

Nova Scotia



OVERVIEW

Responsibility for regulated child care was transferred to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Early Years Branch) in 2013, in recognition of the need for a continuum of services to support the learning, care, and wellbeing of children from early childhood to school entry.

Child care is delivered in non-profit and for-profit child care centres; for-profit centres are the majority. There is no publicly operated child care in Nova Scotia. Family child care homes provide care for children from birth to school-age in private homes that are monitored by licensed family home day care agencies. Before and after school child care is delivered in several ways: the Nova Scotia Before and After program for children in Pre Primary, by school board operated programs in schools (not licensed) and by licensed child care centres.

Nova Scotia has had full school day kindergarten (termed Grade Primary) for a number of years. A minimum of four hours/day is required for Grade Primary to Grade 2, which is considered to be full time. Attendance in Grade Primary is compulsory.

In 2017, Nova Scotia introduced Pre Primary, a play-based early learning program for all four year olds at no charge to parents, with a four year phase-in. The programs are provided in classes of up to 24 children with three staff.

In September 2019, Pre Primary was offered to approximately 4,500 children at 200 sites across the province. The program was to be available for all four year olds in Nova Scotia by the 2020-2021 school year. The province introduced busing for eligible Pre Primary children.

The Nova Scotia Before and After Program (NS-BAP), a fee based program is delivered onsite by approved child care, municipal recreation or recognized non-profit recreation providers. The programs are not licensed.

A review of the regulated child care sector led to the 2016 release of a child care plan and a commitment to 27 actions designed to strengthen child care. The report, [Affordable, quality child care: A great place to grow](#), included actions focused on five key priority areas: affordability, quality, support/development of the workforce, accessibility, and structure/governance of the system.

In March 2017, amendments were made to the child care regulations. These changes include a competency based assessment process to recognize staff with relevant post secondary training working in regulated child care, an increase to the number of children per adult in family day care, and new regulations regarding supervision of children. As well, subsidy eligibility levels for families were raised by shifting the annual income rate to allow more families to be eligible for maximum subsidy support. A minimum wage floor based on level of training was put in place for child care staff. In 2018, amendments included a change to facility staffing requirements to provide more options for recruitment and changes to staff:child ratios to accommodate Pre primary children.

In January 2018, [the Government of Canada and Nova Scotia entered into the Canada-Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care agreement](#). Through this bilateral agreement Nova Scotia has received funds in the amount of \$35 million over a period of three years to be spent under the terms set out in the agreement. These funds were used for the Strategic Growth Initiative and the Space Conversion Grant to develop child care spaces in centres and family child care homes.

In 2017–2018, [Capable, confident, and curious: Nova Scotia’s early learning curriculum framework](#), for children from birth to age eight, was developed and piloted in 41 centres and two Early Years Centres across Nova Scotia. It is mandatory in provincially funded child care centres and Pre Primary programs. It was released in 2018. The framework is not tied to licensing requirements.

In 2018, Nova Scotia also introduced [Quality matters](#), a provincial quality improvement program. All child care centres receiving provincial funding must participate in this initiative.

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 (2019 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	7,500
1	9,200
2	8,300
3	9,200
4	8,000
5	9,100
6	8,300
7	9,200
8	8,600
9	8,800
10	9,500
11	8,800
12	9,200
Total	113,700

Number of children 0 - 12 years (aggregated) (2019 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0 - 2	25,000
3 - 5	26,300
6 - 12	62,400
Total	113,700

Number of children 0 - 12 years with employed mothers (2019 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	4,700
1	5,600
2	5,200
3	5,600
4	5,300
5	6,500
6	5,400
7	5,900
8	5,500
9	6,500
10	6,900
11	6,600
12	6,900
Total	76,600

Number of children 0 - 12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2019 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0 - 2	15,500
3 - 5	17,400
6 - 12	43,700
Total	76,600

Number of children 0 - 14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0 - 4	2,155	1,365	55	45	35
5 - 9	2,435	1,475	75	70	15
10 - 14	2,195	1,435	85	60	35
Total	6,785	4,275	210	170	85

