choose to opt out of a field trip.

Facilities licensed and operationally funded to provide extended hours are not permitted to charge more than the maximum daily fees.

Parent fee subsidies

The [Child Care Subsidy Program](#) provides provincial support to eligible families to help with the cost of child care by paying all or part of parent fees. There is no waitlist for fee subsidies. All eligible families are entitled to receive a subsidy.

Regulated non-profit and for-profit centres, family child care homes, and group child care homes are eligible to provide child care for subsidized children. For-profit centres may accept fee subsidies, but they do not receive provincial operating funding.

The provincial government sets maximum parent fees for all children in funded child care facilities and for those receiving a fee subsidy in a for-profit centre.

Non-profit centres receiving provincial operating grants are required to accept children whose

parents/guardians receive a fee subsidy and cannot charge those subsidized families more than the maximum fees.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Two requirements must be met to qualify for the Child Care Subsidy Program: family net income must fall within a range to qualify for a partial or full subsidy, and there must be a reason for care.

Reasons an applicant requires care include:

- Being employed;
- Seeking employment;
- Attending school or an approved training program;

- Having a medical need and undergoing treatment;
- Having a child with a medical or special support need; or
- Enrolling your child in a nursery school.

See the [Child Care Subsidy Program Overview for Applicants](#) for more information.

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

Approval for the Child Care Subsidy Program depends on several factors, including income, family composition, type of care required, reason for care, and deductions.

Examples of financial eligibility for fee subsidy (2024)

	<i>Maximum income for full subsidy</i>	<i>Income at which partial subsidy ends</i>
<i>For families living south of the 53rd parallel in Manitoba</i>		
One parent, one preschool-age child	\$23,883	\$37,542
Two parents, two preschool-age children	\$32,705	\$60,023
<i>For families living north of the 53rd parallel in Manitoba</i>		
One parent, one preschool-age child	\$27,023	-
Two parents, two preschool-age children	\$38,277	-

Note: These figures are examples provided in the [Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning Annual Report 2023 - 2024](#) based on two different family compositions; they do not capture all scenarios.

Parents who qualify for a full subsidy are required to pay a non-subsidized daily fee of \$1/child for less than 4 hours/day, \$2/child for 4 – 10 hours/day, and \$3/child for more than 10 hours/day.

SUBSIDY RATES

Unfunded centres and homes may not charge a subsidized family more than the maximum daily fees outlined in the [Child Care Regulation](#) (M.R. 62/86).

The [Subsidy Eligibility Estimator](#) is available to estimate the subsidy amount based on income.

WORKFORCE

Child care centre staff wages

PROVINCIAL WAGE DATA

Individual child care operators set the wages for their ECEs and child care workers.

Average hourly rate of pay by position (2023 – 2025)

<i>Position</i>	<i>2023 – 2024</i>	<i>2024 – 2025</i>
Child care assistant (CCA)	\$17.59	\$18.16
ECE II	\$24.71	\$25.71
ECE III	\$32.52	\$34.34

PROVINCIAL WAGE GRID FOR CENTRES AND FAMILY CHILD CARE AGENCY STAFF

Manitoba committed to an hourly wage grid in its Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement.

In 2022, the province introduced a wage floor with minimum starting points and target wages based on job position and classification to “provide guidance to the non-profit early learning and child care sector in developing equitable and competitive salary scales.” Its use is optional for centres.

Early learning and child care wage floor and target wage (2024 – 2025)

<i>Position/classification</i>	<i>Hourly wage</i>	
	<i>Starting point</i>	<i>Target wage</i>
Director ECE III		
151 – 200 spaces	\$36.81	\$37.85
51 – 150 spaces	\$33.06	\$33.43
50 or fewer spaces	\$29.75	\$30.03
Director ECE II		
151 – 200 spaces	\$34.57	\$34.57
51 – 150 spaces	\$31.01	\$31.42
50 or fewer spaces	\$27.90	\$28.15
Assistant director		
ECE III	\$29.66	\$30.05
ECE II	\$26.76	\$27.02

<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>Starting point</i>	<i>Target wage</i>
ECE III	\$28.17	\$28.43
ECE II	\$25.43	\$25.69
Frontline staff		
ECE III	\$24.31	\$24.42
ECE II (2 or more years of experience)	\$22.79	\$22.90
ECE Entry Level	\$21.30	\$21.47
CCA (with 40-hour course)	\$17.51	\$17.64

Note: Effective July 1, 2024.

