



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Child, Youth and Family Services
Family and Child Development Division



Association of Early Childhood Educators
Newfoundland and Labrador
Child Care Services Certification

ECE Trainee Bursary Program 2014-2015 (formerly the Entry Level Supplement Program) Information and Frequently Asked Questions

One of the central elements of quality child care is well trained child care practitioners. The Early Learning and Child Care Supplement (formerly Educational Supplement) was introduced in 2001 to provide monetary support to certified early childhood educators (ECEs) working in regulated child care services. In 2006, the Entry Level Supplement (now called the ECE Trainee Bursary) was added to the existing Supplement. This new component provides up to \$500.00 per year to Entry Level child care practitioners who are taking courses to upgrade their certification level to Level I.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is partnering with the Association of Early Childhood Educators Newfoundland and Labrador to provide the ECE Trainee Bursary to those who qualify.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the ECE Trainee Bursary is to provide monetary support to child care providers who are training in early childhood education to benefit the children enrolled in child care. It is hoped that this support will assist in the recruitment and retention of qualified early childhood educators and family child care providers.

ELIGIBILITY

Entry Level centre-based and family child care providers who are taking courses to upgrade their certification to Level I may be eligible for the ECE Trainee Bursary. To be eligible you must:

- Have valid Entry Level Child Care Services certification (when the coursework was completed).
- Be working in regulated child care (centre or family based).
- Have successfully completed at least one post-secondary course from a provincially recognized educational institution from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2015.
- Complete course(s) that are required for an Early Childhood Education Certificate or Diploma. (Check with the Registrar of Certification for eligible courses.) *Note: Courses can be used once each for bursary approval.*

The ECE Trainee Bursary is not available to:

- Licensees
- Fulltime Early Childhood Education students
- Those who have already graduated with their Early Childhood Education Certificate or Diploma.

ADMINISTRATION

- The Association of Early Childhood Educators Newfoundland and Labrador (AECENL) will initially assess the application to ensure that you have valid certification and that the coursework submitted meets the criteria of working towards upgrading your certification level.
- Following AECENL's initial assessment, the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services will make final approval for payment.
- Applications for the ECE Trainee Bursary will be accepted by AECENL four times per year. You may apply on any of June 30, September 30, December 31 or March 31 dates. Up to two applications per fiscal year are permitted.
- The original signed application form must be submitted by mail or hand (faxed or electronically transmitted applications are not acceptable).
- Applicants must provide *original* transcripts or grade reports to confirm their successful completion of courses; photocopies, e-mails and faxes are not acceptable.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much is the ECE Trainee Bursary?

The ECE Trainee Bursary is a maximum of \$500.00 per year. You will receive \$250.00 for one course or \$500.00 for two courses successfully completed.

Who is eligible for the \$500.00?

Persons who hold valid Entry Level certification and who work in regulated child care services (centre-based or family child care) who are taking ECE courses to upgrade their qualifications to Level 1 can apply.

I completed a course in 2007. Am I eligible?

For payment in the fiscal year April 1st, 2014 to March 31st, 2015– ECE course(s) must have been completed between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2015 to be eligible.

When can I apply for the ECE Trainee Bursary?

AECENL will accept applications four times per year. You may apply up to twice per fiscal year. Applicants have the option of applying on any of the following dates: June 30, September 30, December 31 or March 31.

How many courses do I need to complete?

To receive the full \$500.00, at least two Early Childhood Education courses toward a Level 1 Child Care Services Certification must be successfully completed, between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2015. For one course completed you will receive \$250.00. The courses must be from a provincially recognized post-secondary educational institution. Be sure to check with the Registrar of Certification if the ECE program is not from a College in Newfoundland and Labrador or if you are not sure if the educational institution is provincially recognized.

If I complete four courses this year do I receive \$500.00 twice?

The maximum ECE Trainee Bursary is \$500.00 per applicant per year. You can carry forward two of the completed courses to the next fiscal year and receive another \$500.00 in 2015-2016.

Can I fax or e-mail my application?

An original signed application form and original transcripts or grade reports must be submitted. Applications and documentation sent by fax or e-mail are not acceptable.

Where can I find more information?

Information will be posted at <http://www.gov.nl.ca/cyfs/childcare/childcareresources.html> and <http://www.aecenl.ca> under the "Certification" tab as it becomes available.

For eligibility or application information, contact AECENL at 709-579-3004 (toll free 1-866-579-3004) or by e-mail at aecenl@nfld.net.

For information about payment, contact ELCC Supplement no earlier than 6 weeks after the application deadline at 709-729-2694 or by e-mail at ELCCSupplement@gov.nl.ca.

Where do I send my application?

Send your application for the ECE Trainee Bursary to the Association of Early Childhood Educators Newfoundland and Labrador (AECENL) – they will assess your application. If your application is approved, the payment will be issued by the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services. NOTE: Applications for the Early Learning and Child Care Supplement (Level One or higher) are not sent to AECENL.

Send your application to AECENL – Attention: ECE Trainee Bursary:

- By mail: P. O. Box 8657, St. John's, NL A1B 3T1
- By courier or by hand: 50 Pippy Pl, Unit 19, St. John's