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2019 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0 - 2	16,000	74.1
3 - 5	12,800	79.0
0 - 5	28,800	76.2
6 - 15	36,600	86.1

Living arrangements of child by age by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0 - 4	31,685	9,745	8,545	1,200
5 - 9	32,830	12,290	10,345	1,940
10 - 14	32,235	12,650	10,435	2,220

Languages spoken most often at home (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0 - 4	39,155	535	1,490	790
5 - 9	43,245	645	1,305	765
10 - 14	43,465	580	1,075	655
Total	125,855	1,770	3,875	3,215

PARENTAL LEAVE AND BENEFITS

Maternity leave (Pregnancy leave)

16 weeks.

Employees do not need a certain length of service to qualify for pregnancy leave.

Parental leave

61 weeks leave of parental leave to care for newborn children or newly adopted children.

Parents are entitled to a total of 77 weeks combined pregnancy and parental leave. If an employee is taking both leaves they must be taken one right after the other.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation. The federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers, up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth, and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth.

There are two federal benefit options for parental leave: the Standard Parental Benefit and the Extended Parental Benefit. The Standard Parental Benefit covers 35 weeks of paid leave taken over a 12 month period, paid at 55% of average weekly insurable earnings, up to \$573/week (2020) for either eligible parent, including adoptive parents. The Extended Parental Benefit allows 61 weeks of parental leave benefits taken over an 18 month period paid at 33% of average weekly earnings up to \$344/week (2020) for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

The Parental Sharing Benefit is available to non birth (second) parents. It covers an additional five weeks of benefits if both parents have shared the Standard benefit option (40 weeks total) or an additional eight weeks of benefits under the Extended option if both parents have shared the Extended Benefit option (69 weeks total). It is paid at either the Standard or the Extended rate.

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

KINDERGARTEN (GRADE PRIMARY)

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRADE PRIMARY

Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Brunswick Place

2021 Brunswick Street

P.O. Box 578, B3J 2S9

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Telephone: (902) 424-5168

Website: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca>

LEGISLATION

[Nova Scotia. Legislative Assembly. Education Act and Regulations](#), 1995-96, c. 1, s. 1. (Amended 2015; Current to: October 17, 2018).

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years on or before December 31.

COMPULSORY

Grade Primary (kindergarten) is delivered in public and private schools and is compulsory. Parents of children turning five on or before December 31 can delay their child's participation by one year.

HOURS

A minimum of four hours/day is required for Grade Primary to Grade 2; this is considered to be a full school day.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Full day, every day, Grade Primary enrolment 8,398 (2018–2019)

CLASS SIZE

Classes for Grade Primary to Grade 2 are capped at 20 students, with flexibility. Creating combined classes or multiage groupings are appropriate to meet this cap.

Flexibility is defined as not more than two additional students per class.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Public school teachers who teach Grade Primary must have a valid teaching certificate. An Initial Teacher's Certificate requires an undergraduate education, three years of approved undergraduate content studies, two years of an approved program of professional studies including a practicum, and receipt of an approved bachelor's degree from a recognized university.

Early childhood education training is not required for Grade Primary teachers.

CURRICULUM

[Learning outcomes framework Grades Primary to Grade Six](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN (GRADE PRIMARY)

Grade Primary spending (2018–2019)	\$93,881,424
K – 12 per pupil spending (2018–2019)	\$11,179

KINDERGARTEN FOR FOUR YEAR OLDS (PRE PRIMARY)

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRE PRIMARY PROGRAM

Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Early Childhood Development & Pre Primary Branch
Brunswick Place
2021 Brunswick Street
P.O. Box 578, B3J 2S9
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Telephone: (902) 424-5168
Website: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/government/education-and-early-childhood-development>

LEGISLATION

Nova Scotia. Legislative Assembly. *Pre Primary Education Act* 2005, c. 44, s. 1. Amended 2017. (Current to: April 1, 2018).

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Four years old by December 31.

COMPULSORY

Pre Primary is not compulsory.

HOURS

Pre Primary is provided a minimum of four hours/day.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Pre Primary is staffed by early childhood educators.

