

# Expanding Alberta's Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Centres

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In June 2017, the Alberta Government signed a multilateral Agreement with the federal government, provincial and territorial partners to support affordable child care initiatives across Canada.

Based on this federal investment, our government plans to support up to 78 additional Early Learning and Child Care Centres across Alberta in 2017-2018, bringing the total number of ELCC Centres to 100.

By offering quality, affordable, accessible child care, our government hopes to make significant improvements to the child care system and prepare children for bright futures.

## About ELCC Centres

Early Learning and Child Care Centres will continue to cap parent fees at \$25 per day. In the current child care system, child care fees range from \$14 to \$39 in licensed day cares.

- **Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework**
  - All ELCC Centres implement an early learning child care curriculum framework called [Play Participation and Possibilities](#), which is not currently used in the majority of child care programs. This play-based curriculum is focused on broad, holistic goals rather than specific outcomes and is designed to support children in their development. This curriculum is one of the ELCC Centre pilot program's most important quality improvements.
- **Quality improvements**
  - Early Learning and Child Care Centres may also offer flexible child care for parents who work part-time or shifts that are outside typical day care hours (7 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or offer care in accessible settings such as hospitals and other public buildings. Currently, this flexibility is not readily available to parents.
  - ELCC Centres provide supports for children with diverse needs including by partnering with community programs and co-locating with schools, Parent Link Centres etc.

# Expanding Alberta's ELCC Centres

## Phase 2 expression of interest

An expression of interest (EOI) is an application to become one of up to 78 additional ELCC Centres. This application outlines all the steps and criteria necessary to be considered. Interested organizations are encouraged to contact the child care manager in your region. To learn more about the process, visit [alberta.ca/elcc](http://alberta.ca/elcc).

## What's new for Phase 2?

The Phase 2 Expression of Interest contains new and revised elements from round one.

- **Applying for the grant**
  - Based on lessons learned from Phase 1, the grant amount available to each centre for Phase 2 will be based on the specific proposal request. In Phase 1, programs could apply for a grant of up to \$500,000 per year.
- **Introduction of voluntary wage floors**
  - Wage floors are a base wage ELCC Centres can offer their staff members based on staff members' level of certification.
  - ELCC Centres from Phase 1 will also receive funding to introduce wage floors in their Centres.
  - This program is funded exclusively by the Government of Alberta
- **Space creation**
  - While our government recognizes the importance of space creation, the ability to create additional child care spaces will be considered an asset rather than a mandatory element.

- Programs are encouraged to examine ways to increase child care spaces and/or child care enrolment.
- Program benefits will focus on their ability to implement other quality improvements as well.

## Locations

Additional ELCC Centres will be located across the province. Exact locations will be announced early 2018.

## Who can apply?

Not-for-profit organizations, those interested in becoming not-for-profit, or those in the process of becoming licensed can apply. Grants will not be dispersed until programs are licensed and not-for-profit status is obtained.

**Expanding ELCC Centres**  
The Bi-lateral Agreement commits nearly \$46 million per year for three years allowing our government to expand up to 78 additional ELCC Centres

Our government will work with for-profit child care programs that wish to become non-profit child care programs. We will also work with successful applicants in the licensing process.

Successful applicants must be licensed prior to receiving the operating grant.

# Expanding Alberta's ELCC Centres

## • Becoming a not-for-profit

- If you run a for-profit child care program and would like to become a not-for-profit program, you have to take two steps: [dissolve the corporation](#) and then [incorporate as a not-for-profit](#).
- For more information, visit [servicealberta.ca](http://servicealberta.ca)

## • Becoming licensed

- The licensing process takes a minimum of 90 days.
- We will work with successful applicants in the licensing process.

## How long will the funding last?

Funding is for three years. The Alberta Government will use the evaluation to assess next steps of the ELCC Centre program.

## Evaluation and monitoring

Current ELCC Centres are undergoing comprehensive evaluations, with preliminary results available in spring 2018. Over the three-year period, each additional ELCC Centre will also participate in ongoing evaluation.

## Will Phase 2 affect child care subsidies?

Like for Phase 1, the child care subsidy will remain in place. You can apply for a subsidy if:

- You or your spouse/partner, or the child receiving care are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada and live in Alberta.
- You or your spouse/partner are an Alberta resident.

- Your children are 12 years of age or younger and are not yet attending Grade 7.
- You and your spouse/partner are currently working, attending school, looking for work or have special needs OR
- You or your spouse/partner stay-at-home and have your child(ren) enrolled in a licensed pre-school or approved early childhood development program.

For more information about child care subsidies, please click [here](#).

## What about child care accreditation?

Like in Phase 1, child care accreditation will remain in place. Accreditation is available to all licensed day care centres and out-of-school care programs as well as approved family day home agencies in Alberta. Participation in accreditation is voluntary.

For more information about child care accreditation, please click [here](#).