



ALBERTA
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Shaw*

February 11, 2021

Dear Program Operator,

As you know, Alberta's Government is launching the Critical Worker Benefit to recognize hundreds of thousands of critical workers who continue to support and provide services to Albertans during this pandemic. The Critical Worker Benefit is a joint federal-provincial program that will see \$465 million go to approximately 380,000 Alberta public and private sector workers in the form of a one-time \$1,200 payment.

In the early learning and child care field, certified Early Childhood Educators in licensed preschools are eligible if they have worked at least 243 hours total from October 12, 2020 up to and including January 31, 2021. Preschool programs with staff who meet the criteria for the Critical Worker Benefit can apply.

As you all are aware, we don't have the same infrastructure in place to provide these dollars to preschools as we do for child care or out of school care programs, but by early next week, we will send programs further information and application forms, similar to those used for the Safe Restart Funding, to identify any employees who are certified ECE Levels 1, 2, or 3 and meet the 243 hour requirement.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this funding, please contact the Child Care Claims Unit by email at cs.childcareclaims@gov.ab.ca, or by phone at 1-855-638-6121.

Thank you for working to keep Alberta children and their families safe.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Children's Services