

LEVEL 1 TRAINING PROGRAM PILOT PROJECT - FAQs

GENERAL FAQs

Why did you create this pilot project?

The 2016 Action Plan, *Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow!* committed to strengthening the early childhood education workforce. We know some of the people currently working in child care face barriers to obtaining the necessary training.

Through consultations we learned tuition costs, technology and access to existing training programs create barriers. This pilot was designed to respond to these barriers by providing access to training free of charge, access to technology and provide necessary student supports.

What is the Level 1 Training Program (L1) Pilot Project?

The L1 pilot is an initiative to help people currently working in a licensed child-care centre or Pre-primary Program obtain post-secondary early childhood development training free of charge. Those who qualify will be provided the opportunity to enrol in the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Level 1 Training Program offered online to complete the training necessary to be eligible for a level 1 classification.

What is a Level 1 Program?

The Level 1 Training Program is an online program offered by NSCC. It is open to people working in the early childhood education field and offers the courses required to be eligible for a level 1 classification awarded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The program consists of

- Three, 60-hour online courses that include: child development, behaviour guidance and developmentally appropriate programming and;
- Two, 250-hour workplace experiences (500 hours total)
- Participants will be provided with a laptop and all other learning resources required to complete the course.

I am enrolled in a full-time diploma program, I did not receive financial support or a laptop computer. Am I eligible for this pilot?

- This pilot was created to respond to the recommendations proposed through the Engagement in Training research project funded by the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Through that project those working in early childhood education facilities told us they were unable to participate in training as they face social, economic and technological barriers to education. This pilot project is designed to target those in positions considered as “untrained” or holding an Entry Level classification.

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What type of training will be available to participants who need support in utilizing the laptop computer and online technology?

The pilot project includes access to an NSCC project administrator who will support students to navigate the administrative aspects of enrolment. An NSCC student support coordinator will also be available to students to support their participation and use of the technology. This individual will meet with all participants to assist them with the technology to increase their fluency with the information necessary to complete the online components of the course. This will increase their opportunity to be successful in the program.

Do participants have to pay up front for the course and get reimbursed or do qualified applicants receive funds up front?

No. Those who participate in the pilot will not have to pay upfront.

How do I get the laptop?

Anyone approved as a pilot participant and accepted by NSCC for enrollment in the Level 1 Training Program will be provided with an NSCC issued laptop computer for the duration of the pilot.

NSCC will coordinate the distribution and collection of the laptops as well as provide technological support through the course of the program.

Upon receipt of the laptop, each participant must sign an agreement that they will complete the course and all its requirements within the required timeframe. Participants will also agree to return the laptop upon completion of the pilot or in the event they are unable to meet all the terms and conditions set out in the pilot program.

Will I have to return the laptop at the end of the pilot? How do I do that?

Yes. The laptop is the property of NSCC. NSCC is providing it to pilot participants for the duration of the pilot. Upon completion of the Level 1 Training Program, or if the student withdraws from the pilot, the laptop is to be returned to NSCC. NSCC will provide details on how to return the laptop.

When does the program start?

The program begins March 16, 2020.

How long do participants have to complete the requirements?

The required courses will be delivered in the Spring, Fall and Winter semesters and participants will be required to complete the program by the end of the NSCC winter 2021 semester.

Can workplace experiences be completed at the current employer?

Yes, guided workplaces are different from the practicum placements required by the diploma program and can be completed in the licensed child-care centre or Pre-primary Program where participants are currently employed. Participants working in a licensed child-care centre or a Pre-primary Program and working a minimum of 15 hours meet the criteria of the guided workplace experiences required by the pilot.

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Do I have to be working full-time to qualify for the pilot?

No. To qualify, individuals must maintain a minimum of 15 hours per week.

If I cannot continue to work full-time and go to school, do I have to leave the pilot?

No. Working hours are negotiated between the employee and their employer. To qualify for the pilot, participants are only required to maintain a minimum of 15 working hours per week. Any change to working hours is between the employee and employer.

