



ALBERTA  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary-Shaw*

January 26, 2021

Dear Program Operator,

I would like to start by thanking you and your staff for your continued hard work and dedication throughout this extended period of uncertainty. You have helped to keep Alberta families working and children safe and healthy. We appreciate this is not an easy time to operate a child care facility or preschool, and we want to continue to support you in your work.

In addition to the [child care relief funding](#) provided last year, we are committing an additional \$11.4 million to help address financial challenges experienced by licensed child care providers as a result of the pandemic. These funds were unspent by the Early Learning and Child Care pilot programs and are being re-directed to support licensed child care providers across the province.

The funding will be distributed to all licensed daycare, out-of-school care, group family child care, preschool, innovative child care programs and approved family day homes. Programs will receive a lump sum payment of \$1,500 per program and \$50 per licensed/contracted space. Payments will be processed on January 28, 2021 to all licensed and approved programs that are open as of January 15, 2021. Programs will receive the funds within 5-10 days, and can use them for additional COVID-related expenses, to hire additional staff, or for other operational areas of need.

If your centre is not set up to receive direct deposit from the province, or needs to change or update your banking information, please complete the attached Application for Grant Funding Direct Deposit, and submit the form to [cs.childcareclaims@gov.ab.ca](mailto:cs.childcareclaims@gov.ab.ca). Please note that this process may take up to three weeks to be completed.

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](mailto:cs.childcareclaims@gov.ab.ca), or by phone at 1-855-638-6121.

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As you know, the new *Early Learning and Child Care Act* and Regulation come into force February 1, 2021. I hope you've had a chance to participate in one of the training sessions. The licensing officers are at your disposal as you navigate our new and simplified rules and regulations.

I understand you may have outstanding questions and, as always, I'm happy to connect with you – I will be hosting a Town Hall for all child care providers soon to discuss any feedback you or your centres may have. Stay tuned for more information.

Thank you again for working to keep Alberta children and their families safe. We wish you all the best in 2021.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Schulz  
Minister of Children's Services