



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE



2024-25 Guide for Métis Nation of Ontario Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program- Private and In-Home Child Care

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Program Description

Private child care may be approved on a case-by-case basis, with additional documentation required. This document describes the MNO subsidy program available for families who access private in-home child care and is a supplement to the Child Care Subsidy Guide.

Definitions

RECE Designation

The Early Childhood Educators Act (ECE Act) recognizes early childhood education as a profession. It prohibits any person other than a member in good standing of the College from using the titles protected under it. Protected titles include early childhood educator and registered early childhood educator, ECE and RECE designations, and their French equivalents. The protected titles and designations tell families, employers, colleagues and members of the public that early childhood educators are accountable professionals who have met the education and training requirements for entry to the profession and whose practice is guided and informed by the Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators Code of Ethics and the Standards of Practice.

OCT Designation

The Ontario College Council of Teachers grants the OCT designation to members in good standing. The designation signifies that teachers:

- Are certified and qualified to teach in Ontario's publicly funded schools
- Possess distinct knowledge and skills specific to teaching
- Engage in ongoing learning throughout their career
- Belong to a community of highly educated, responsible and caring practitioners committed to helping Ontario students develop and succeed.

OCT lets students, parents and the public know that OCT teachers belong to a community of highly educated professionals whose practice is guided and informed by the profession's standards of practice and ethical standards.

Licensed Centre-Based Child Care

Licensed child care centres care for infants, toddlers, and preschool and school-aged children. They include nursery schools, full-day care, extended hours care, and before-and after-school programs. Child care centres operate in various locations, including workplaces, community centres, schools and places of worship. The Ministry of Education regulates them and have regular inspections to ensure that educators, operators, facilities, and programs meet ministry expectations.

Licensed Home-Based Child Care

The Ministry of Education licenses private-home day care agencies. Those agencies then contract individual caregivers who offer child care in their homes.



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These providers may care for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children. They may also offer care for school-aged children before and after regular school hours, at lunch, and on days when schools are closed.

The Ministry of Education inspects the agencies and some home child care locations at least once a year to ensure they meet the licensing standards. Please note that, as of November 1, 2011, all licensed child care operators must post information about serious occurrences in a visible area.

Unlicensed home-based Child Care

The Ministry of Education does not inspect unlicensed child care providers and are not required to meet most provincial standards. However, the Ministry of Education does investigate complaints from the public about child care providers who may be operating illegally.

Under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, unlicensed child care providers are not allowed to care for more than five children, which includes:

- The provider's own children under the age of four
- No more than three children under the age of two
- This limit on the number of children applies regardless of how many adults are present at the home.
- Unlicensed providers may not operate at multiple premises.

Before and After School Care

School boards must offer before- and after-school programs for children four to 12 years old where there is sufficient demand from parents and families.

School boards or third-party providers, such as a licensed child care centre or an authorized recreational and skill-building program provider, can offer these programs.

School boards, working with community partners and families, can decide how to provide before- and after-school programs.

Before- and after-school programs are typically licensed and regulated by the Ministry of Education. However, unlicensed home-based in-home providers may be able to provide this support within the MNO Subsidy Program—if the provider is approved.

In-Home Child Care

In-home child care provides child care supports within a family's home. This includes, nanny services, in-home educator services, OCT teachers, RECE's, babysitters, au pairs, or early learning tutors. Often, these positions require additional in-home tasks above and beyond what a child care centre provides. This may include cooking, cleaning, shopping, and providing transportation for children within the home. For these services, many charge an hourly rate and work beyond a typical 7.5-hour workday. Some providers will live in the home on a full or part-time basis. This work is not regulated through the Ministry of Education. Some providers have formal education and designations, while others do not.



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Private Child Care Program Parameters

To ensure that our Métis children can access the highest quality care within the child care Subsidy Program, the Métis Nation of Ontario will provide support to in-home child care on a case-by-case basis; however, it will not pay the full salary of employees working within these roles. Families are expected to ensure that providers are being paid a fair wage that aligns with the Ontario Employment Standards Act. Any in-home child care provider is, and will remain, employed/contracted by the citizen. The citizen is responsible for all employment agreements between the provider and the citizen.

The Métis Nation of Ontario will require all applicants to submit a resume with references of their preferred provider and a completed unlicensed care form. MNO ELCC will do a reference check and check the Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators and Ontario College of Teachers to see if the preferred provider is in good standing or has any infractions on file.

Once approved, a provider will be classified as either a Designated Provider or Undesignated Provider.

Designated Provider

RECEs or OCTs providing unlicensed or in-home care: For providers who hold a RECE or OCT designation and are in good standing, MNO Early Learning and Child Care will cover up to the Designated allowable maximum. In addition, providers must provide a resume with references and a completed unlicensed care form. The manager's approval of the application and supporting documents is required for acceptance into the Subsidy program.

Undesignated Provider

Providers without RECE or OCT providing unlicensed or in-home care. MNO Early Learning and Child Care will cover up to the Undesignated allowable maximum for providers without a RECE or OCT designation. In addition, providers will have to provide a resume with references and a completed unlicensed care form. Approval into the Subsidy program is pending the manager's approval of the application and supporting documents.

