

February 19, 2026

Dear Childcare Provider:

RE: 2026/2027 Alberta Child Care Grant Agreement

There are important updates to the 2026/27 version of the Alberta Child Care Grant Funding Program (for wage top-up, professional development, release time and mandatory employer contribution funding).

To better reflect government's commitment to recruiting and retaining a qualified and stable workforce, the Alberta Child Care Grant Funding Program is being renamed the **Early Childhood Educator Workforce Supports Program**. The program which includes wage top-ups, mandatory employer contributions, professional development and release time funding is being updated. This will ensure it remains effective, continues to provide targeted learning opportunities for educators, while maintaining current policy and grant rates related to wage top-ups and mandatory contributions.

Effective April 1, 2026, professional development and release time components of the program will shift to focus learning supports on strengthening workforce capacity in early learning and childcare principles, enhancing certification levels, and building the key skills and competencies needed to continue providing high-quality childcare.

The updated program maintains funding for Early Childhood Educators up to \$4,387.50 for professional development and release time. However, new eligibility criteria mean that some post-secondary courses, workshops and conferences may no longer qualify for grant funding. To ensure training remains eligible, **childcare providers are encouraged to pause booking professional development for 2026/27** until the approved workshop/conference list is released. This will support providers in making thoughtful decisions and effectively planning professional learning for their Early Childhood Educators. Additional information will be shared with you shortly.

**Early Childhood Educator Workforce Supports Grant Agreement
(access in the online portal)**

Programs with a signed 2025/26 Wage Top-up/Professional Development Agreement will be able to view the draft 2026/27 Early Childhood Educator Workforce Supports Grant Agreement and the corresponding funding guide in the Child Care Licensing Portal in advance of receiving your program's agreement for signing.

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An email will be sent when the draft agreement is ready to view in the Child Care Licensing Portal. You can expect the terms and conditions of 2026/27 agreement to be similar to the 2025/26 agreement.

By mid-March, you will be notified by email when the final 2026/27 Affordability Grant Agreement is available for you to digitally sign in the portal.

Thank you for your dedication to early learning and childcare in Alberta, and for your unwavering commitment to providing quality childcare.

If you have questions related to your grant agreements, please email the program area noted below:

- Wage Top-up, Release Time, and Professional Development: childcarefunding@gov.ab.ca
- General Inquiries: childcare@gov.ab.ca

Best regards,

Laura Lowe
Assistant Deputy Minister
Child Care Delivery