Early learning and child care target wage (2025 – 2026)

<i>Position/classification</i>	<i>Target hourly wage</i>
Director ECE III	
151 – 200 spaces	\$39.41
51 – 150 spaces	\$36.91
50 or fewer spaces	\$34.66
Director ECE II	
151 – 200 spaces	\$37.56
51 – 150 spaces	\$35.06
50 or fewer spaces	\$32.81
Assistant director	
ECE III	\$32.66
ECE II	\$30.81
Supervisor	
ECE III	\$30.97
ECE II	\$29.06
Frontline staff	
ECE III	\$29.41
ECE II	\$27.56
CCA in ECE II Training	\$22.37
CCA (with 40-hour course)	\$19.40

Note: Effective April 1, 2025.

Staff benefits

Since December 2010, Manitoba has provided funding for registered pension plans for centre-based staff and matched registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) contributions for funded family child care providers. Child care centres and nursery schools as employers are reimbursed for their contributions to employee pension plans and retirement supports, which are regulated under the [Child Care Worker Retirement Benefits Regulation](#).

See [Registered Pension Plans and Retirement Supports for Manitoba's Early Learning and Child Care Workforce](#) for more information.

Early childhood certification

Manitoba uses a provincial classification system for the child care workforce, based on education in early childhood. All staff in centre-based licensed child care must be classified by the provincial government at one of three certification levels: child care assistant (CCA), early childhood educator II (ECE II), or early childhood educator III (ECE III). The requirements for the three levels are as follows:

Child care assistant (CCA)

- 40 hours of approved early childhood training within the first year of employment.

Early childhood educator II

- Two-year ECE diploma program; or
- Completion of ECE II assessment program offered by the provincial government.

Early childhood educator III

- Completion of one of the following programs recognized by the Child Care Qualifications and Training Committee:
 - › Advanced Diploma in Leadership in Early Childhood Care and Education, offered by Professional, Applied and Continuing Education at the University of Winnipeg;

- › Early Childhood Management Certificate, offered by Assiniboine Community College;
- › Early Learning and Child Care Certificate in Administration, offered by University College of the North;
- › Bachelor of Arts from the University of Winnipeg, major in Developmental Studies: Stream C – Child Development and Child Care.
- › Post-diplôme en gestion dans le domaine de l'éducation de la jeune enfance from Université de Saint-Boniface

There are no requirements for renewal or ongoing professional learning.

Number of centre staff by classification (2024 – 2025)

Number of CCAs	5,760
Number of ECE IIs (diploma required for classification)	2,604
Number of ECE IIIs (post-diploma education required for classification)	999

See [Information on the Classification of Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Assistants](#) for further details.

ECE II ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Manitoba offers the [ECE II Assessment Program](#) (including Competency Based Assessment and Prior Learning Assessment programs), which allows eligible child care staff working in licensed centres to demonstrate their skills, knowledge, and judgment according to required standards. Successful completion results in an ECE II classification level.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTRE STAFF

All centre staff were required to complete the Commit to Kids Child Sexual Abuse Prevention program offered by the Canadian Centre for Child

Protection by March 31, 2025. They are required to complete the program every four years thereafter.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Individually licensed family child care providers are required to take a 40-hour course within their first year of operation.

Providers were required to complete the Commit to Kids Child Sexual Abuse Prevention program offered by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection by March 31, 2025. They are required to complete the program every four years thereafter.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Child care centres and family child care homes must adhere to standards and regulations regarding staffing requirements, grouping of children, and licensing. Some additional key

elements of child care standards and regulations, such as physical environments and food provision, are covered in the comparative tables in this publication, while others may be found in [The Community Child Care Standards Act](#) and [Child Care Regulation](#).

Regulated child care centres

Child care centres are licensed under [The Community Child Care Standards Act](#) and [Child Care Regulation](#). The Act and regulations were most recently amended in 2024.

[The Early Learning and Child Care Act](#) will replace [The Community Child Care Standards Act](#), coming into force upon proclamation at the same time as new ELCC regulations are finalized.

STAFF:CHILD RATIO AND GROUP SIZE

The maximum centre size in Manitoba is not specified. A maximum of two groups of children are permitted in one room.

Staff:child ratio and maximum group size

<i>Program type</i>	<i>Age group</i>	<i>Staff:child ratio</i>	<i>Maximum group size</i>
Full-time centre	12 weeks – 1 year	1:3	6
	1 – 2 years	1:4	8
	2 – 3 years	1:6	12
	3 – 4 years	1:6	16
	4 – 5 years	1:9	18
	5 – 6 years	1:10	20
	6 – 12 years	1:15	30
	12 weeks – 2 years (mixed age group)	1:4	8
	2 – 6 years (mixed age group)	1:8	16
Nursery school	12 weeks – 2 years	1:4	8
	2 – 6 years	1:10	20
School-age	6 – 12 years	1:15	30

Note: Ratio of 1:10 for children aged 5 – 6 years includes kindergarten-age children.

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTRES

Qualification requirements for staffing a centre

In Manitoba, staff qualification requirements are specified at both centre and group levels.