ENROLMENT

First beginning in September 2017, as of September 2020, the Pre primary Program was fully implemented across Nova Scotia in 253 schools and available to all 4 year olds.

CLASS SIZE

Pre Primary is staffed by two ECEs for 20 children or three staff for a maximum of 24 children.

CURRICULUM

Like regulated child care, Pre Primary follows the [Capable, confident, and curious: Nova Scotia's early learning curriculum framework](#)

SPENDING

The budget for 2020-21 at full implementation is \$51.4M.

CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Early Years Branch
2021 Brunswick Street
P.O. Box 578, B3J 2S9
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Phone: (902) 424-5168
Website: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/government/education-and-early-childhood-development>

LEGISLATION

Day Care Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 120 O.I.C. 2010-456 (December 20, 2010, effective April 1, 2011)
[Day Care Regulations](#) made under Section 15 of the *Day Care Act*.
N.S. Reg. 193/2010 as amended to O.I.C. 2018-200 (effective September 1, 2018), N.S. Reg. 137/2018.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

As of March 2017, an unlicensed provider (one provider) can care for six children of mixed ages including her own children. If the children are school-age (five years old as of December 31 and attending school), she can have nine children including her own.

Before and after school programs

School board operated before and after school programs for children in Grade Primary through Grade 6 are not required to be licensed.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Child care centres

Care in a group setting for less than 24 hours/day for seven or more children from 0 – 12 years of age. This includes full day and part day child care centres and programs for school-age children.

Family home day care

Licensed family home day care agencies approve, manage and monitor family home day care. Individual family home day care providers are not licensed but approved and monitored by a family home day care agency licensed under the authority of the *Day Care Act* and Regulations.

As of March 2017, an approved family home day care provider can care for up to seven children of mixed ages including the provider's own children; or nine school-age children including the provider's own school-age children; or three infants, including the provider's own children. If care is provided for four to seven children, no more than three may be under three years of age, and of those three children no more than two children may be infants.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[Capable, confident, and curious: Nova Scotia's early learning curriculum framework](#) is a guide for early childhood educators with a focus on children from birth to eight years old and their families in early learning and child care settings including Pre Primary. It is intended to inform educators' expectations of children and describes the contexts in which learning and development occur while engaging educators in critical thinking and reflective practice.

Using the early learning curriculum framework is mandatory in provincially funded child care centres and Pre Primary programs while licensed child care centres receiving provincial funding are expected to use it as the overall guiding framework for programming in their centre. All centres have access to professional development on the framework. It is not tied to licensing requirements under the Nova Scotia [Day Care Act](#).

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Supported Child Care Grant (SCCG), which provides funding to regulated, full day, part day and school-age child care facilities to create and/or sustain inclusive child care programs for all children, ended in March 31, 2018, and was replaced by the Inclusion Support Grant.

The Inclusion Support Grant (ISG) is not associated with a specific child but is intended to support an inclusive program, with funding to be used for wages for additional staff, approved professional development and approved education or resource materials directly related to the delivery of an inclusive program.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

Child care in each Nova Scotia Indigenous community on reserve operates individually, outside the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development mandate.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (2019)			
<i>Centre based programs</i>			
Age group	Full day	Part day	Total
Infant (0 – 17 months)	926	-	926
Toddlers (18 – 35 months)	4,188	-	4,188
Preschooler (36 months – 5 yrs)	6,404	1,433	7,837
School-age (6 – 12 yrs)	-	4,098	4,098
Total number of regulated centre based spaces			
	11,518	5,531	17,049
<i>Family child care</i>			
Family child care spaces	-	-	1,967
Total number of regulated child care spaces			
			19,016
Sponsorship of part and full time regulated centre based spaces (2019)			
	Full day	Part day	School-age
Non-profit	4,967	744	1,746
For-profit	6,632	520	2,440
Total regulated centre based spaces (non-profit and for-profit)			
	11,599	1,264	4,186
Children with special needs in regulated care (2019)			
Number of centres receiving the Inclusion Support Grant (ISG)			254
Number of children with special needs	Data not available		
Children receiving a fee subsidy (as of March 31st, 2019)			
Monthly average as of March 31st, 2019			5,582
Number of regulated child care programs (2019)			
<i>Centre based programs</i>			
Full day centres (0 – school-age)			290
Part day (0 – school-age)			69
Total centre based programs			
			359
<i>School based child care centres (included in centre based)</i>			
For preschool children (full and part day)			40
For school-age children			20
With both preschool-age and school-age children			9
Total school based child care programs			
			69
<i>Family child care</i>			
Family child care agencies			14
Family child care homes			281

PARENT FEES

Nova Scotia does not set parent fees.

