

February 19, 2026

Dear Family Day Home Educator,

There are important updates to the 2026/27 Affordability Grant and the Early Childhood Educator Workforce Supports Grant Agreement (replacing the Wage Top-up/ Professional Development Grant Agreement).

On December 12, 2025, the governments of Alberta and Canada announced the signing of a one-year, \$1.17 billion extension of the Canada-Alberta Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. This means the current funding approach will remain in place for the duration of 2026/27. Parents with children using an eligible family day home will continue to pay \$326.25 per month for full-time care (100 hours or more per month) and \$230 per month for part-time care (50-99 hours per month).

Starting April 1, 2026, a **2 per cent inflationary increase** will be applied directly to full and part-time Schedule A childcare fees for eligible licensed daycares family day homes working under an agency with a signed 2025/26 Affordability Grant Agreement. Family day home agencies will be required to pass along this 2 per cent increase to their educators when administering the affordability funding.

If in alignment with their agency's policies, program educators may charge a supplemental fee for an eligible optional service for parents that voluntarily opt in based on the requirements set out in the Agreement and the [Child Care Affordability Grant Funding Guide](#).

Family Day Home Agencies with a signed 2025/26 Affordability Grant Agreement will be able to view the draft 2026/27 agreement along with the draft Schedule A in advance of receiving their program's agreement for signing. The final agreement will be available to eligible agencies for signing in the Child Care Licensing Portal in mid-March. To be eligible to sign, agencies must have submitted their 2024/25 financial reporting to the department. Under Article 3(j) of the agreement, agencies are required to share a copy of the agreement and schedules. As necessary, please contact your agency to receive a copy once the new agreement is signed.

The Family Day Home contracts, which are separate from the Affordability Grant Agreement, are being renewed for 2026/27. The capped program educator fee will remain unchanged which limits agencies to retain an amount of no more than \$550 per program educator per month. The capped program educator fees are only for the provision of services as defined in the family day home standards.

Alberta Child Care Grant Funding Program - Changes

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 to 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, the 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 at \$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 help 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.

The newly named program will take effect on April 1, 2026. Professional development and release time funding requests for 2026/27 will open on that date, when the new funding request form becomes available.

If you have questions related to affordability grant funding you are receiving, please contact your agency directly or email the department at ccaffordgrant@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for your involvement in providing high quality childcare services to Alberta's families and children.

Best regards,

Laura Lowe
Assistant Deputy Minister
Child Care Delivery