In a full-time centre, two thirds of the staff included in staff-to-child ratios must meet the requirements of an ECE II or ECE III classification. Additionally, at least one staff person per group of children in a full-time centre must meet the requirements of an ECE II or III classification.

In a nursery school (part-time centre) operating four or more part-days per week, one half of the staff included in staff-to-child ratios must be classified as an ECE II or ECE III. At least one staff person per group of children must meet the requirements of an ECE II or III classification. In a nursery school operating three or fewer part-days per week, at least one person for every 30 licensed spaces must have at least ECE II certification.

In a school-age centre, one half of the staff included in staff:child ratios must meet the requirements of an ECE II or III classification. At least one staff person per group of children must meet the requirements of an ECE II or III classification.

Qualification requirements for on-site centre directors/supervisors

A full-time centre must have a designated director to be responsible for daily operation. The director of a full-time child care centre must have an ECE III classification and at least one year of experience working with children in child care or a related setting.

The director of a nursery school operating more than three part-days per week or of a school-age child care centre must have an ECE II classification and one year experience working with children in child care or in a related setting, or meet the requirements of an ECE III.

Other requirements

All staff must be at least 18 years old before they can be left alone with a child or group of children. The licence holder must ensure that no volunteer is left alone with a child, unless the person is a nursery school volunteer, and aged 18 or older.

All staff, prior to being employed or within a period of time approved by the provincial director, must complete a first aid course that includes CPR.

All staff and volunteers are required to have a criminal record check, child abuse registry check, and criminal disclosure statement.

LICENSING AND MONITORING OF REGULATED CHILD CARE CENTRES

A regular child care centre licence may be issued for up to one year and renewed for up to three years. Relicensing inspection and monitoring visits are required annually.

Regulated family child care

In Manitoba, family child care (termed family child care home) is regulated under [The Community Child Care Standards Act](#) and [Child Care Regulation](#).

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

MODEL OF ORGANIZATION

In Manitoba, family child care homes, including group child care homes, are individually licensed.

MAXIMUM CAPACITY

Up to eight children, including the provider's own children, may be cared for in a licensed family child care home. No more than five children can be less than six years old, of whom no more than three can be less than two years old.

Group child care homes provide care for nine to 12 children under the age of 12. No more than three of the children may be less than two years of age. The

licence may be held by one licensee if one or more assistants are employed, or by two to four licensees if no assistants are employed. The care must be provided in the home of a licensee, whose own children are included in the maximum capacity.

FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

A family child care provider is required to be classified at a minimum as a CCA within their first year of operation. Family child care providers must also be at least 18 years of age and have a first aid certificate that includes CPR training.

The provider and anyone who is over 11 years of age residing in the home must complete a child abuse registry check and a check for prior contact with a Child and Family Services Agency. Adults must also have background checks, including a criminal record check with a vulnerable sector search.

LICENSING AND MONITORING OF REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

A regular licence may be issued for up to one year and renewed for up to three years.

When licensing a family child care home, provincial child care coordinators conduct several visits to the home and complete an initial licensing checklist. Up to three unannounced inspections per year and one relicensing inspection per year are conducted.

■ OF INTEREST

Municipal role

Municipalities have not had a mandated role in Manitoba child care. Historically, they have had little or no involvement in planning for, funding, or delivering child care, with a few exceptions. However, the Ready-to-Move initiative, which supports centre expansion in small rural and remote communities, includes local municipalities and a non-profit (cooperative) Municipal Participation Corporation, JQ Built. See [Child Care Expansion in Manitoba: Spotlight on the Ready-to-Move Initiative](#) for further information.

CHILD CARE DATA

■ REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS

Number of spaces (2024, 2025)

	2024	2025
Full-day centre spaces		
Infant (<2 years)	3,452	3,700
Preschool-age (2 – 5 years)	19,413	20,391
Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)	22,865	24,091
Part-day centre spaces	2024	2025
Nursery schools (2 – 5 years)	2,734	2,815
Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)	25,599	26,906
Before- and after-school care centre spaces (licensed or regulated)	2024	2025
Children in Grade 1 – <13 years	13,221	13,639
Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years)	38,820	40,545
Family child care licensed capacity	2024	2025
<i>Family child care</i>		
Full-day (children 0 – <6 years not yet in school)	1,723	1,723
Part-day (children 6 – <13 years attending school)	933	939
<i>Group child care homes (more than one provider)</i>		
Full-day (children 0 – <6 years not yet in school)	380	431
Part-day (children 6 – <13 years attending school)	14	11
Total family child care spaces	3,050	3,104
TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity)	41,870	43,649

Number of child care centres and family child care homes (2024)

Centre-based child care

Total number of centres	759
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Centre-based programs

Centres providing a full-day program	539
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Note: This figure is not comparable to previous versions of ECEC in Canada. Manitoba previously included programs licensed to provide full-day care for school-age children only (for example, during summer holidays) in this category. It now includes only full-day programs for children 0 – 5 years.