Many providers not within the College of ECE or OCT provide quality in-home and unlicensed support. These providers may not identify themselves as an OCT, RECE, or ECE; however, they can use the following job titles:

- Child care provider
- Child care assistant
- Caregiver
- Home-based child care operator
- Nanny / Au Pair
- Babysitter
- Student Teacher

An Undesignated Provider may be declined as an approved provider for the following reasons:



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- No relevant education in early learning, education, or child development. Note: Many providers have extensive years of child care experience but no formal education. This will be a consideration when their application is reviewed.
- No relevant child care work experience.
- Are directly related to the children within their care (grandparent, aunt/uncle, or sibling). Families who have a family member providing child care support are encouraged to apply to the Child Care Stipend Program
- Have had their RECE or OCT designation suspended or revoked (see below)
- Cannot provide supporting documentation to substantiate that the learning environment in which care is being provided is safe and conducive to early learning.
- Insufficient references or references do not provide supporting information.

Providers with a College of ECE or OCT suspension or have had their designation revoked:

If a College member's Certificate of Registration has expired or has been revoked, cancelled or suspended:

- A notation will be entered on the College's public register;
- The person may no longer use the title "early childhood educator" or "registered early childhood educator" or the designations ECE, RECE, or OCT;
- The person may no longer represent or state that they are a member of the College;
- The person may no longer engage in the practice of early childhood education or state that they can do so.

Providers still providing in-home or unlicensed care with a College of ECE suspension or revoked designation are in breach of the ECE Act and could be subject to charges. Upon conviction, a person is liable for a fine of up to \$5,000 for a first offence and up to \$10,000 for a subsequent offence. The College may also apply to a court for a court order requiring compliance with the legislation.

To ensure that the Métis Nation of Ontario Subsidy Program is in line with the ECE Act and that the college's Standards of Practice are being followed, no provider with a suspended or revoked College of Early Childhood Educators or OCT designation will be supported within this program.

If a provider has a suspended or revoked designation due to non-payment of College membership, they are encouraged to work with the College to have their designation reinstated. The Métis Nation of Ontario will NOT pay for any reinstatement fees. Once they are reinstated into the College and show the MNO they are in Good Standing, they may be considered a Designated Provider. In addition, the provider will have to complete the unlicensed child care form and provide supporting documentation to show their learning environment meets MNO standards.

The MNO Subsidy program will NOT approve the provider if their designation is revoked due to an accusation, investigation, or infractions against the College's Standards of Practice. If the provider can



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show evidence that the investigation found them not liable and their designation is reinstated, they may be considered a Designated Provider. In addition, the provider will have to complete the unlicensed child care form and provide supporting documentation to show their learning environment meets MNO standards.

Resigned College of ECE or OCT providers:

Providers may choose to resign from the College of Early Childhood Educators or OCT. If they have made that decision, they may be approved as an Undesignated Provider as long as there are no other infractions on their public register and they are not using the title of OTC, RECE, or ECE.

Allowable References for Designated and Undesignated Providers

Below is a list of allowable references for providers. Note this list is not exhaustive. Please e-mail elccsupport@metisnation.org for further questions.

- Former parents/clients
- Former employers
- Former co-workers
- Former instructors/professors
- Representatives from non-profits that work with children

References cannot be related to the provider and must be within the past five years. Testimonials are approved; however, they must also include contact information so MNO ELCC can cross-check.

All references must include the name, title, how they are connected to the provider, and phone number and e-mail address.

Funding Chart for unlicensed or in-home care

The cost of child care in Ontario is a spectrum where average rates vary based on location. To support families across the province, the program supports families based on the average cost of child care in the region where they live.

The table outlines the maximum the program will consider before applying the child care subsidy rate. Families can choose child care that costs more than the amounts listed in the table. However, the program does not offer additional funding.

The subsidized rate only applies to the first child; additional children are supported at the additional child rate.



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	0-4 years (school entry)	School Age : Before & After	School Age: Full day
Region 1			
Undesignated Max	\$50	\$20	\$45
Additional child	\$10	\$5	\$10
Designated Max	\$65	\$25	\$50
Additional child	\$12	\$5	\$12
Region 2			
Undesignated Max	\$50	\$20	\$35
Additional child	\$10	\$5	\$10
Designated Max	\$65	\$25	\$40
Additional child	\$12	\$5	\$12
Region 3			
Undesignated Max	\$35	\$15	\$35
Additional child	\$10	\$5	\$10
Designated Max	\$45	\$20	\$40
Additional child	\$12	\$5	\$12
Region 4			
Undesignated Max	\$40	\$20	\$35
Additional child	\$10	\$5	\$10
Designated Max	\$50	\$25	\$40
Additional child	\$12	\$5	\$12
Region 5			
Undesignated Max	\$45	\$20	\$35
Additional child	\$10	\$5	\$10
Designated Max	\$55	\$20	\$40



