



ALBERTA
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Shaw*

February 10, 2021

Dear Program Operator,

I would like to start by thanking you and your staff for your continued hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic. You've helped keep children safe and healthy and Alberta families working, and we want to continue to support you in this work.

Earlier today, Premier Kenney announced the Critical Worker Benefit, which is part of the Alberta government's overall approach to protect lives and livelihoods and will recognize hundreds of thousands of hardworking Albertans who continue to deliver critical services to support our province. This is a federal-provincial cost-shared program to show appreciation to frontline staff who have tirelessly provided care to Albertans.

I'm happy to tell you that in addition to the child care relief funding that has been provided to help operators with COVID-related expenses, the Critical Worker Benefit will supplement eligible child care workers' wages through a one-time payment of \$1200.

The payments will be distributed to all licensed day care, group family child care, out-of-school care, and contracted family day home agencies which will then be responsible for distributing the payments to all of their eligible staff. The eligible child care workers are those who have worked at least 243 hours total from October 12, 2020 to and including January 31, 2021. Payments will be processed the week of March 22, 2021 and programs will receive the funds within 5-10 days. A payment summary statement will be available through the online claims portal listing the staff names and amount.

If any staff member has left your employment, please return the funds by completing the Program Adjustment Form and sending it to the Child Care Claims Unit.

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 again for working to keep Alberta children and their families safe.
Sincerely,

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Children's Services