



Niagara Region Children's Services Incentive Programs



Certificate Support Fund

Who:

Program staff (RECE or non-RECE) employed in a licensed child care centre or EarlyON hired between Jan 1 and December 31 2026

What:

Can apply to get reimbursed for required job certifications such as first aid/CPR, food handlers, and vulnerable sector checks

Where:

Via the application on OMS

When:

Until December 31, 2026

Why:

To help reduce the cost associated with certifications required to enter the child care sector

How:

- The employee pays for the certifications themselves
- They submit receipts and proof of completion for each certification to their supervisor

New Hire Tuition Reimbursement Grant

Who:

Spring 2026 Early Childhood Educator (ECE) graduates working in child care centers, before and after school programs, or EarlyONs

What:

Can apply for up to \$2,500 to reimburse a portion of the cost of their ECE diploma

Where:

Via ECCDC website

When:

Until December 1, 2026

Why:

To help ECE's transition into the early years and child care workforce from school

How:

- Have your 2026 ECE diploma
- Work 320 hours in Niagara's early years and child care sector between May 1–Dec. 1, 2026
- Have your employer confirm you completed the required hours
- Remain employed in Niagara's child care sector until payment

Connect with your supervisor and review the guidelines for further eligibility and application details