

# Child Care Subsidies

## What is a child care subsidy?

A child care subsidy is a monthly subsidy that helps Saskatchewan families meet the costs of licenced 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 licenced child care facilities. Licenced 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. Licences can be granted to both Child Care Centres and Family Child Care Homes. While not all child care spaces in licenced 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 are determined using a calculation that takes into account gross family income, family

size, the age of a child, the location of a child care facility, and the actual fee charged. Families with incomes below the thresholds described below may qualify for maximum subsidies, but families with incomes above these thresholds may still qualify for a reduced subsidy. Families receiving income assistance through the Saskatchewan Assistance Program, Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability or Transitional Employment Allowance may be eligible for subsidies sufficient to cover the entire fee.

## What are the income thresholds to qualify for maximum subsidies?

Maximum subsidies are provided to families with 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 qualify for a maximum subsidy if their monthly income is below \$1,740,
- families with three children under 18 qualify for a maximum subsidy if their monthly income is below \$1,840, or
- thresholds for families with more than three children are increased similarly without an upper limit.

## 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 child care centre or family child care home, and whether full-time care or part-time care is needed.

### Maximum Child Care Subsidies

(or 90% of the actual fee charged, whichever is less)

	Tier 1		Tier 2		Tier 3	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
<b>Child Care Centres</b>						
Infant	\$570	\$400	\$485	\$340	\$410	\$290
Toddler	\$440	\$310	\$390	\$275	\$375	\$265
Preschool	\$405	\$285	\$350	\$245	\$340	\$240
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
<b>Family Child Care Homes</b>						
Infant	\$485	\$340	\$415	\$295	\$410	\$290
Toddler	\$440	\$310	\$390	\$275	\$375	\$265
Preschool	\$405	\$285	\$350	\$245	\$340	\$240
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

## 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?

Child care subsidies are paid directly to child care centres or family child care homes. Parents are responsible for paying the amount of the difference between the child care fee and the amount of the subsidy. For example:

Total Child Care fee:	\$415
Amount of Subsidy:	\$275
Difference:	\$140*

(\*This is the amount a family would pay each month.)

## 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?

Application forms are available from licenced child care facilities, from the Child Care Subsidy Office or on the web at:

[www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/paying-for-child-care#apply](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/paying-for-child-care#apply)

Further information regarding child care subsidies or to submit your completed subsidy applications, contact:

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](mailto: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/child-care/how-child-care-works](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/how-child-care-works)

or telephone 1-800-667-7155.