Early Learning and Child Care

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM HANDBOOK 2026 - 2027

MN–S MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Child Care Subsidy Program through Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) has a goal of lowering the cost of childcare for Métis families.

Our goal is in line with the provincial government's goal of $10 a day childcare in Saskatchewan. The subsidy will ensure parents and/or caregivers can go to work, attend school, or meet the unique needs of their family.

If your household's annual gross income is $100,000 or less, you may qualify for a reduction of the $218 fee, possibly lowering your cost to $0. We will ask for documents to confirm income.

This will promote the healthy growth and development of Métis children and contribute to creating strong Métis communities.

Please forward any general questions to childcaresubsidy@mns.ca

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Eligibility

Below are the childcare subsidy guidelines in which Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) has set out for eligibility. MN–S encourages all eligible Métis families to apply.

Eligible families must meet all the requirements below:

- Childcare fees are above $218 per month per child.
- The child(ren) must be a registered MN–S citizen or in the process of acquiring citizenship.
- Visit our website https://mns.ca/metis-citizens/citizenship-registry for citizenship information. Program is open to children between the ages of birth to 12. The child will become ineligible the first day of the month following their 13th birthday.
- Applicants must reside in Saskatchewan.
- The Applicant and child(dren) must reside in the same household.The Applicant and child(dren) ust reside in the same household.
- The child must be enrolled and attending a licensed, unlicensed, home based, before and after school, or family provided, childcare.
- The Applicant must be working, going to school, or have additional circumstances which require childcare.

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Subsidy Structure

MN–S is working towards implementing a subsidy that will bring the cost of childcare to families not subsidized by the government, down to $218 per month, or as close as possible based on our budget. Below is the chart of maximum payments MN–S will pay up to. Qualified families whose fees are above $218 per month will be subsidized down to $218, or as close to based on subsidy maximums in their category, per child.

Type of Childcare	Amount Per Month
Licensed/Unlicensed - 0 to 5 years	Up to $1200
Licensed/Unlicenced - 6 to 12 years	Up to $600

MN–S will only cover the approved subsidy amount per month.

MN–S will review the fees above the approved maximum amount. This maximum will be specified in the applicant's approval letter. MN–S will not cover fees incurred before the application submission month.

MN–S will not cover fees outside the childcare fees (late payments, late pick up penalties, etc.)

MN–S will not back pay (invoices must be submitted every month).

MN–S is not responsible for fees or charges from negligence of the applicant (leaving the childcare without proper notice, etc.)

Taxes

The MN–S Child Care Subsidy funds are considered taxable income and may affect your income taxes come tax time. This means that the funds you receive from the subsidy will be added to your overall gross income and be taxed accordingly. **You will be issued a T4A for the previous year unless MN-S directly pays your childcare provider. In that case, families will not receive a T4A slip.**

Childcare Receipts and Reporting

The applicant will be required to provide a monthly receipt each month OR have their Childcare Provider fill out a childcare confirmation form each month to receive the childcare subsidy. In both cases, subsidy funds are not released until the receipt or confirmation form is submitted each month.

Payment Schedule and Cut-Off Dates

We will email your Childcare Provider to inquire whether they would prefer MN-S to pay them directly on your behalf. We will CC you on the email sent to your childcare provider. If your Childcare provider chooses not to receive direct payment, we will reimburse you for the childcare subsidy.

Payment Method

All subsidy payments will be paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The applicant will be asked to provide a void cheque or a printout of their banking information, as well as fill out an EFT form provided by MN–S. The bank account the funds are transferred to MUST match the primary applicant or co-applicant's name. MN–S requires, from the date of their receipt or childcare confirmation form submission, for payment.

Change of Childcare Arrangements and Fees

The applicant must inform MN-S about any changes to childcare arrangements, including changes in the childcare setting, when a child leaves the childcare, or if there is a change in fees.

If the applicant withdraws their child from childcare mid-month, MN-S will continue to honour the subsidy for that month. However, MN-S will not cover any fees or penalties incurred due to the early withdrawal.

If the applicant fails to notify MN-S about changes to childcare arrangements, settings, or fees, they may be required to repay any subsidy funds they were not entitled to. This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Applying for the Childcare Subsidy and What to Expect

Before your application is approved, the following supporting documents must be submitted:

- Copy of the child's health card
- Confirmation form filled out by the Childcare Provider.
- Applicant's banking information (void cheque or print out of banking numbers)
- EFT form filled out by the applicant.

After your application is approved, you will be required to submit a receipt each month OR childcare confirmation forms filled out by your Childcare Provider each month. **There will be no back pay.**

APPLICATION PROCESS

Fill out and submit childcare subsidy application form.
Link found on the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) website.

A Family Support Administrator (FSA) will be assigned to your file. They will email you the CHILD CARE CONFIRMATION form that will need to be filled out by your childcare provider/director and the EFT form that is filled out by you, the applicant.

Once all information is collected and eligibility is determined, your FSA will send you a confirmation email letting you know of your eligibility and approved subsidy amount.

You will submit your first childcare receipt or confirmation of childcare confirmation form. Subsidy payments will start within 6 – 8 weeks from your receipt or childcare confirmation submission date.

Other than monthly receipt or childcare confirmation form submissions, no actions are required unless/until you have a change of childcare arrangements, fees, or the child discontinues from childcare and the childcare subsidy is no longer required.

Definitions

Applicant: Applicant refers to the parent or caregiver who will be applying for the subsidy for their child/ren.

Family Support Administrator (FSA): Refers to the main point of contact between the applicant and the program. The FSA will connect with you once your application is submitted and will be your main point of contact while you are accessing the programming.

Licensed (Regulated) Childcare Centres: Licensed childcare centres may care for infants, toddlers, preschool-aged, and school-aged children. Childcare centres operate in a variety of locations, including workplaces, community centres, schools, and places of worship. Staff in regulated Child Care Centres are certified Early Childhood Educators (ECE), except for staff who are undergoing training for their ECE certification. They are monitored by the Ministry of Education.

Licensed (Regulated) Home-Based Care: Licensed childcare homes may care for infants, toddlers, preschool- aged, and school-aged children. They operate out of the provider's home. Criminal Record Checks and Vulnerable Sector Checks will have been completed on all adults living in the home prior to becoming regulated. They are monitored by the Ministry of Education.

Unlicensed (Unregulated) Childcare: Unlicensed childcare homes may care for infants, toddlers, preschool-aged, and school-aged children. They operate in a variety of locations including the providers' home, community centres, schools, and places of worship. They are not regulated by the Ministry of Education but are still required to meet certain standards such as the proper ratio of child to caregiver and to provide a safe environment.

Before and After School Care: Before and after school care includes children aged 6 to 12 who require childcare before and/or after school hours and/or during school breaks. They operate in a variety of locations including community centres, schools, and places of worship. These programs are often operated by non-profit organizations and are exempt from childcare regulations.

In-Home Childcare: Childcare that takes place in the home of the child. This may include a nanny or babysitter. They may be required to address other duties such as cleaning, shopping, and providing transportation for the children. Many nannies and babysitters charge an hourly rate, however the parent and nanny or babysitter may produce their own agreement on wage. They are not regulated by the Ministry of Education.

Family Provided Childcare: Family provided childcare is unlicensed care that takes place either in the family member's own home or in the child's home. Family members may include an aunt, uncle, or grandparent. They are not regulated by the Ministry of Education.

T4A is also known as a Statement of Pension, Retirement, Annuity, and Other Income. It is important because it helps the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) track income from sources outside of standard employment, ensuring the correct taxes are paid. If you receive a T4A, you will use it to report the income on your tax returns.