

# CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

## - City of Toronto

### WHAT IS A CHILD CARE SUBSIDY?

- A child care subsidy assists with the cost of child-care for children 0-9 years of age. If you live in the City of Toronto, the subsidy may be extended to children up to 12 years of age upon over-age approval from Toronto Children's Services.
- Subsidy is available for licenced group child care centres and licenced home child care.

### WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

- A resident of the City of Toronto.
- Each parent who is working, looking for work, self-employed or studying (please note that correspondence courses are not included). Not all courses are approved or eligible.
- The child must reside with you and you must be the parent, foster parent or legal guardian of that child.
- Subsidy is available for when you are in an approved activity (i.e. those days/hours that you are attending classes/tutorials/labs, including study time, travel time to and from work/school). An official letter from the University outlining your FT/PT status as a student should be enough to support your application. You should apply even if you have not started working/studying yet.

- Eligibility is determined through the use of an income test where your family income is taken in consideration. Please note that [Ontario Student Assistance Program \(OSAP\)](#) loans, scholarships, fellowships and bursaries are no longer considered to be taxable income. Under the income test, assets and expenses are not taken into consideration.
- Please note: In the City of Toronto, an applicant for a child care subsidy must submit their most recent Canadian income tax return. Please contact the [Family Care Office](#) if you have questions.

### HOW DO I APPLY?

- First-time applications can be done online through the [City of Toronto website](#) or call the City of Toronto at 311. Be ready to provide them with the information shown on Line 236 of your most recent [Notice of Assessment](#) or [Notice of Reassessment](#) and the amount of any [Canada Child Benefit](#) you receive, if applicable (there is also the Express NOA that allows you to view your Notice of Assessment in your software right after your return has been processed). If you are a new immigrant or a new resident to Canada, you may still apply before you have to file your first tax return but will need it for the in-person interview. You will need to file taxes for the year in which you arrive; please contact us if you have any questions.

- You can use their [fee subsidy calculator](#) to estimate how much you will need to pay for childcare.
- When your completed application is received, the information will be used to determine if you qualify to be placed on the first-come first-served subsidy waiting list. It is important to note that there is often a fairly long waitlist for subsidy depending on your family situation and your child's age. You may also make a note on the application about when you will need the subsidies for.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- [Canada Revenue Agency](#)
- Government of Canada Information Line: 1-800-622-6232
- [Ministry of Children & Youth Services](#)
- [City of Toronto Children's Services](#) or Call 311
- [Ontario Student Assistance Program \(OSAP\)](#)  
1-877-672-7411

## WHAT IF I AM NOT APPROVED?

- If your caseworker is not able to help, you have the right to appeal the [Children's Services](#) decision, procedure or policy by submitting a letter of appeal to Metro Children's Services Client Liaison Consultant at [childcare@toronto.ca](mailto:childcare@toronto.ca) or by calling 416-397-1262.

## WHAT IF I LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE CITY OF TORONTO?

- Childcare subsidies are available through your local municipal Children's Services Division. To apply, contact the office in your area. For more information, please contact the Family Care Office tip sheet on subsidies available in regions outside of Toronto.

For more information on childcare options, financial assistance, and parenting resources, please contact the Family Care Office.  
**416.978.0951** [www.familycare.utoronto.ca](http://www.familycare.utoronto.ca)

Last revised: August 2023

**FAMILY  
CARE  
OFFICE**