How do applicants apply for the pilot?

Individuals review the eligibility requirements and if they meet the requirements, complete the pilot application form and employer reference form found on the EECD website

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/ece/fund-your-training>.

EECD reviews the applications to determine eligibility to proceed and then notifies all applicants.

Those approved for the pilot will be required to apply to NSCC as per their admission process for program enrolment.

NSCC and EECD will work collaboratively to support individuals through both the application and admission processes.

Who can apply to participate in the pilot?

Individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible to participate in the pilot:

- Are not currently enrolled in a training program or courses at a post-secondary institution;
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent;
- Are currently employed in a licensed child-care centre or Pre-primary program;
- Have an employer who is in support of pilot participation and agrees to provide you with a minimum of 15 hours per week for the duration of the Pilot; and
- Do not have a post-secondary credential, considered “untrained” or hold an entry level classification awarded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Hold a high school diploma or equivalent.

Those who meet the above criteria will still have to apply to NSCC and meet their admission criteria.

NSCC denied my application even though I qualified for the pilot?

Eligibility for the pilot does not guarantee admission to NSCC. NSCC has admission criteria that all students must meet to be admitted to any program offered by their post-secondary institution.

Information on NSCC admission criteria please contact: ECElevel1pilot@nsc.ca.

What is the deadline for application?

Applications will be accepted until February 17th 2020 or until all 40 spaces are filled.

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Who decides on the pilot participants?

NSCC can accommodate up to 40 students for this pilot. The first 40 completed applications that meet the pilot criteria will be forwarded to NSCC for admission to the program. Anyone approved for the pilot but do not meet NSCCs admission criteria will not be eligible to proceed with the pilot and the next approved applicant will be considered for enrollment by NSCC.

Please note: The applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. After all 40 applicants are received and approved, there will be no more admittance into the pilot at this time.

Is there a wait list?

A waitlist will be maintained by EECD in case anyone previously accepted chooses to withdraw prior to classes begin. Once the program begins, the waitlist will be closed and anyone on the waitlist will be notified.

How many spaces are there?

NSCC can accommodate up to 40 students for this pilot.

Will this be offered in the future for those who can't participate now?

This is a pilot project in response to the consultation held under the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Information gained from the project and participant exit surveys will guide decisions on future delivery of the existing Early Learning Continuing Education program and other workforce development initiatives.

Where can I get more information on the pilot and how do I apply?

The application is a 2- step process and information on the pilot can be found at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/ece/fund-your-training>.

What is the employers' responsibility?

Employers will be required to sign a reference letter recommending participation in the pilot and agreeing to ensure 15 hours per week is maintained.

Is the work experience paid?

Yes. The two guided workplace experiences required for the Level 1 Training Program can be completed in the workplace. Participants will continue to receive the wages and any benefits negotiated in accordance with the employment contract in place between the employee and their employer.

What if I switch employers, can I still participate?

Yes. If the new employer remains to be a regulated child-care program or pre-primary program the participant is still eligible for the program. The new employer must sign an employer reference form and agree to maintain a minimum of 15 hours per week.

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Will I be granted leave from my employment to take the on-line training?

The Level 1 Training Program pilot is delivered online allowing the coursework and assignments to be completed as the participant's schedule allows.

Participants must maintain 15 hours per week to participate in the pilot. Any provision to grant time away from work over and above the 15 hours per week is to be negotiated between the employee and employer.

If the employee requires release from work to complete course requirements, is there funding to paid for substitutes?

No. The coursework and assignments can be completed as the participant's schedule allows. Therefore, funding for substitutes is not available.

Can I choose which courses I take and when?

No, pilot participants will be studying as a cohort and completing the program courses in the order prescribed by NSCC and must be completed by the end of the winter 2021 semester.

Do I need to have a workplace experience at all age levels?

No, the EECD Training Standards for Level 1 do not require workplace experience at all age levels from Infant to School Age. For the purposes of this pilot, EECD only requires the participant to complete 500 hours of workplace experience which can be at their own place of work.