Centres providing a part-day (nursery school) program	100
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Note: This is the number of licensed nursery schools. Manitoba does not make a distinction between, or report on, full-day centres that may also offer a part-day nursery school program.

Centres providing a before- and after-school program for children attending school (Grade 1 – 12 years)	364
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Centres providing infant care (<2 years)	340
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Centres providing preschool-age care (2 – 5 years)	669
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Note: This number represents the total number of licensed centres and nursery schools with nursery school spaces.

Centres providing a Francophone child care program	47
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Centres providing non-standard hours care (as defined by the province)	23
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Centres in publicly delivered and funded schools (K – Grade 12)	340
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Regulated family child care

Number of individually licensed family child care homes (active)	365
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Number of group child care homes (active)	35
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Total number of family child care homes	400
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Participation in CWELCC

Centres providing a full-day program	539
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Centres providing a part-day (nursery school) program	93
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Centres providing a before- and after-school program for children attending school (Grade 1 – 12 years)	355
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Total number of child care centres receiving CWELCC funding	632
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Individually licensed family child care homes	297
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Group child care homes	28
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Total number of regulated child care homes receiving CWELCC funding	325
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Auspice (2024)

Centres by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Number of centres</i>
For-profit	41
Non-profit	718

Centre spaces by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Full-day¹</i>	<i>Part-day²</i>	<i>BASC³</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	1,657	136	230	2,023
Non-profit	21,208	2,598	12,991	36,797

¹ Including kindergarten-age.

² Nursery school.

³ Before- and after-school care (Grade 1 – 12 years).

Auspice (2025)

Centre spaces by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Full-day¹</i>	<i>Part-day²</i>	<i>BASC³</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	1,934	152	331	2,417
Non-profit	22,157	2,663	13,308	38,128

¹ Including kindergarten-age.

² Nursery school.

³ Before- and after-school care (Grade 1 – 12 years).

Publicly operated child care (2024)

There are no publicly operated child care programs in Manitoba.

Fee subsidies (2024)

Number of children receiving fee subsidies

Child Care Subsidy Program	6,343
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Note: This figure represents the average number of children receiving subsidized child care per four-week period.



Disability support (2024)

Number of children receiving disability support

Children in licensed child care receiving disability support funding

1,262

Note: This figure represents only those children served under the Inclusion Support Program.

■ REGULATED CHILD CARE ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Manitoba does not currently report on enrolment.

CHILD CARE FUNDING

The types of funding available for child care services in Manitoba include operational funding, one-time funding, fee subsidies, and other ELCC funding programs. See [Grant Funding](#) for more information.

■ ELIGIBILITY FOR CWELCC FUNDING

The CWELCC plan provides federal funds to provinces and territories for early learning and child care operational and one-time funding and fee subsidies for licensed child care for children aged 0 – 5. Funded new child care expansion is to be public and non-profit unless otherwise specified in the jurisdiction’s agreement. Provinces and territories contribute their own funds and design their own policies and provision within this framework.

In Manitoba, the following are eligible for operational funding under CWELCC:

- Licensed full-day centres;
- Licensed part-day centres (preschools/nursery schools);
- Licensed before- and after-school centres that enrol children under age six; and
- Licensed/approved family child care.

New or expanded for-profit centres are not eligible for operational funding.

In Manitoba, the following are eligible for capital funding under CWELCC:

- Licensed full-day centres.

New or expanded for-profit centres are not eligible for capital funding.

■ CHILD CARE SERVICES’ ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

Licensed non-profit child care centres, nursery schools, family child care, and group child care homes are eligible for all forms of funding.

For-profit child care centres in operation prior to April 18, 1991, are eligible to continue receiving a guaranteed daily fee payment.

■ TYPES OF FUNDING

Operational funding

ANNUAL OPERATING GRANTS

Non-profit centres, nursery schools, family child care homes, and group child care homes can receive annual operating grants.

Manitoba’s set fees are based on a system of annual operating grants as the main funding source for regulated child care. To be eligible for annual operating grants, a facility must:

- Be provincially licensed;
- Be non-profit;
- Be open and provide child care services to families;
- Accept subsidized families;
- Enrol children with additional needs if requested; and
- Meet financial reporting requirements as outlined by the Early Learning and Child Care Program.

Annual Operating Grant for funded non-profit centres

Manitoba uses a unit funding model for the annual operating grants to fund non-profit child care

centres. The unit funding model is based on the regulated staff:child ratios for different age groups; a “unit” is four infant, eight preschool-age, or 15 school-age spaces. A unit of infant, preschool-age, or school-age spaces generates a similar amount of revenue from the Base Operating Grant, Wage Grid Supplement, Reduced Parent Fee Revenue Grant, and parent fees.

