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Ontario works

CHILD CARE

BALANCING CLIENT NEEDS
WITH INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ontario Works is a program funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It provides eligible individuals with income assistance to help cover the costs of basic needs (e.g. food and housing costs), and employment assistance to help prepare for and find a job. To receive Ontario Works, individuals sign a Participation Agreement. This agreement sets out the employment assistance activities that will support finding work and/or improve skills.

Child Care + Ontario Works

Ontario Works Child Care is funded by the Ministry of Education.

It provides funding to support individuals receiving Ontario Works income assistance to work, or to participate in employment assistance activities, while their children are being cared for in a safe and nurturing environment. This funding helps individuals meet the expectations that are outlined in their **Participation Agreement**.

Ontario Works Child Care funding covers the cost of child care for children less than 10 years of age, or

up to 12 years of age in special circumstances.

The Ministry may provide child care funding for either:

- **Ontario Works Formal:** funding for licensed child care which is **cost shared**, (80% provincial and 20% First Nation).
- **Ontario Works Informal:** funding for unlicensed child care which is 100% covered by the province.



Ontario Works **FORMAL** CHILD CARE

Formal funding can be used to cover the cost of licensed child care up to the total cost of licensed care at the child care centre or licensed private home. The fee subsidy covers child care costs on behalf of the parent(s) where the services are provided in a licensed child care centre or a home affiliated with a licensed private-home day care agency. The service may be located in a First Nation community, or children may attend an off-reserve program. To search for licensed child care centres, please visit the [Ministry of Education website](#).



Ontario Works INFORMAL CHILD CARE

Informal funding can also be used to cover the cost of **unlicensed** child care (informal care arrangement). Parents requiring part time, short term and irregular child care arrangements, to meet Ontario Works participation requirements, are eligible for a maximum of \$600 per child, per month (receipts are required for reimbursement).

Informal child care may be a private arrangement between the parent(s) and the caregiver (such as a neighbour, extended family member and/or a friend).

The caregiver may only provide informal care to five children or less, under the age of 10 years, in addition to his/her own children.

Other examples of informal child care arrangements are:

- participating in a day camp during the summer months while a parent(s) is at work or on a community placement.
- providing a play group for children while a parent(s) is attending a workshop.
- providing an after school activities club while a parent(s) is in school, etc.

Please refer to the *Ontario Child Care Business Practice, Service and Funding Guideline for First Nations and Child Care Transfer Payment Agencies* (pages 35-38) for additional details on Ontario Works Child Care including the financial reporting schedule and requirements. ([First Nations & Transfer Payment Agencies Ontario Child Care Business Practice, Service and Funding Guideline](#))

For additional information on Ontario Works, your child care agreement, and program and policy interpretation, please contact your [Child Care Advisor](#) | [Contact Lists](#)

FINANCIAL REPORTING



First Nations and Transfer Payment Agencies are required to annually report financial and service data to the Ministry related to Ontario Works Child Care, either through a year-end submission in EFIS or an Attestation Form, as well as the submission of Audited Financial Statements. All unspent OW funding will be recovered by the Ministry.

For support and information on financial reporting, please contact your [Financial Analyst](#) | [Contact Lists](#)