Average parent fees for child care centres (2018-19)

Centres - daily	full day fees (\$)
Infant	42
Toddler	36
Preschool-age	35
Part day preschool-age	15

Note: These are presented as a weighted average across four regions of the Province: Central, Northern, Eastern and Western. Based on data collected through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's internal Early Childhood Development Services (ECDS) information system.

In 2019, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included Halifax:

Median monthly fees for full time child care		
Infants (\$)	Toddlers (\$)	Preschoolers (\$)
\$939	\$829	\$861

Source: Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2020). *In Progress: Child care fees in Canada 2019*. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum facility size:	Not specified
Maximum room size:	Not specified

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age group	Staff:child Ratios	Max. group size
0 – 17 months	1:4	10
18 – 35 months	1:6	18
36 months – 5 yrs (full day)	1:8	24
30 months – 5 yrs (part day)	1:12	24
School-age only (before and after care)	1:15	30
School-age and fewer than 8 Pre Primary children (before and after care)	1:15	30
School-age and 8 or more Pre Primary children (before and after care)	1:12	30
Pre Primary children only (before and after care)	1:12	30

CENTRE STAFF QUALIFICATION LEVELS OF CLASSIFICATION

There are five levels of classification for child care staff under the *Day Care Act* and Regulations.

Classification levels

Entry Level: Completion of Orientation for staff working in licensed child care facilities.

The Orientation for Staff Working in Licensed Child Care Facilities is a series of informational modules and activities for child care staff working directly with children who do not meet the regulated training requirements.

Level 1: Completion of Orientation for child care staff as well as completion of post secondary course work in the following three subject areas: child development, behavior guidance and curriculum and programming for young children. These staff must also complete two guided workplace experiences, consisting of work experience in a licensed child care facility, advised by a supervisor from a training institute, and supported by an early childhood contact staff in the workplace.

Level 2: Completion of an approved college program in early childhood education.

Level 3: Completion of a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or completion of Level 2 requirements and a bachelor's degree.

School-age approval: Completion of Orientation training and a post secondary credential that qualifies a person to plan and deliver developmentally appropriate programming for school-age children.

Qualification requirements for staff in child care centres

A facility Director or Acting Director of a child care program licensed for all ages must hold a Level 2 or 3 classification. The Director or Acting Director licensed for school-age children must hold a Level 2 or 3 classification, or school-age approval.

Entry Level staff who do not hold a Level 1, 2 or 3 classification working directly with children must have completed the Orientation for staff working in licensed child care facilities or post secondary courses comparable to the orientation training.

The Orientation for Staff Working in Licensed Child Care Facilities is a series of informational modules and activities. The online orientation modules are available in both French and English.

As of March 2017, an additional qualification option of a competency based assessment process was introduced to recognize professionals with relevant post secondary training to work in regulated child care. The Competency Based Assessment Program is a self directed assessment process designed for eligible child care centre employees with a related credential and experience to demonstrate and document knowledge and competencies leading to a Level 2 classification.

In 2019, the Association of Early Childhood Educators Nova Scotia began a pilot to recognize prior learning of eligible employees with related experience in early childhood education. Successful candidates demonstrated they have acquired the skills, knowledge, and judgement as having the competencies of someone with a two year early childhood education diploma and be recognized as eligible for a Level 2 Classification. Information is available through the [Association's website](#).

In a regulated child care program for school-age children, at least 2/3 of staff must have the above requirements or school-age training approval (completion of orientation training and a post secondary credential that qualifies a person to plan and deliver developmentally appropriate programming for school-age children).