The maximum annual grants depend on the care type and the number of licensed spaces that are funded, as well as the specific months and days of service provided. Grants are distributed in four installments each year.

Maximum annual operating grant rates in full-time centres per space by age group (effective July 1, 2024)

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Annual amount per approved funded space</i>
Infant	\$16,610
Preschool-age	\$6,667
School-age	\$2,940

See [Funding Policies and Procedures: Centres](#) for more information.

Nursery School Annual Operating Grant

Beginning July 1, 2021, all funded nursery school spaces generated revenue based upon a common funding model for both the operating grants and maximum regulated parent fees. The grants are based on the number of funded spaces, the number of sessions offered per week, and the number of operating months. A base grant rate of \$1,045 per nursery school space that operates for one to five sessions per week for 12 months of the year was established. For nursery school spaces that operate for six to ten sessions per week, a pro-rated amount of \$209 per space was provided for each additional session offered per week.

In 2023, the maximum Nursery School Annual Operating Grant was \$1,778 per space for one to five sessions each week, with an additional \$356 per space for every additional session, up to a maximum of 10 sessions per week.

As of July 1, 2024, Manitoba introduced a standardized annual grant rate of \$1,966 per space for nursery schools operating one to five sessions per week, with an additional \$393 per space for each additional six to ten sessions per week. Funding is disbursed quarterly, reflecting the number of licensed spaces, sessions, utilization rates, and operational months.

Maximum annual operating grant¹ for nursery schools per space (2021 – 2024)

	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>
1 – 5 session(s)/week	\$1,045	\$1,495	\$1,778	\$1,966

¹Up to July 2022, this may be termed “regular grant” to distinguish from the former enhanced nursery school grant.

Family/Group Child Care Home Annual Operating Grant

The Family/Group Child Care Home Annual Operating Grant is provided based on the type of care offered, the number of licensed group child care home spaces, utilization of those spaces, and the actual months and days of service. To qualify, child care homes must be licensed in Manitoba, comply with the reporting and accounting requirements set by Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, and enrol families who are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program and Inclusion Support Program. Additionally, participating providers must charge uniform fees that do not exceed the regulated maximum parent fees.

Maximum annual operating grants rate for family/group child care homes per space by age and type of child care (effective July 1, 2024)

Age group	Annual operating grant per space
Infant	\$4,802
Preschool-age	\$3,754
School-age	\$1,915

See [Funding Policies and Procedures: Family/Group Child Care Homes](#) for more information.

GRANTS FOR EXTENDED OPERATING HOURS

Licensed facilities that regularly provide child care exceeding the normal operating hours of a child care facility (operating evenings or weekends) may receive increased operating funding equal to one-and-a-half times the number of spaces licensed for the extended operating hours.

INCLUSION SUPPORT GRANTS

The Child Care Inclusion Support Program funds child care centres, nursery schools, family

child care, and group child care homes to reduce or eliminate barriers to allow a child with additional support needs to fully participate in an ELCC program. See Manitoba's "[Children with disabilities](#)" section for more information.

GUARANTEED DAILY FEE PAYMENT TO FOR-PROFIT CENTRES

For-profit centres licensed before April 18, 1991, are eligible for the amounts in the table below. For-profit centres licensed after April 18, 1991, are not eligible for this operating funding.

Daily funding amounts per space for for-profit centres licensed before April 18, 1991

Age group	Hours of care per day	Daily amount per space
Infant	<4 hours	\$3.40
	4 – 12 hours	\$6.80
	>12 hours	\$10.20
Preschool-age	<4 hours	\$2.30
	4 – 12 hours	\$4.60
	>12 hours	\$6.90
School-age (in service and school holidays)	<4 hours	\$1.50
	4 – 12 hours	\$3.00
	>12 hours	\$4.50
School-age (regular school days)	1 period/2 or more periods	\$1.50/\$3.00

PENSION REIMBURSEMENT

The Pension Reimbursement program offers financial support to eligible child care centres for employer contributions to pension plans. To qualify for reimbursement, child care centres must have a pension plan that meets ELCC program requirements and must have made employer contributions at a minimum rate of 4% of employee gross salary. Reimbursement covers actual

employer contributions and is issued quarterly from April 1 to March 31. Centres can apply for reimbursement after each quarter by submitting documentation of contributions.

WAGE GRID OPERATING SUPPLEMENT

In July 2022, the Wage Grid Operating Supplement was introduced to improve wages for the child care workforce. Eligible not-for-profit child care centres, nursery schools, and funded family child care and group child care homes receive funding to support wage increases, with the goal of reaching at least the starting wages and ideally the target wages set by the wage grid. The supplement provides equitable compensation for staff, including those in school-age programs.

