

INFORMATION BULLETIN #3:

2019 Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG)

March 15, 2019



This Information Bulletin provides updates regarding the 2019 distribution of the Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) in the City of London and the County of Middlesex by the Service System Manager. Readers are reminded that this information is subject to change without notice by the Ministry of Education.

1. PURPOSE

As stated by the Ministry of Education:

The Ontario government has made an ongoing commitment to support a wage enhancement for eligible child care professionals working in licensed child care settings. The wage enhancement/HCCEG will help retain RECEs, and support access to stable, high-quality child care programs for children in Ontario. The wage enhancement will also help to close the wage gap between RECEs working in full-day kindergarten programs and RECEs/other child care program staff working in licensed child care settings (September 2018).

2. GOALS

As stated by the Ministry of Education the goals of the Wage Enhancement Grant (WEG) and the Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding are to:

- Close the wage gap between RECE wages in the school board and licensed child care sectors;
- Stabilize licensed child care operators by helping them retain RECEs/child care staff; and
- Support greater employment and income security.

3. ELIGIBILITY

All licensed home child care agencies are eligible to apply for Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding, regardless of auspice, participation in municipal quality initiatives, or current purchase of service status.

Licensed child care operators/agencies are eligible to apply for Wage Enhancement Grant (WEG) in the year that they are created and begin operations. For example, licensed child care operators/agencies that begin operations in 2019 are eligible to apply for Wage Enhancement Grant (WEG) funding in 2019.

a) Eligibility for “Full Home Child Care Enhancement”:

“Full Home Child Care Enhancement” is \$20 per day.

To be eligible to receive “Full Home Child Care Enhancement”, home child care providers must:

- Hold a contract with a licensed home child care agency;
- Provide services to one child or more (including privately placed children, excluding the provider’s own children);
- Provide full time services on average (6 hours or more per day); and
- Receive base daily fees of less than \$250.70, excluding the prior year’s Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) (i.e. \$20 below the “Full Home Child Care Enhancement” cap of \$270.70)

b) Eligibility for “Partial Home Child Care Enhancement”:

“Partial Home Child Care Enhancement” is \$10.00 per day.

To be eligible to receive “Partial Home Child Care Enhancement”, home child care providers must:

- Hold a contract with a licensed home child care agency;
- Provide services to one child or more (including privately placed children, excluding the provider’s own children);
- Provide part time services on average (less than 6 hours per day); and
- Receive base daily fees of less than \$152.42, excluding the prior year’s Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) (i.e. \$10 below the “Partial Home Child Care Enhancement” cap of \$162.42)

Additional Information:

- Funding entitlement is based on 2018 Licensed Home Child Care service provided. For new or anticipated positions in 2019, include anticipated Licensed Home Child Care hours worked for the entire year.

4. MINISTRY EDU SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT

The Ministry of Education provides a supplemental grant to licensed child care operators/agencies in the sum of \$150 for each eligible home visitor FTE and \$50 for each eligible home child care provider.

The supplemental grant is intended to support the Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding, by helping to address any shortfalls.

This supplemental grant can only be used toward eligible positions and will be attested to with all other Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding. Any unused supplemental grant funding will be recovered by the Service System Manager.

Note: The Ministry of Education's definition of 1 FTE = 1,827 hours worked, including 9 general paid public holidays.

5. ALLOWABLE USES

Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding (including the Ministry EDU supplemental grant) must be directed solely to eligible licensed home child care providers and home visitors to increase daily income. Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding cannot be used to support child care system expansion or reduce fees.

Licensed home child care operators/agencies must use Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding for the intended purpose of providing a daily increase to income for eligible licensed home child care providers/home visitors, based on current hours of service provided. The daily increase to income cannot exceed \$20 per day or the daily cap of \$270.70 for "*Full Home Child Care Enhancement*", or \$10 per day or the daily cap of \$162.42 for "*Partial Home Child Care Enhancement*".

Note: If an eligible home child care provider or home visitor subsequently stops the role they are eligible in at any time during the year, the licensed home child care operator/agency must terminate the transfer of HCCEG funds to the provider/home visitor.

6. PAYOUT TO ELIGIBLE HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Licensed home child care operators/agencies must include HCCEG on each payment made to providers/home visitors. The payment must clearly indicate that the funding is being provided through Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG), labeled as "**Provincial Home Child Care Wage Enhancement**" or provide a separate letter that indicates this same information.

Licensed home child care operators/agencies are to fund HCCEG to their current year eligible providers, regardless of whether the provider had a contract with the agency in 2018. This means that an agency can pay a new licensed home child care provider who holds a contract with a licensed home child care agency and meets the Ministry's eligibility guidelines (set out above).

7. APPLICATION PROCESS

The Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) Application Form will be posted to the City of London's Children's Services Child Care webpage and the County of Middlesex website on **March 15, 2019**.

Completed Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) Application Forms are due to Children's Services by **April 30, 2019**, and Applications not received or incomplete by **April 30, 2019** will not be eligible to receive Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding in 2019. We encourage agencies to submit applications by **April 22, 2019** so we can review and request changes if required before the actual deadline.

Note: Licensed home child care operators/agencies that applied for Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding in 2018 are still required to complete the Application Form and apply for the funding again in 2019.