STAFF WAGES

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	\$30,248
Median hourly employment income	\$14.54 - 16.62/hr
(calculated using 2080 hrs/year (40 hrs week) and 1280 hrs/year (35 hrs/week))	

Source: Canadian Census, 2016

Note: These data include Early Childhood Educators and Assistants, as defined in NOC 4214, working in the day care services industry in centre based environments with children aged 0 – 12 years, as defined in NAICS 6244. Included as 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.

REGULATED (APPROVED) FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Approved family child care in the provider's home is managed and monitored by a licensed Family Home Day Care Agency (FHDC).

Maximum capacity

As of March 2017, individuals who provide approved family home day care may care for a maximum of seven children up to the age of 12, including their own children. In addition, they must not have any other children in their care, subject to the following restrictions: If a care provider is caring for four to seven children of mixed ages, no more than three children may be under three years of age and of those three children no more than two children may be infants.

A person who provides approved home day care for school-age children may only care for a maximum of nine school-age children at a time including their own children and must not have any other children in their care.

Persons who provide approved family home day care for infants may only care for a maximum of three infants at a time, including their own infant(s), and must not have any other children in their care.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family home day care agencies are licensed under the authority of the *Day Care Act* and Regulations to approve, manage and monitor care providers in their homes.

A family home day care agency must hire a family home day care consultant to provide services and support to family home day care providers. The consultant must have a two year diploma in early childhood education from a recognized training program approved by the director; at least two years experience working in an early learning and child care program; and current first aid and infant cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training from a recognized program approved by the director.

The FHDC agencies and the care providers must follow the *Day Care Act* and Regulations. The homes are visited by the agency at least every 30 days.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

The care provider is required to have Family Home Day Care Training - Level 1 of the Canadian Child Care Federation's (CCCCF) Family Home Day Care Training. Providers must be at least 18 years old, be screened through the Child Abuse Register, complete vulnerable sector check by the RCMP or local police and have completed a first aid course including infant CPR.

Any person who is 13 years old or older who lives in a family day care home and has contact with children or the records of children must complete a Child Abuse Register Check. Any person who is 18 years old or older who lives in a family day care home and who has, or will have, contact with children or the records of children must complete a vulnerable sector check.

OTHER EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS

Nova Scotia Before and After Program

Nova Scotia Before and After Program (NS-BAP) is a joint initiative of the Departments of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) and Communities, Culture, and Heritage (CCH) that offers before and after school programming for children attending the Pre Primary Program in the school. It is delivered by approved regulated child care, municipal recreation, or recognized non-profit recreation providers. Families pay fees but may be eligible for a child care subsidy.

Family Resource Centres

Family resource centres provide community based programs and services intended to support the healthy development and wellbeing of children and youth. Programs and services delivered to children and their families focus on parent education and learning, family support, youth development and early learning and literacy. There are 27 Family Resource Centres in the province, 23 of which are funded by the Department of Community Services.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Funding may be granted via the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to all regulated centres, both full day and part day and regulated family child care agencies. Both non-profit and for-profit facilities can apply for grants and/or funding and provide subsidized child care.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Eligibility for families

Social criteria

- Eligibility is based on two criteria: income and finances.
- Employment status and participation in an education program criteria were removed from policy in July 2019.

Financial eligibility (2019)

- Families earning up to \$35K/year net family income are eligible for maximum per diems (full subsidy).
- Subsidy amounts for families earning between \$35K-\$70K net income is on a sliding scale which includes the number of dependent children in the family.

Service providers' eligibility to deliver subsidized child care

Both non-profit and for-profit facilities can deliver subsidized child care. Subsidies can be used in both full and part day programs.

In September 2019, the province launched the Nova Scotia Before and After Program (BAP). This fee based program can be delivered by approved child care, municipal recreation or recognized non-profit recreation providers and can also accept families with subsidy.

Surcharges above the fee subsidy

Subsidy rates do not cover full fees, as fees are not capped. A family eligible for a subsidy is required to pay any centre fees above the approved government subsidy per diem rate.