In July 2023, Manitoba increased funding to support higher wages, and further enhancements were made in July 2024, including a 2.75% increase to the Wage Grid Supplement and a 5% increase to base operating grants.

REVENUE SUPPLEMENT TO LOWER PARENT FEES

To maintain average parent fees at \$10/day or less, Manitoba introduced new regulated maximum fees for funded child care as of April 2, 2023. To offset these reductions, funded child care centres received a Reduced Parent Fee Revenue Grant, which covers the difference between the old and new fee limits. This grant ensures that facilities maintain their prior revenue levels despite the fee changes.

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OF MANITOBA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB

The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) Early Childhood Development Hub receives government funding to provide licensed child care, respite care, and parenting support for refugee and newcomer families.

One-time funding

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE BUILDING FUND

Under Manitoba's Early Learning and Child Care Building Fund, eligible organizations may be approved for a grant to offset the costs of constructing new community-based licensed non-profit child care centres or expanding the number of spaces in existing centres. Eligible projects must focus on the development or expansion of child care centres; funding is not available for relocating existing spaces.

In 2021, the fund provided reimbursement of up to 40% of paid eligible capital expenses, up to a maximum of \$600,000 per capital project, for approved community-based child care centres.

As of June 2024, the fund provides up to 60% of total eligible construction costs for new infant and preschool spaces, with no set maximum. For new school-age spaces, the funding is capped at \$1.2 million.

Between 2021 and February 2025, 16 projects, with over \$11 million in capital funding support, were completed under this stream, adding over 700 licensed child care spaces. Over \$4.7 million has been committed to three additional projects that are currently underway, which will add over 130 new spaces.

MUNICIPALITIES AND INDIGENOUS GOVERNING BODIES READY-TO-MOVE CHILD CARE INITIATIVE

The Municipalities and Indigenous Governing Bodies Ready-to-Move Child Care Initiative provided capital grants to establish new non-profit child care centres in partnership with municipalities and Indigenous governing bodies. This initiative leveraged modular building technologies under expedited timelines in areas with a demonstrated

need for child care to create licensed spaces for infants and preschool-age children.

As of February 2025, Manitoba had invested nearly \$120 million to develop new child care centres across 25 rural and First Nations communities. A total of 20 facilities were open as of February 2025, adding over 1,450 new spaces. The remaining five facilities are expected to open between 2025 and 2027 and will add 400 new child care spaces.

CHILD CARE RENOVATION EXPANSION GRANT

Manitoba provides up to \$2 million in capital funding to eligible applicants to increase the number of spaces for children under age seven in non-profit child care centres, with the goal of increasing their licensed capacity. From 2021 to 2025, more than \$18 million in grants was allocated to 27 licensed non-profit centres for renovations, resulting in nearly 550 new child care spaces. As of July 2025, 14 of the 27 projects were complete and open, adding over 175 spaces for infants and preschool-age children. The 13 other projects underway will add over 375 child care spaces to Manitoba's system. Approved project constructions are to be completed by 2026.

HEALTH AND CHILD CARE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Health and Child Care Infrastructure Project provides capital funding to health authorities and non-profit child care operators to create new child care centres in healthcare facilities across the province. Manitoba has committed \$20.9 million to create over 300 new child care spaces for children under the age of seven in high-demand health regions.

CHILD CARE CENTRES IN NEW SCHOOLS

Manitoba's Child Care in Schools Policy mandates the inclusion of new child care spaces in the

construction of all new schools or major renovations of existing ones. Since 2021, five projects have been completed and opened (representing over 360 new spaces), six projects are in the design or construction phase, and 11 projects are committed/in pre-design. The latter 17 projects will create over 1,970 child care spaces. In early 2025, 10 additional schools were announced as part of this initiative, each incorporating a child care centre in their design.

SCHOOL-BASED CHILD CARE CENTRE EXPANSION PROJECT

Manitoba provides capital grant funding to school divisions for the development and expansion of on-site child care facilities for infants, preschool-age children, and school-age children. In 2023, Manitoba announced the creation of over 2,600 spaces for children under age seven in 42 public schools, along with the development of more than 550 school-age spaces for before- and after-school care through non-capital provincial funding.

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION CHILD CARE EXPANSION PROJECT

The Post-Secondary Child Care Expansion Project provides funding to post-secondary institutions for the development or expansion of on-campus child care facilities, which include spaces for infants, and preschool-age and school-age children. This project aims to improve access for students and faculty while also creating Learning Labs to support practical training in early childhood education programs. Manitoba has allocated over \$60.5 million to establish more than 800 new child care spaces across six post-secondary institutions, in addition to \$3.9 million for 60 school-age spaces at *Université de Saint-Boniface*. Eight new Learning Labs will be built to facilitate early childhood education training.