Additional child	\$12	\$5	\$12
Region 6			
Undesignated Max	\$50	\$25	\$45
Additional child	\$10	\$5	\$10
Designated Max	\$65	\$30	\$50
Additional child	\$12	\$5	\$12
Region 7			
Undesignated Max	\$40	\$20	\$35
Additional child	\$10	\$5	\$10
Designated Max	\$50	\$25	\$40
Additional child	\$12	\$5	\$12
Region 8			
Undesignated Max	\$65	\$25	\$55
Additional child	\$10	\$5	\$10
Designated Max	\$80	\$30	\$60
Additional child	\$12	\$5	\$12
Region 9			
Undesignated Max	\$50	\$25	\$50
Additional child	\$10	\$5	\$10
Designated Max	\$65	\$30	\$55
Additional child	\$12	\$5	\$12

Funding example

The family lives in Region 1 and has two children. The income assessment provides the family with a 60% subsidy. The children are 3 and 7, and the daily childcare cost is \$55/day for the three-year-old, \$15/day for before and after school and \$55/day for school holidays for the seven-year-old. The childcare provider is not a RECE, so it is considered an undesignated provider.



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The maximum rate for the three-year-old is \$50/day, and as the family receives a 60% subsidy, MNO will pay \$30/day for child care, and the family will pay the remaining \$25/day. The seven-year-old will be supported for before and after-school care at a rate of \$5/day and \$10/day for full-day child care when schools are closed.

Additional Information

Stipend Program

Child care providers who do not meet the requirements of the child care subsidy program will be declined. Parents who have their child care providers declined are encouraged to find another suitable provider or apply to the Child Care Stipend Program.

Kindergarten Aged Children

Full-day kindergarten is not mandatory. At the schools where full-day kindergarten is offered, parents can remove their child for part of the day if that works best for them. Like existing kindergarten programs, parents will continue to have the choice about whether to enroll their four- and five-year-olds in full-day kindergarten. In Ontario, children are required to attend school once they turn six years old.

The Métis Nation of Ontario Child Care Subsidy Program will allow a family with a kindergarten-aged child to attend whatever early learning program best suits their child's learning needs. If the family chooses to enroll their child in a full-day kindergarten program, the MNO Subsidy Program will only provide before and after-school child care if the family needs it. If the family chooses to keep their child in a full-day licensed or pre-approved unlicensed home-based or in-home child care until they start Grade 1, the MNO will support them through the Subsidy Program.

For School Aged- Children

Once a child begins Grade 1, they will only qualify for before- and after-school programming. The Métis Nation of Ontario Child Care Subsidy program is designed to provide support to families with children who need Early Learning or Child Care. It is NOT designed to supplement the Education Act through tutors, homeschooling, or full-day child care for children in Grades 1-6.

The MNO Subsidy Program will NOT provide full-day school-age support on a full-time basis. School-age children only qualify for before and after-school care with the following exceptions:

- PD Days
- School Breaks
- Other unforeseen school closures (such as weather-related closures)

Parents may be required to submit a school calendar that indicates PD days and breaks. Only the approved provider can provide subsidized care on those days.

Parents are encouraged to apply to the Child Care Stipend Program if the approved provider cannot provide care on those days.



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Reimbursement

Families accessing child care from private or in-home providers must pay the child care provider and submit detailed receipts to the MNO Family Supports team. The receipts must be submitted within 60 days of payment. Full details on receipt submission are provided when the program is approved.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please review the Child Care subsidy guide for general program FAQs. These FAQs are specifically for private child care.

Application Process

What happens if my provider cannot complete the requirements (resume, references etc.)

- If your provider can not provide the supplemental information, you will be referred to the child care stipend program.

I am currently accessing the child care stipend program and have access to formal child care. What's the process?

- Complete the online subsidy application and indicate you currently receive the child care stipend
- When approved, we will transfer you internally, and you will not be placed on a waitlist.

How can I ensure my child care provider is approved?

- Ensure you upload the child care questionnaire, parent guide (if applicable), resume contract and references.
- The Ontario government provides a list of child care violations – for licensed and private child care providers. [Child care violations](#)

Reimbursement

How soon do I get reimbursed?

- After receiving your receipts, you should receive reimbursement within 5-7 business days.
- Receipts should be sent to elccsupport@metisnation.org with the region you live in the subject line.

I found a receipt from three months ago. Is it too late to submit it?

- Families are required to submit receipts in a timely manner, within 60 days of payment
- MNO may not reimburse families for receipts that are more than 60 days old.



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I used to be able to share a screenshot of etransfer of the amount I paid to my provider. I was just told that it's no longer accepted. Why?

- To meet our auditing requirements we require detailed receipts for child care
- Receipts must meet the following guidelines
 - Clearly indicate the total amount paid
 - Include the child care provider's name and contact information
 - Indicate the number of days paid for and the time period (for example, 5 days, April 1-5)
 - Be sent for reimbursement within 60 days. Any late receipts will not be accepted.

CONTACT

If you need help with your application or would like to learn more about the programs available to you, please contact the Early Learning and Child Care team at elccsupport@metisnation.org

When you email us, please include the MNO region or the municipality you live in to help us support you promptly.