



Grant Assistance Program  
North Bay Regional Health Centre

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North Bay Regional  
Health Centre



Centre régional  
de santé de North Bay



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**ONTARIO'S  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATORS**

**QUALIFICATIONS UPGRADE DIPLOMA  
& LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION**

# Qualifications Upgrade Program (QUP)

The Early Childhood Educators Qualifications Upgrade Program provides financial support to individuals studying Early Childhood Education (ECE) who work in Early Years settings to achieve an ECE diploma and become eligible to apply for membership with the College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE).

## Education Grants

In order to be eligible to receive funds under the grant program, an individual must: Have 6 months of employment past or present within:

- Licensed Child Care Centres
- Licensed Home Child Care
- Unlicensed Home Child Care
- Formal early learning settings, which include:
  - School Boards
  - Head Start programs
  - Private schools
  - Other formal early learning child care, child and family programs, or school curriculum-linked programs

AND

- Be enrolled into a recognized community college in Ontario for full-time or part-time studies towards an Early Childhood Education diploma
- Be living and working in Ontario

NOTE: The following individuals are exempt from the required 6 months of employment (past or present), however must have a minimum of 1 day of employment within an eligible agency:

- Francophone
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit Individuals
- Employees of EarlyON Child and Family Centre or employed in a child care and family program funded under any Indigenous-led Child & Family Centres
- Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) agencies providing ongoing support to children with special needs attending licensed childcare
- Applicants who have completed the Skills Ontario Pilot for employment in child care.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR UNLICENSED HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

- Demonstrate that they operate a registered business by providing a copy of their business license.
- Demonstrate that they have cared for children for at least 6 months through reference letters from parents.
- Enrolled or accepted by a recognized community college in Ontario for full-time or part-time studies.
- Be living and/or working in Ontario.



## Training Allowance

All approved education grant recipients (full-time and part-time) are automatically assessed for a training allowance.

Training allowance will be allocated as follows:

- Full-time students who have left their employment to pursue their studies can receive up to \$5,000.00 per semester
- Full-time students who remain employed will receive \$300.00 for each course taken per semester
- Part-time students will receive \$300.00 for each course taken for minimum of \$500 per semester



## Travel Grants

Travel Grants are available to assist students with daily commute expenses while attending classes, first aid training, and/or completing the placement component of their program.

Travel Grants may also provide assistance to individuals who are required to live temporarily away from home to pursue studies.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicants must be approved for an education grant under this program.
- The educational institution and or placement location must be more than 20 kilometers one-way from the applicant's home address.