STAFF REPLACEMENT GRANT

The Staff Replacement Grant pays the cost of substitute staff for CCAs enrolled in a workplace training program, which is an accelerated post-secondary diploma level ECE program that allows eligible students to attend class two days per week while continuing to work in a licensed ELCC program for the remainder of the week. The amount of the grant paid to facilities is based on an assessment of the centre's application.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE START-UP GRANTS

A one-time start-up grant of \$300 per child care space is available to home child care providers at the time of licensing to assist with the purchase of age-appropriate equipment or furnishings. Centres are eligible to receive up to \$450 per space, and nursery schools are eligible to receive up to \$245 per space.

Maximum per space start-up grants (March 31, 2021)

<i>Licensed facility</i>	<i>Maximum amount</i>
Full-day child care centre	\$450
Nursery school	\$245
Family or group child care home	\$300

CHILD CARE SUSTAINABILITY TRUST

The Child Care Sustainability Trust, managed by The Winnipeg Foundation, provides one-time funding for licensed child care facilities to support infrastructure improvements, program enhancements, and professional development. The trust seeks to improve the long-term sustainability, flexibility, accessibility, and quality of child care services. It allocates a portion of its annual interest earnings to eligible applicants, which include licensed child care centres, nursery schools, family child care, and group child care home providers.

Grant amounts differ based on the size of the facility, with a maximum of \$5,000 available for family child care and group child care home providers, \$20,000 for facilities with 50 or fewer spaces, and \$25,000 for those with more than 51 spaces.

Funding is provided through three categories:

- Infrastructure improvement, which supports both minor and major repairs to improve health, safety, and aging facilities;
- Program enhancement, which finances innovative and inclusive programming such as extended hours, accessibility upgrades, and mental health support; and
- Professional development, which includes funding for training, workshops, and conferences on subjects like diversity, leadership, curriculum development, and mental health.

Eligible facilities need to submit an application that details their project and budget to obtain funding that suits their specific needs.

Fee subsidies

The Child Care Subsidy Program provides provincial support to eligible families to help with the cost of child care by paying all or part of parent fees. There is no waitlist for fee subsidies. All eligible families are entitled to receive a subsidy. See Manitoba's "[Parent fees](#)" section for more information.

Other ELCC funding

TRAINING GRANTS FOR CCAS AND ECE IIS

Licensed non-profit centres, nursery schools, and family child care home providers are able to access training grants of up to \$400 per calendar year for CCAs and ECE IIs who are enrolled in approved early childhood education courses to upgrade their classification.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

The [Early Childhood Education Tuition Reimbursement](#) program provides up to \$5,000 per school year to support individuals pursuing recognized early childhood education programs at post-secondary institutions in Manitoba, leading to ECE II or ECE III certification. This funding aims to enhance access to ECE education for those entering or upgrading their qualifications. Eligibility criteria include enrolment in a part-time or full-time recognized ECE program in Manitoba for the 2023 – 2024 to 2025 – 2026 academic years, Canadian citizenship or permanent residency, a commitment to working in Manitoba’s licensed ELCC sector for two years after graduation, and the ability to provide proof of tuition payment.

CHILD CARE CENTRE DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

The [Child Care Centre Development Tax Credit](#) was introduced in 2018 to provide a refundable tax credit for private corporations that invest in the creation of new child care spaces for their employees and the surrounding community. Eligible corporations may receive \$10,000 per newly created infant or preschool-age space (maximum of 74 spaces) over five years.

SCIENCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The Science of Early Childhood Development (SECD) program offers a comprehensive range of resources, including readings, videos, links, interactive activities, and reflective questions. These materials support various purposes such as independent study, personal learning, post-secondary education, staff orientation, and parent education, and are accessible in Manitoba only. The SECD Resource Portal provides access to current interactive research on early experiences and their effects on lifelong health and wellbeing.

Additionally, the SECD Self-Study Professional Development Module Portal features free one-hour professional development sessions focused on early child development.

CHILDCARE ATTACHMENT AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

The Childcare Attachment and Relationship Education (CARE) program, offered by New Directions, provides training for educators to create quality early learning environments. The CARE program is based on the Circle of Security model of attachment and aims to strengthen the relationship between caregivers and children. The program equips child care providers to help children with their emotions and behaviours, benefiting both families and child care facilities. Funding from the Manitoba and Canadian governments allows licensed child care facilities in Manitoba to access this training at no cost.

ABECEDARIAN APPROACH AND PROGRAM EXPANSION

The Abecedarian Approach is an early childhood intervention intended to improve developmental learning and outcomes for children in high-risk communities. Manitoba’s first Abecedarian centre was established in 2012. In 2022 and 2023, funding was allocated to four additional centres to implement the Abecedarian approach.

