

Child Care Subsidies

On January 16, 2024 the Ministry of Social Services will launch a new Saskatchewan Employment Incentive (SEI) program to replace the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) program. When SEI is launched, the CCS program will be closed to new applicants.

Clients who apply before January 16, 2024 will continue to receive benefits as long as they continue to meet CCS eligibility criteria. CCS clients may apply for the new SEI if eligible. Clients cannot receive CCS benefits and SEI benefits at the same time.

What is a child care subsidy?

A child care subsidy is a monthly subsidy that helps Saskatchewan families meet the costs of licensed child care. Subsidies are provided directly to child care facilities to reduce the fees charged to eligible parents. Subsidies vary on a sliding scale with income – the lower the income, the higher the subsidy.

What child care arrangements may be subsidized?

Child care subsidies are only available for services provided by licensed child care facilities. Licensed child care facilities are facilities that have agreed to maintain certain service standards and have been licensed to provide child care services by the Early Learning and Child Care Branch of the Ministry of Education. Licenses can be granted to both Child Care Centres and Family Child Care Homes. While not all child care spaces in licensed facilities are eligible for subsidy, the vast majority are eligible.

Licensed child care arrangements are not eligible for subsidies if they involve less than 36 hours of care per month for a child who is not in school, or less than 20 hours of care per month for a child in grade one or higher.

Who is eligible for a subsidy?

To be eligible for a child care subsidy, individuals must:

- have lawful custody of a child or children under the age of 13 years who receive care in a licensed facility,
- be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada,
- be residents of Saskatchewan, and
- have a valid reason for care as described below.

Parents who are self-employed may be eligible. In this case, subsidies are based on the net income reported in the previous year or an estimate of net income for the current year for newly self-employed individuals.

Valid reasons for care include:

- employment or self-employment,
- attendance at an educational institution,
- looking for work,
- involvement in a pre-employment program approved by the Ministry, or
- special medical or social needs.

How is the amount of a subsidy determined?

Subsidy amounts take into account gross income, family size, the location of the child care facility, the Early Learning and Child Care grant amount and the age of the child.

Families receiving income assistance through the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) or the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) programs may be eligible for a Child Care Subsidy that covers the entire out-of-pocket child care fee.

What are the income thresholds to qualify for the Child Care Subsidy?

The Child Care Subsidy may be provided to families with gross monthly incomes below \$1,640 if they have one child under 18 years – of-age. This threshold is increased by \$100 for each additional child under 18. For example:

- families with two children under 18 may qualify for a subsidy if their gross monthly income is below \$1,740;
- families with three children under 18 may qualify for a subsidy if their gross monthly income is below \$1,840; or
- thresholds for families with more than three children are increased similarly.

What is the income cutoff to be eligible for a reduced subsidy?

Because the subsidy calculation takes a number of factors into account (including family size, location of a child care facility, and the age of the children) and because subsidy levels vary with the actual fee charged by a child care facility, the income cutoffs for reduced subsidies also vary. If gross income is higher than the income thresholds listed above, a family may still qualify for a reduced subsidy. For every dollar that family income is over the threshold, the total of maximum subsidies for all children is reduced by 25 cents. Contact the Child Care Subsidy Office to have an assessment completed.

What are the maximum subsidies?

Maximum subsidy rates vary by location, whether a child is in a licensed child care centre or a licensed family child care home, age of the child, whether the child is attending full-time or part-time and the amount of the Early Learning and Child Care grant.

How is the need for part-time care assessed?

If a child is not yet in school and requires 90 hours of care per month or less a family may be eligible for a part-time subsidy. Child care requirements are assessed on the basis of the hours a parent typically spends at work, in school, or in another approved activity, plus travel time to drop off and pick up a child.

How is the subsidy paid?

Effective April 1, 2023, the parent fees for licensed childcare in the province were reduced to \$10 per day for children under the age of six at a flat rate of \$217.50 per month.

The Child Care Subsidy is calculated using a sliding scale based on a family's income. This means, the lower the income, the higher the subsidy.

The subsidy is paid directly to child care centres or family child care homes. Parents are responsible for paying the difference between the amount of the child care fee and the amount of the subsidy.

When does eligibility start?

Eligibility for subsidy begins on the date a child first attends the centre or home as long as the application is received by the Subsidy Office within 15 days of that date and all other eligibility criteria are met.

How do parents apply for a subsidy?

When SEI is launched, new applications to the CCS program will no longer be accepted. However, subsidy benefits may be provided to new children added to an eligible family already in receipt of CCS as of January 15, 2024.

Parents may also email the Ministry of Social Services at ccsubsidy@gov.sk.ca

Child Care Subsidy Office

P.O. Box 2405, Station Main
Regina, SK S4P 3V6

Fax: 306-787-4155

Phone: 306-787-4114 or
1-800-667-7155

Email: ccsubsidy@gov.sk.ca

To access information related to the licensing of child care facilities, or locating a licensed facility in your community, click the following link on the government's website at:

www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/childcare/paying-for-child-care

or telephone 1-800-667-7155.

| Maximum Child Care Subsidies <i>(or 90% of the actual fee charged, whichever is less)</i> | | Tier 1 | | Tier 2 | | Tier 3 | |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Full-Time | Part-Time | Full-Time | Part-Time | Full-Time | Part-Time |
| Child Care Centres (6 to under 13) | | | | | | | |
| Kindergarten | | \$365 | \$365 | \$325 | \$325 | \$315 | \$315 |
| School Age | September to June | \$275 | \$275 | \$245 | \$245 | \$230 | \$230 |
| | July to August | \$385 | \$275 | \$340 | \$245 | \$330 | \$230 |
| Family Child Care Homes (6 to under 13) | | | | | | | |
| Kindergarten | | \$365 | \$365 | \$325 | \$325 | \$315 | \$315 |
| School Age | September to June | \$275 | \$275 | \$245 | \$245 | \$230 | \$230 |
| | July to August | \$385 | \$275 | \$340 | \$245 | \$330 | \$230 |

Tier 1 - Regina, Saskatoon and Communities in the Northern Administration District

Tier 2 - Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Battlefords, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, Nipawin, Balgonie, Pilot Butte, Martensville, Warman, White Cap Dakota First Nation

Tier 3 - Other Cities, Towns and Rural Areas