

Alberta's 22 Early Learning and Child Care Centres

Alberta's 22 new Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Centres

An ELCC Centre will focus on space creation, job creation and affordability in quality child care with maximum fees of \$25/day.

What makes ELCC Centres different?

There are five approaches the Early Learning and Child Care Centres will focus on:

- space creation,
- affordability of \$25/day,
- quality,
- improvements to address gaps in the current system, and
- program evaluation

Early Learning and Child Care Centres may offer flexible child care for parents who work part-time or shifts that are outside typical day care hours (7 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or offer care in accessible settings such as co-location with other public buildings. Currently, this flexibility is not readily available to parents.

The ELCC Centres will also implement an early learning child care curriculum, which is not currently used in the majority of child care programs.

Finally, ELCC Centres will provide supports for children with diverse needs. The current system does not offer a broad focus on supports for children with diverse needs. Instead, child care programs can decide what supports to offer families.

How many new child care spaces will be created?

Approximately 1,296 licensed child care spaces will be in the Early Learning and Child Care Centres, and 714 of these will be new.

How many new child care staff will be hired?

Approximately 119 new child care staff will be hired to support the new spaces and/or additional enrollment.

How many Albertans will be able to go back to work as a direct result of this program?

An estimated 357 Albertans will be able to enter the workforce due to the availability of additional child care in high demand areas.

How many Early Learning and Child Care Centres are existing child care programs and how many are new?

Nine ELCC Centres are new child care programs and 13 are existing child care programs.

Locations

The centres will be located across the province. [Click here](#) for details.

What are some of the improvements being made?

- 13 programs (774 spaces) will offer flexible child care to support parents who are working or attending school outside of

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typical child care operations and/or who work on a part-time basis.

- 19 programs (1,142 spaces) will collaborate with other service organizations for co-location or new partnerships in delivering ELCC.
- 21 programs (1,256 spaces) will collaborate with other service organizations that support knowledge about cultural diversity and learning as it relates to Indigenous, immigrant and refugee children.
- 21 programs (1,214 spaces) will collaborate with other service organizations to support the provision of parenting resources and supports to families attending the child care program.
- All 22 programs (1,296 spaces) will collaborate to support vulnerable families (i.e. low socio-economic status, lone parent families, parenting teens, and women facing additional barriers).
- 10 programs (598 spaces) will support child care in rural communities.

What does flexible child care mean?

Flexible childcare is defined as part-time care and/or care outside the hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday. Currently there is limited weekend and evening care available. This innovation will support vulnerable families working shift work or multiple jobs in accessing child care.

What happens when the three-year pilot ends?

There will be a rigorous evaluation process with results reported each year of the three-year initiative. The results from the evaluation will allow government to determine continued funding and/or possible expansion of the program.

When will the Early Learning and Child Care Centres be operational?

ELCC Centres *within existing child care programs* will be operational May 1, 2017. As new centres need time to get licensed and established, operation dates for new programs will vary by centre, throughout 2017.

How can I enroll my child in an Early Learning and Child Care Centre?

Space in Early Learning and Child Care Centres is limited. To inquire about enrolling your child in an ELCC Centre, please contact the child care program directly. [Click here](#) for a list of ELCC Centres.