ABECEDARIAN PROGRAM SUPPORT AND RESEARCH

To enhance the implementation of the Abecedarian approach, Red River College Polytechnic (RRC Polytech) provides an Abecedarian Support Program, which includes training for child care staff, along with ongoing mentorship and support. RRC Polytech collaborates with facilities to carry out data collection, analysis, and reporting to illustrate the impact of this approach on children’s developmental outcomes.

CIRCLE OF SECURITY INTERNATIONAL

Circle of Security International is an organization that offers training and resources centred around the Circle of Security model. This model aims to strengthen secure attachments between caregivers and children. It is used worldwide to promote early childhood development and enhance the relationships between children and their caregivers. Licensed child care providers and early childhood educators in Manitoba may qualify for training and resources related to the Circle of Security approach.

FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (FISCAL YEAR 2023 – 2024)

The funding figures in each category represent provincial spending, which may include both provincial funds and federal funds transferred under bilateral agreements, CWELCC agreements, or other federal programs used for early learning and child care.

Operational funding

Program	Amount
Operating grants for child care centres	\$132,998,182
Family/Group Child Care Home Annual Operating Grant	\$5,071,840
Inclusion support grants	\$16,946,385
IRCOM Early Childhood Development Hub	\$91,300
Lord Selkirk Park Child Care Abecedarian	\$362,000
Pension Reimbursement	\$8,228,922
Revenue Supplement to Lower Parent Fees	\$66,923,806
Wage Grid Operating Supplement	\$54,143,231
Total operational funding	\$284,765,665

Note: Operational funding includes regularly paid public funding that contributes to the ongoing operation of the child care service. It may include operating grants or formula-based funding, family child care agency operating funds, wage grants/enhancement, disability funding, and other grants/funding paid on a recurring basis.

One-time funding – capital (major and minor)

Program	Amount
Early Learning and Child Care start-up grants	\$348,952
Early Learning and Child Care Building Fund	\$1,443,462
Municipalities and Indigenous Governing Bodies Ready-to-Move Child Care Initiative	\$26,000,000
Child Care Renovation Expansion Grant	\$14,870,658

One-time funding – other

Program	Amount
Staff Replacement Grant	\$2,169,601
Child Care Sustainability Trust	\$379,106
Quality Early Learning and Environments Grant	\$56,875
Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant	\$36,500
Innovative Recruitment and Retention Grant	\$11,904
Total one-time funding	\$45,317,058

Note: One-time funding is paid occasionally or just once to a child care service and is not part of the regular operating budget. It may include major capital, minor capital, start-up, one-time equipment, or repair funding.

Fee subsidies

Program	Amount
Child Care Subsidy Program	\$14,130,598

Note: These are fee subsidies in licensed, regulated, or approved child care. The subsidies are associated with an individual child and family. There are provincial eligibility criteria. Fee subsidies are sent directly to service providers.

TOTAL SPENDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (operational funding, one-time funding, and fee subsidies) **\$344,213,320**

Other ELCC funding

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Training grants for CCAs and ECE IIs	\$250,807
Family resource programs	\$321,500
Science of Early Childhood Development	\$831,073
Leadership and Governance Training	\$100,000
Workforce Training and Development	\$100,000
Wage Grid Consultant and Implementation Plan	\$47,749
Certification Modernization Consultant and Implementation	\$114,900
Workforce Engagement and Recognition	\$6,095
Rural and Northern Workforce Strategies	\$7,610
Circle of Security International	\$195,887
St. Amant Applied Behaviour Analysis Training	\$280,000
Indigenous Programming Grant	\$81,166
New Directions – CARE Program	\$65,900
Abecedarian Program Support and Research	\$51,000
Abecedarian Program Expansion	\$1,941,596
Early Childhood Education Tuition Reimbursement	\$1,925,941
Early Childhood Training Expansion	\$9,290,148
Partnerships with Indigenous Governing Bodies	\$500,000
Francophone Program	\$300,000
Emergency Funding	\$25,000
Inclusion Workshop Series	\$22,000
Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax Levy	\$773,576
<i>Note: Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax Levy funding is administered by the Manitoba Department of Finance.</i>	
Threshold Increases	\$22,342
Total other ELCC funding	\$17,254,290

Federal transfers to Manitoba

<i>Federal transfer</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework – Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements	\$21,587,764
Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care	\$239,639,220
Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund	\$4,099,575

Note: The federal transfers above represent the funds allocated to Manitoba for fiscal year 2023 – 2024. These funds may be slightly different from those included in the original agreements, as they are updated annually in line with population estimates. They do not represent funds carried over from the previous fiscal year or carried into the next fiscal year.

Source: Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat, Employment and Social Development Canada (2025).