

Family Home Day Care Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. What is approved family home day care?

Approved family home day care is day care provided by a care provider in their own home that is managed by an agency licensed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

2. Why has the government established a Family Home Day Care (FHDC) Program?

- To provide parents access to approved day care services in a home setting where care is monitored to ensure it meets Regulations and Standards;
- To allow parents who are eligible for government subsidies for fees, greater access to regulated child care;
- To provide more support and options to parents who are employed or training for employment;
- To ensure that children's health, safety and well-being are protected; and
- To provide more options for family home day care providers through the support of an agency.

3. What are the benefits for families using family home day care?

- Monitored child care in areas where a child care facility is not available;
- Child care in a family setting and atmosphere;
- Convenient locations - may be close to home, school, work;
- Children of multiple ages from infants to 12 years cared for together by one provider;
- Children can have the same care provider for many years;
- Care providers meet Regulations and Standards through regular monitoring;
- Parents can access government subsidies to assist with fee payment, providing they are not the care provider; and
- Flexible hours - care providers may have hours to help parents who work shifts or irregular hours.

4. Who can become a Family Home Day Care Agency?

Any business or organization that is registered with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies can apply to become a family home day care agency. For example, a private business, a licensed child care facility (profit or non-profit) or a community based non-profit organization could apply to become an agency.

5. How are approved family day care homes monitored and managed?

Family home day care homes are managed and monitored by family home day care agencies that are licensed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

6. How do I apply to become a Family Home Day Care agency?

The proposal package is available at:

<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/providers/FamilyHomeDayCarePrograms.shtml>

or you may contact a regional office of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and ask for a proposal package to be mailed to you.

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7. Will I receive funding if I become an agency?

An applicant that receives a license to operate family home day care agency may apply for funding and be subject to the evaluation process as outlined in the Family Home Day Care Terms and Conditions.

8. What are the steps to obtain a Family Home Day Care agency license?

There are two steps before a license is issued:

1. Submitted proposal form and proposal will be reviewed and approved by the Department. The approval will be based on the operating budget, the program, and the need for child care in the area.
2. Applicants that have their proposals approved would provide the remaining supplementary information required to obtain a license.

9. Can an agency be licensed and not receive funding?

Yes, an applicant who receives approval for their proposal and is advised that funding is not available or chooses to operate without the funding can continue the process and obtain a license.

10. What funding is provided to an agency?

There are two types of grants provided, the FHDC Start Up Grant and the FHDC Operating Grant. If the agency is eligible for funding, these grants are disbursed once the agency is licensed.

- The FHDC Start Up Grant amount is \$5,000. This grant will provide a one time fixed amount to be used by the agency to pay for advertising, equipment, and legal fees to set up the agency.
- The FHDC Operating Grant is an annual grant intended to support the agency in meeting the costs of salary and benefits to agency staff, transportation, education, program material, and fixed costs. The grant will be based on an annual budget, and distributed in quarterly instalments.
- Agencies requesting funding from the Department will be required to submit a budget each year. The budget must demonstrate the expected expenses for the number of homes they plan to support.

Please refer to the Family Home Day Care Terms and Conditions for more information. Family Home Day Care Terms and Conditions are available at:

<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/providers/FamilyHomeDayCarePrograms.shtml>

11. Are there a minimum number of approved homes an agency must have?

Yes, if the agency is receiving funding. A funded agency is required to have four or more family day care homes. If an agency cannot recruit four family day care homes by the end of fiscal year, funding may be discontinued.

12. Is there a deadline for submitting the proposals to become an agency?

No. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will accept proposals anytime.

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13. I would like to become an agency but I do not have the physical space, what do I need to do?

- You will be required to know what space you would be using for the proposal.
- This space can be a planned upgrade to a facility you already have or a rented location.
- If your proposal is approved, inspections must be done to provide evidence that the location is within the regulation standards prior to the license being issued.

14. Who can become a family home day care provider?

A person who is approved by the family home day care agency to provide child care in the home in which they live.

15. I am already providing child care in my home. Do I have to join an agency and become regulated?

No. The Family Home Day Care Program is voluntary. However, you may wish to research the services available at an agency to family home day care providers so that you are fully aware of the benefits of being approved by an agency.