Subsidy rates

The subsidy rate is the maximum amount paid by the provincial/territorial government to the service to cover all or part of the parent fee.

Maximum subsidy rates - daily

Age group	Daily
Infant	\$29
Toddler	\$24
Preschool	\$23
School-age	\$17.70

Are all eligible families entitled to a fee subsidy?

There is currently no waitlist for subsidy in Nova Scotia.

Are there other programs that subsidize the individual family or child?

Employment Supports and Income Assistance provides a maximum of \$400/ month child care allowance for regulated and non-regulated child care arrangements.

Operational (previously Recurring) funding

Quality Investment Grant (QIG) and Program Support Funding (PSF)

The QIG and PSF are available to eligible child care facilities to supplement wages for staff, with a focus on those who work directly with children as required for ratio. This funding must be used primarily to ensure that trained staff (Level 1, 2, 3 and School-age Classification) meeting staff-to-children ratios earn at least the wage floor established by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Classification	Wage floor (min.)
Level 1	\$15/hour
Level 2	\$17/hour
School-age Approval	\$17/hour
Level 3	\$19/hour

Family Home Day Care Operating Grant

The Family Home Day Care Operating Grant is an annual grant to the agency to support the costs of salary and benefits to agency staff, transportation, education, program material, and fixed costs (rent and utilities, insurance, phone, equipment, advertising and administration costs). The grant is based on an annual budget, and distributed in quarterly installments.

Inclusion Support Grant (ISG)

The goal of the Inclusion Support Grant (ISG) is to assist all regulated child care centres in creating and sustaining inclusive programs for young children focusing on diversity, equity and quality.

One time funding

Family Home Day Care Start Up Grant

A new agency approved for funding will receive a Family Home Day Care Start up Grant of \$5,000 to offset expenses directly related to the start-up costs for the agency.

The Start Up Grant will provide a one time fixed amount to be used by the agency to pay for advertising, equipment, and legal fees incurred to set up the agency.

Canada-Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

In 2017, through the funds allocated under the [Canada-Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#), the province provided several one time and operational grants for the expansion, maintenance and operational costs of child care spaces.

Strategic Growth Initiative Fund

A number of child care operators applied for and received Strategic Growth Initiative funding to expand or open new child care spaces, with ongoing funding to support annual operating costs.

Regulated family home day care agencies were funded to create and sustain new spaces through the addition of approved family home day care sites, with ongoing funding to support annual operating costs.

Space Conversion Grant

The Space Conversion grant has provided 21 centres with one time funding to convert existing space to support the changing child care needs of their communities.

Program Enhancement Grant

Non-profit child care centres received one time funding to help with minor repairs and renovations, replacing equipment, or purchasing new materials to support high-quality, inclusive early learning programming.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2018-2019)

Fee subsidies	\$19,884,258
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Operational (previously Recurring) funding

Quality Improvement Grant (QIG) and Program Support Funding (PSF)	\$24,757,811
Child Development Centre grant	\$130,000
Family home day care	\$1,645,168
Inclusion Support Grant	\$5,243,900

Total Operational funding	\$31,776,879
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Total provincial allocation on regulated child care

\$51,661,137

Note: Federal funding of \$11,607,809 through the Canada – Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement for 2018-2019 is not included in the provincial allocations nor are funds carried forward from 2017-2018.

TOTAL ALLOCATION

\$64,723,287

Total provincial allocation for regulated child care + \$13,062,150 federal funding through the Canada-Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement for regulated child care (2018-2019) includes carry over (2017-2018)

Other funding (2018-2019)

Early Childhood Education Training Initiative	\$691,711
Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP)	\$141,415
Continuing Education	\$329,352
Nova Scotia Child Care Association	\$25,000

Total other funding

\$1,187,478

FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER THE CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE AGREEMENT (2018-2019)

Making child care more accessible and affordable for Nova Scotian families	\$11,501,131
Supporting quality through workforce development	\$1,039,935
Imbedding inclusion in early learning and child care environments	\$1,834,888

Total federal funding (includes 2017-2018 carry over)

\$14,375,954
