



ALBERTA
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Shaw*

Dear Parent,

I'm writing to share some exciting details about the child care savings and flexible care options you'll be seeing in the new year. As we get ready to roll out the \$3.8-billion funding agreement we signed with the federal government, we're directing key investments to provide parents more choices for flexible, affordable child care that meets your family's needs.

As you may know, our goal is to cut average licensed child care fees in half for parents with kids zero to kindergarten age starting this January 2022 and reach an average of \$10 a day child care by 2025-26. We're doing this in two ways: by providing affordability grants directly to your child care provider so they can lower fees for all parents, and by raising the income threshold for child care subsidy up to \$180,000 so more families can benefit. If your family is currently receiving subsidy, you're already on your way to more affordable child care. The funding model might look a bit different in January because of the way affordability grants and subsidy work together, but all parents will be paying less overall for child care in 2022.

Since many of you rely on the excellent care provided by licensed family day homes, I'm pleased to share we are introducing a new affordability grant to lower fees for all parents using child care with licensed family day homes and group family child care. With this funding in place, you can expect to save between \$300 and \$350 off the regular, pre-subsidy fee per child per month. The grant will come straight to your day home operator, so you do not need to apply to benefit from reduced fees.

I've heard from many of you that part-time and overnight care are essential to accommodate the diverse needs of working parents. That's why we're distributing grants to reduce costs, just as we have with parents accessing full-time care during traditional business hours. Parents using part-time licensed child care (50-100 hours per month) can expect to save between \$150 and \$317.50 per month (off the regular, pre-subsidy fee), depending on your child's age and the provider you use. Parents needing overnight care can expect to save between \$450 and \$953 off the regular, pre-subsidy fee per child per month.

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Please feel free to talk to your provider if you still have questions. You can also visit www.alberta.ca/childcaredeal any time to learn more about the new child care funding and what it means for your family. I wish you a restful holiday, and I hope these new supports bring you some well-deserved relief in the new year.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Children's Services