

2024/25 Affordability Grant

Fact Sheet

Affordability Grant Funding Rates

Full-time Day Care and Family Day Home Rates

The maximum Affordability Grant funding rates for full-time daycare and family day home are **increasing**.

	Infant (Under 19 months) <i>2023 → 2024 rates</i>	Toddler (19 months to under 3 years) <i>2023 → 2024 rates</i>	Preschool Age (3 years to kindergarten age) <i>2023 → 2024 rates</i>
Daycare – Full Time	\$635 → up to \$883	\$510 → up to \$709	\$450 → up to \$626
Daycare (Overnight) Full Time	\$952.50 → up to \$1,324	\$765 → up to \$1,063	\$675 → up to \$938
Family Day Home – Full Time	\$350 → up to \$487	\$325 → up to \$452	\$300 → up to \$417
Family Day Home (Overnight) – Full Time	\$525 → up to \$730	\$487.50 → up to \$678	\$450 → up to \$626

Part-time Day Care and Family Day Home

The maximum Affordability Grant funding rates for part-time day care and family day home are **not changing**.

	Infant (Under 19 months)	Toddler (19 months to under 3 years)	Preschool Age (3 years to kindergarten age)
Daycare – Part Time	Up to \$317.50	Up to \$255.00	Up to \$225.00
Daycare (Overnight) – Part Time	Up to \$476.25	Up to \$382.50	Up to \$337.50
Family Day Home – Part Time	Up to \$175.00	Up to \$162.50	Up to \$150.00
Family Day Home (Overnight) – Part Time	Up to \$262.50	Up to \$243.75	Up to \$225.00

Out-of-School Care Program

	Kindergarten-age children requiring child care during school hours
Out-of-School Care Program (full-time)	\$450 → up to \$626
Out-of-School Care Program (part-time)	Up to \$225

Preschool Program

The Affordability Grant funding rate for part-time preschool programs for 4 or less hours per day is **not changing**.

	Children (19 months up to kindergarten)
Preschool Program (Part-time programming for 4 or less hours per day)	\$75

Adjusted Rates and Minimum Parent Fee

Affordability Grant funding rates for daycare and family day home spaces are maximum amounts and will be reduced where necessary to maintain a minimum parent fee. This is a change from the 2023 Affordability Grant where all operators received the same rate per category, regardless of their Child Care Fee.

A minimum parent fee is the lowest fee an operator can charge parents accessing their program before subsidy is applied. A minimum Parent Fee of \$217.50 per month for full-time child care (100+hours) before subsidy and \$100 per month for part-time child care (50-99 hours) before subsidy is being introduced. To maintain these minimum parent fees, some programs will receive reduced Affordability Grant funding rates depending on their Child Care Fee. If a parent is currently paying less than the minimum parent fee, they may have an increase of fees to align with the minimum parent fee across the province.

Calculating Parent Fees

The Parent Fee is the Child Care Fee (before Affordability Grant and subsidy funding) minus the Affordability Grant funding rate. If this results in a parent fee of less than \$217.50 per month before subsidy, the amount of the Affordability Grant will be proportionately reduced to maintain the minimum parent fee of \$217.50 per month (or \$100 per month for part-time) before subsidy.

The electronic version of the 2024/25 Affordability Grant in the Child Care Licensing Portal will automatically calculate your Affordability Grant rate and the resulting parent fees. To assist in estimating Parent Fees a calculator tool was provided in the December 1 email correspondence.

Child Care Fee (as per Schedule A) <i>Monthly fee before Affordability Grant and Subsidy Funding</i>	–	Affordability Grant <i>Adjusted if required to maintain minimum parent fee</i>	=	Parent Fee (before Subsidy) <i>Or minimum of \$217.50 per month (full-time/100+ hours) or \$100 per month (part-time/50-99 hours), before subsidy funding</i>
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Cost Increase Replacement Funding

Cost Increase Replacement Funding (CIRF) will be provided to support operators with increased cost of doing business in lieu of increasing parent fees. An additional increase of 3 per cent will be provided to programs that received CIRF in the 2023 Affordability Grant Agreement. CIRF will be automatically applied to all programs in lieu of increasing child care fees. Programs will not be able to opt-out of CIRF and/or increase their child care fees for the term of the agreement.

If a program previously received CIRF in the prior agreement, they will receive funding equal to **6% of Child Care Fees** for occupied spaces in lieu of programs increasing parent fees.

If a program **did not** previously receive CIRF in the prior agreement, they will receive funding equal to **3% of Child Care Fees** for occupied spaces in lieu of program increasing parent fees. Parent fees cannot be increased.

Refer to Schedule B for more information.

Changes from the 2023 Affordability Grant

Definitions of Fees

The definitions of Child Care Fees and Parent Fees have been updated and further defined.

Child Care Fees are the monthly fees payable to the program to:

- enroll a child in the program; and
- have the child receive care, services and programming provided by the program,

before application of Affordability Grant funding or any subsidy funding.

Parent Fees are the monthly fees payable **after** application of Affordability Grant funding and corresponding reduction. This does not include reductions after application of subsidy funding.

Charging Additional Fees

A new clause was added regarding charging parents additional fees. The program shall not charge additional fees for any care, services or programming included within its Child Care Fees under a prior affordability grant; or introduce or increase any administrative, operational, equipment or other overhead fees of a similar nature for the term of the Agreement.

Refer to Clause 3(c) for more information.

Claims Records

A new requirement has been included and programs will be required to keep and maintain adequate Claims Records to support and verify information entered into the Claim System. This includes name, age, number of hours the child is registered to attend, attendance, hours and parent fee paid for each child occupying a space. Records are required to be kept for a period of six years.

Keeping adequate records will help programs in submitting complete and accurate claims and ensure records are available to support any audit processes that may be conducted.

Refer to Clause 9 for more information.

Reimbursement of Parent Fees

A clause was added to require the reimbursement of Parent Fees in the event a program's Child Care Fees exceed the maximum permitted amount. Programs will be required to reduce fees to meet the maximum permitted amount and reimburse parents the total amount of fees paid in excess of the maximum permitted fee. The Ministry will contact these programs when not in compliance with the terms of the Affordability Grant Agreement.

Refer to Clause 8(c) for more information.

Breach of Agreement

Additional conditions have been added that will be considered a breach of the agreement, which now include:

- not meeting obligations of agreement;
- using funding for unauthorized purposes;
- providing inaccurate or false information, or making untrue representations related to the agreement;
- failure to maintain licence, permit, or approval required to operate the program; and
- failure to comply with any terms or conditions of the agreement.

Breaches of agreement may result in termination of agreement and recovery of funds if not remedied adequately within 15 days of notification.

Refer to Clause 15 for more information.

Funding Deductions

A new clause has been added to enable the Ministry to deduct amounts against the funding payable to the program in the event of any debts owing or funding recoveries. This means that if funding is owed to the Ministry for any reason, payments may be reduced and withheld funds will be applied to the amounts owing.

Refer to Clause 5(g) for more information.

Change in Ownership

Additional clarity is provided regarding what constitutes a change of ownership and the requirements of the operator should a change in ownership occur.

Refer to Clause 3(d) and 3(e) for more information.

Additional Information

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Child Care Affordability Grant Team at cs.caffordgrant@gov.ab.ca.