

Sample Letter RECE Inquiry re: How to Obtain Wage Enhancement

DATE

Dear XXXX,

Thank you for your interest in the new 2015 child care Wage Enhancement Grant.

In 2015, eligible program staff, including Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) working in licensed child care centres are entitled to a Wage Enhancement Grant of \$1 per hour plus up to 17.5 percent for benefits. An additional increase will be provided in 2016.

RECEs, Private Home Day Care (PHDC) home visitors and other child care program staff qualify for the 2015 Wage Enhancement Grant if they are employed in a licensed child care position that:

- Existed in a licensed child care centre or home child care agency between January 1, 2014 and October 31, 2014;
- Had a wage of less than \$26.27 per hour as of October 31, 2014;
- Is categorized as a child care supervisor, RECE, home child care visitor, or can be otherwise counted toward adult to child ratios under the *Day Nurseries Act* (DNA).

Program positions in licensed programs that are supplementary to the required DNA ratios are also eligible for the Wage Enhancement Grant. However, Resource Teachers/Consultants or supplemental staff who work for agencies and provide support for licensed programs are not eligible for the grant.

Program staff that earn between \$25.28 and \$26.27 per hour, as of October 31, 2014, are eligible for a partial Wage Enhancement Grant. The partial Wage Enhancement Grant will increase the wage of the qualifying position up to \$26.27 per day.

- For example, if an RECE position has a wage rate of \$25.50 per hour it would be eligible for a Wage Enhancement Grant of \$0.77 per hour (\$26.27 - \$25.50).

Program staff do not apply directly for the Wage Enhancement Grant. Applications for funding are completed by licensed child care operators.

Wage Enhancement Grant applications for licensed child care centres and PHDC agencies will be posted on our website by May 1, 2015 for [a period of 45-60 days] at: [Link to CMSM/DSSAB website]. The deadline for submissions will be no later than

June 30, 2015. Any operator who has not submitted an application for the Wage Enhancement Grant by the deadline will not receive Wage Enhancement Grant funding in 2015, but may apply for funding in 2016.

All operators/PHDC agencies with eligible staff may apply for Wage Enhancement Grant funding.

Additional information can be found in the [Premier of Ontario's news release](#) and [the Ministry of Education's backgrounder](#) on the Wage Enhancement Grant.

Sincerely,