16. If I am a care provider in an approved family home day care, do I become the employee of the agency?

No, you will be self-employed. The agency will be able to provide information and direct you to resources that can help you learn and benefit from being a self-employed care provider of a family day care home.

17. How many children can I provide the care for?

You can care for no more than 7 children at the time (age infants to school age) including your own children. The following must apply:

- If you provide care for a mixed age group, only 3 children can be under the age of 3 years; with no more than 2 of the children being infants.
- If you provide care for infants only, you can have 3 infants, including your own, and no other children.
- If you provide care for school age children only, you can have 9 children including your own.

You may have drop in and part-time children as long as there are no more than the number of children as described above in your care at any given time.

18. Can another person provide care for children in my home?

No. Only approved care provider can provide child care in the home in which they live.

19. Can I become a family home day care provider if I live in an apartment building?

Yes, but only if your apartment is not located above the second floor of the building.

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20. What are the benefits of becoming a care provider of a family home day care in the Family Home Day Care Program?

As a care provider in an approved family day care home you will have access to:

- Program advice and support with respect to program delivery provided by agency's family home consultant;
- Professional development and training provided by the agency;
- Other care providers and family home consultants for interaction and support;
- Administrative support and assistance with record keeping;
- Early childhood education information and resources;
- A lending library provided by the agency; and
- Participation in play groups organized by the family home consultant.

Other benefits to the care provider include:

- Providing care to children whose fees may be subsidized by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development;
- Ability to advertise/inform parents that your home is approved and regularly monitored and that the child care meets government regulations/standards;
- Parent confidence knowing your home is an approved family home day care; and
- Community recognition as an approved family home care provider.

21. Will my home be inspected by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development?

Your home will be monitored by the family home day care agency that is licensed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The family home day care agency consultant will visit your home on monthly basis to provide guidance and support.

22. If I become an approved family day care home will the agency charge me for the services provided?

No, the agency receives government funded support to provide these services to its family day care homes. As a care provider you will keep the parent fees you collect and the agency will distribute fully government subsidies received for any children in your care.

23. As a care provider in an approved family day care home, am I able to set my own fees when I join an agency?

Yes, and it is advisable that the fees should be competitive with similar programs in the community.

24. Will the family day care homes take children who receive childcare subsidies?

Yes, families who are eligible for the government subsidy program may enroll their children in a family day care home.

25. If am a care provider, will I be eligible for subsidy for my own children?

No, children of the care provider are not eligible for subsidy in their own home.

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26. Do I have to be trained?

You will be required to complete a family home day care training course (approximately 40 hours) no later than 1 year after the date you are approved by the agency. You also have to complete 5 hours of professional development workshops annually. The above training is provided by the agency free of charge.

27. Can I advertise?

Yes. When you advertise, you must state that you are an approved home under a licensed agency. Your agency will provide assistance with the appropriate wording.

28. Do I have to be insured?

Yes. You need adequate commercial general liability insurance or its equivalent. You should consult your insurance agent to determine what type and how much coverage under your home insurance policy is advisable.

29. Can I get funding from the Department?

As an approved care provider you will receive the following:

- Free of charge administrative support and record-keeping
- Ongoing support provided by the agency e.g. meeting with parents, program support, problem solving.
- Transportation to the playgroups organized by the agency
- Access to the lending library to borrow equipment and materials.
- Free of charge family home day care training and professional development workshops.
- \$500.00 per year for the early childhood education training taken outside of the agency.

For more benefits, please refer to Question # 19.

30. Where can I get more information about the program?

For more information, please visit the website at:

<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/providers/FamilyHomeDayCarePrograms.shtml> or contact the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

A list of offices can be found on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website under contact us at:

<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/providers/FamilyHomeDayCarePrograms.shtml>

31. Are there currently any agencies and where are they located?

There are several agencies licensed at this time. Please contact Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to find out if any agencies are located in your area or refer to the Directory of Licensed Child Care Facilities available at:

<https://nsbr-online-services.gov.ns.ca/DCSONline/ECDs/loadSearchPage.action>