

Becoming a Regulated Home-Based Child Care Provider – Benefits and Building Requirements

The government is encouraging unregulated home-based child care providers to become regulated with the Ministry of Education to allow more families to access significantly reduced out-of-pocket child care fees. Home-based providers who become regulated may also have access to a variety of other benefits.

Benefits

Operating a regulated family child care home has many benefits for providers, children and families.

- Funding is available through various grants that support reduced parent fees, start-up costs, monthly nutrition costs and early childhood education training.
- Access to program supports and resources, such as an Early Learning and Child Care Consultant.
- Added to the list of regulated child care facilities on Parent Central, through 211 Saskatchewan, that helps families locate licensed child care across the province.
- By operating a regulated family child care home, providers will be offering child care services to support children and families.
- Parents will be assured that their children's care is monitored and meets certain quality standards.

Variety of Financial Supports Available

Government supports available to regulated home-based care providers include the Child Care Subsidy on behalf of eligible parents as well as the following grant funding:

- One-time on opening:
 - **Start-up (\$3,325)** – This grant assists with the additional costs of opening your child care home, such as equipment and furnishings.
 - **Fire Health and Safety (\$1,200)** – This grant is intended to offset the costs associated with meeting fire, health and safety requirements.
- Ongoing:
 - **Parent Fee Reduction** – This grant is intended to make child care more affordable for all families with children under the age of six who are in provincially regulated child care. Monthly grant amounts distributed to the regulated child care home varies.
 - **Nutrition (\$80/space/month)** – Supports the costs of providing nutritious meals and snacks from children.
 - **Equipment (\$300/space/year)** – Supports program related costs, such as children's toys, equipment, furnishings, craft supplies, and children's activities.
- Other access to grants includes:
 - **Training, Tuition and Skill Enhancement Grants** – A variety of grants are available to assist in building a qualified workforce along skill enhancement. Grants include:
 - **Tuition Reimbursement** – Covers the cost of tuition and books purchased with respect to classes in Early Childhood Education successfully completed by the licensee or a person employed in a facility.
 - **Professional Development** – This grant assists with attending approved professional learning events.
 - **Inclusion Program (\$300 to \$2,000/space/month)** – Assists with additional costs of providing child care services to a child with exceptionally high needs.

Building Requirements

An applicant for a licence to operate regulated home-based child care must submit an application to the Ministry of Education. In order to ensure the health, safety and well-being of children in home-based child care, building inspection requirements must be met in line with *The Child Care Regulations, 2015*. These can be

completed during the licensing process and do not need to be submitted with the application and other supporting documentation.

Fire Inspection

- The applicant should provide a recent fire inspection report which is required prior to initial licensing.
- The licensee is responsible for maintaining fire standards between inspections.
- Only those areas of the home approved by the fire inspector may be licensed and used for child care.

Heating System Inspection

- The applicant should provide a recent report on the heating system.
- The cost of the inspection and correction of any resulting deficiencies are the responsibility of applicant.
- It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure that the inspector is licensed.
- The licensee is responsible to ensure that all components of heating appliances are installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Requirements for frequency of inspection and approved inspectors for each type of heating system are as follows:

Type of Heating System	Required Frequency	Approved Inspectors
Gas	Every three years	Any licensed gas contractor
Propane		
Electric	As requested (NOTE: electrical work must be done by a licensed contractor; if work is not done by a licensed contractor, an inspection is required.)	Any licensed electrician
Oil	Every three years	Someone who has received training and is knowledgeable with regard to the specific heating appliance
Coal		
Wood		
Boiler	As required*	Boiler inspector

*The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan (TSASK) is responsible for inspecting and licensing boilers. Some boilers require annual relicensing, others require relicensing every two years, and others do not require licensing. At the time of licensing/annual relicensing of the child care home, a valid licence for the boiler must be provided. If it is not available, the licensee can contact TSASK to have their boiler inspected or if the boiler does not require licensing, to be provided a letter indicating the same.

For More Information

- Website: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/entrepreneurs-start-or-exit-a-business/start-a-business/managing-a-child-care-business/start-a-licensed-family-child-care-home>.
- Email: canadawideelccagreementinquiries@gov.sk.ca