

Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Quality Enhancement Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Quality Enhancement Program?

The ELCC Quality Enhancement Program is primarily a consultation program. The intent of the quality program is to enhance quality in regulated child care services through individualized consultation regarding program design, learning processes, interactions with children and their families, and enhancements to physical environments used directly by children at the child care service. The ELCC Quality Enhancement Program will enhance the non-regulatory aspects of the children's day.

What is consultation?

Consultation is a collaborative, professional learning and advisory service pertaining to early learning and child care quality. Consultation is a conversational and reflective interaction. Participation by services is voluntary and affirmative.¹

What is mentoring?

Mentoring is a professional relationship between colleagues that facilitates the sharing of knowledge and expertise. Within the context of ELCC, mentoring may occur as professional learning embedded within early learning and child care practices.

What is Professional Learning?

Professional Learning consists of learning opportunities designed to improve professional knowledge and practices related to quality early learning and child care.

Can unregulated child care services participate in the ELCC Quality Enhancement Program?

The ELCC Quality Enhancement Program is for licensed and regulated child care services only.

How can my service participate in the ELCC Quality Enhancement Program?

Send an email inquiry to ELCCQEP@gov.nl.ca with the name, address and region in which your service is located. Please note that it may take up to 10 business days for a regional Child Care Consultant (Quality) to initiate program registration and consultation processes.

¹ Aggression and intimidation will not be tolerated. If experienced, consultation processes will be suspended or deferred to another quarter.

Can the ELCC Quality Enhancement Program be used to help my child care service meet legislative requirements?

The ELCC Quality Enhancement Program is for licensed and compliant child care services that already meet legislative standards, and that wish to enhance child care service quality. Quality enhancement grants, if recommended by the Child Care Consultant (Quality), are intended to enhance interactions and equipment or materials that already meet legislative standards.

Is the ELCC Quality Enhancement Program a grant program?

The ELCC Quality Enhancement Program is a tailored consultation program. There is a small grant available to support services who are participating in consultation. A grant application may be recommended by a Child Care Consultant (Quality) during the consultation process. Completion of a grant application is not a guarantee of funding. ELCC Quality Enhancement Program grants will not duplicate services offered by other government or community funding programs. Grants will not be approved for a service in multiple subsequent quarters.

What is a quarter?

Quarters are a three month period, each covering one quarter of the government fiscal year – April 1st to June 30th (1st Quarter), July 1st to September 30th (2nd Quarter), October 1st to December 31st (3rd Quarter) and January 1st to March 31st (4th Quarter).

Can I access a grant every quarter?

At most, a service may apply for a grant twice a year if they regularly participate in consultation and if a grant is recommendable by the Child Care Consultant (Quality).

What are the steps of applying for a grant?

The steps of applying for a grant are:

1. Participation in the consultation process.
2. The Child Care Consultant (Quality) may recommend a grant application.
3. The application form is sent to the service.
4. The service completes the application form.
5. A complete grant application package is emailed to the Child Care Consultant (Quality).
6. The application is reviewed and recommended or denied by the consultant and approved or denied by the Regional Manager.
7. The service is notified of a decision within 10 business days.

What kinds of purchases and receipts can be reimbursed by the ELCC Quality Enhancement Program if a grant is recommended by a Child Care Consultant (Quality)?

Pre-approved expenditures can be reimbursed through a grant application that is recommended by a Child Care Consultant (Quality) and approved by a Regional Manager.

[NOTE: Cost-sharing is required as described in policy]. The ELCC Quality Enhancement Program will not enhance the property value of a child care service and will not change the footprint of a property. Eligible quality enhancement initiatives that may be recommendable include but are not limited to:

- Local Multi-Service Professional Learning for early childhood educators, staff and parents
- Professional Learning Travel (in province), Accommodations and Registration
- Local Single Service Professional Learning for early childhood educators, staff and parents
- Professional Learning Resources
- Indoor Equipment / Materials
- Outdoor Equipment / Materials
- Program Outing / Community Engagement for children
- Program Design Enhancement, program technology, materials
- Mentorship and Affiliated Travel (in province), Materials
- Mentorship Affiliated Substitute Staff

Does the quality enhancement grant cover business expenses?

Business expenses are not eligible – they are the responsibility of the owner/operator of a child care service.

Which receipts can be covered by the Quality Enhancement Program?

Only receipts for pre-approved expenditures may be used for reimbursement in a given quarter.

What happens if my service closes after I receive an ELCC Quality Enhancement Grant?

If a grant is awarded to a child care service that closes within six months of the reimbursement, a prorated repayment of the grant will be required and a credit note will be placed on the service file.

Further information about the ELCC Quality Enhancement Program is available at:

[Early Learning and Child Care Quality Enhancement Program - Education \(gov.nl.ca\)](http://gov.nl.ca/education/early-learning-and-child-care-quality-enhancement-program)