

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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New Hire Tuition Reimbursement Grant

Information for Licensed Child Care Service Providers and  
EarlyON Child and Family Centre Service Providers

# New Hire Tuition Reimbursement Grant

- A one-time initiative intended to promote retention and recruitment of a high-quality child care and early years workforce in Niagara
- The Grant is only available for Niagara College ECE students graduating in May 2023
- The Grant is intended to provide:
  - An incentive to work as a RECE in the early years and child care sector within Niagara;
  - Learn about the sector and opportunities available in the early years and child care sector; and
  - Support new graduates in transitioning to a professional environment after graduation
- The Grant will provide up to a maximum of \$3,000 in tuition reimbursement, for eligible graduates of the ECE program at Niagara College, who work as a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) in the local early years and child care sector

# Grant Eligibility Requirements

- A Niagara College ECE program graduate in May 2023
- Registered with the College of Early Childhood Educators
- Completed a minimum of 650 hours of paid employment as RECE between April 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 at a licensed child care centre and/or an EarlyON Child and Family Centre (EarlyON) with a service agreement with Niagara Region
- The eligible hours of 650 can be completed with more than one service provider

# Eligible Service Providers

- In order to apply, new graduates must be employed for a minimum of 650 hours with:
  - A local licensed child care program with a service agreement with Niagara Region
  - A local EarlyON Child and Family Centre (CFC) service provider with a service agreement with Niagara Region

# How Service Providers Support a Grant Application

- Licensed child care and/or EarlyON CFC service providers will need to sign a letter (template provided) confirming:
  - Service provider has a contract with Niagara Region
  - Number of hours worked by the applicant is at minimum 650 hours
  - Applicant was not hired before April 1, 2023
  - Is not employed at a family business and/or employed by a family member

# Grant Application Process

- The Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) will administer the New Hire Tuition Reimbursement Grant. To do so, the ECCDC will:
  - Review applications received against the eligibility criteria
  - Conduct a random audit by confirming the hours worked with the service provider and 2023 graduation from Niagara College
  - Issue letter of approval and funds to approved applicants via direct deposit or cheque
  - Where an applicant is unsuccessful, provide a letter that explains why the applicant is unsuccessful

***Note:** Applications received after January 12, 2024 will not be considered*

# Other Important Information

- Applicants are responsible for submitting their grant application upon meeting the requirements
- Applicants can apply via an online portal [www.eccdc.org/tuitionreimbursement2023](http://www.eccdc.org/tuitionreimbursement2023)
- Information about the grant has been provided to new graduates via Niagara College
- Contact Information: [tuitionreimbursement@eccdc.org](mailto:tuitionreimbursement@eccdc.org)