

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Licensed Child Care and Family Home Child Care Agencies

**FROM:** Denise Stone, Executive Director, Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Branch

**DATE:** May 3, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Emergency operational funding

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We would like to again thank the child care sector for their ongoing support and patience through this challenging time. Your dedication to children and families is unprecedented, and your work to support the many Nova Scotians who must remain or return to work is greatly appreciated. We want to assure you of our ongoing support, associated with the latest provincial pandemic restrictions.

In response to our request for families to keep their children home for the next two week period, and to assist workers who need child care during the lockdown to continue to go to work, we will be providing child care centres and family home agencies with emergency operational and staffing support similar to the mandated closure last spring, and during the reopening period. This funding will support staffing and operational costs, where necessary, as well as centres and regulated care provider closures required by Public Health due to the pandemic.

Please note the following information related to funding:

- 1) Centres and agency home care providers who have to close, will start receiving emergency support funding next week to cover operational and staffing costs associated with the closure days;
- 2) Centres and agency home care providers who are open will receive, early next week and as necessary thereafter, a template on enrollment, attendance and staffing. Once we receive this information, we will be providing emergency support funding that will address gaps created by staffing and attendance pressures, and
- 3) Workers who need child care during the lockdown to continue to go to work will be responsible for their own fees. These parents should also be provided with Child Care Subsidy Program information in the event they are eligible.

Once you receive funding, if you have questions we ask that you please contact Anderson Rouse at [Anderson.Rouse@novascotia.ca](mailto:Anderson.Rouse@novascotia.ca), Manager of Strategic Planning and Client Services, to arrange a time to discuss your centre or family home agency specific funding issue.

Please be aware that this funding should not be used for any purpose other than as directed in the correspondence you will receive. We expect that centre and family home agency staff will remain employed and be paid their wages where applicable. In addition, parents who are voluntarily keeping their children home should not be charged parent fees, and should be asked to contact you to discuss how a credit or refund of fees will be offered.

Please be advised that your centre or family home agency is responsible for the financial accountability of these funds and must keep all records evidencing their appropriate use, should they be required. Financial records or additional information relating to this grant may be requested at any time by Education and Early Childhood Development during subsequent reviews.

We will continue to monitor this rapidly evolving situation and reassess as necessary. Nevertheless, we appreciate your continued patience during this time.

Sincerely,

Denise Stone

Executive Director, Early Learning and Child Care