

Outdoor Play Space Grant

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. What is the purpose of this grant?

This grant is intended to provide one-time funding to assist centres in the creation or enhancement of their outdoor play space facilities.

2. Who can apply for this funding?

All existing licensed, full or part-day, commercial and non-profit child care centres and family home day care agencies.

Note: The Outdoor Play Space Grant is only available to eligible family home day care agencies and *not* their approved homes. It is expected that family home day care agencies will provide outdoor play equipment (outdoor toys, bicycles, push-toys, shovels etc.) to their affiliated homes through a lending library.

3. Are there other eligibility criteria?

Existing centres must have a valid license to operate a child care facility, and a history of compliance to the *Day Care Act* and Regulations over the past two licensing periods. Violations which occurred due to the timing of inspections outside of the child care centre's control will not be considered.

Centres with written directives are ineligible for funding.

5. What if the Centre's outdoor play space plan exceeds the \$20,000 maximum amount for the grant?

Centres should document the entire plan for their outdoor play space in the Work Plan. Funding will be approved at the discretion of the Department based on the need and value of the proposed project. Projects in excess of \$20,000 *may be* considered based on funding availability.

6. Why do centres have to contact their Early Childhood Development Officer (ECDO's) before submitting an application?

The ECDO will guide the centre through the application completion process. The ECDO's will work with the centre to ensure the Work Plan incorporates elements of good outdoor play space design – i.e. year round use of space; use of natural play space, inclusive design and use of inclusive equipment; appropriate scale and layout; etc.

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7. What is the application process? How will the applications be evaluated?

Centres shall submit their application (including work plan) to their Regional ECDO.

The applications will be evaluated and scored based on compliance history and the demonstrated need and value outlined in the Work Plan.

8. How is funding disbursed?

Funding will be disbursed in two payments. The first instalment, 60% of the grant funding awarded, will be disbursed upon receipt of the signed Outdoor Play Space Grant Agreement.

The remaining 40% will be disbursed after the ECDO has performed a visual inspection of the completed outdoor play space to verify it conforms to the work plan.

9. What expenses are eligible?

Grant funding can be used for:

- Landscaping – sod, sand, pea gravel, plants, trees, surfacing etc.
- Fencing, shed and sunshields (natural – trees – or manufactured)
- Equipment or structures (Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certified) and outdoor play materials
- Installation and assembly costs (CSA certified) directly related to the play space

10. Are there any ineligible expenses?

Yes, equipment or materials that do not meet the criteria of section 11 of the Day Care Regulations. Items such as inflatable pools and trampolines are ineligible for funding.

11. What about Family Home Day Care Agencies?

Family Home Day Care Agencies can utilize the funding to create/enhance outdoor play material lending libraries for use by their family homes.

12. How long does a centre have to complete the work?

Centres are required to complete the work on/before the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, March 31, 2008.

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13. Can a centre still apply for the grant if it is unable to obtain 3 estimates for the outdoor play space?

A centre should provide 3 estimates of the proposed work. Centres unable to obtain 3 estimates are still eligible to apply for the grant. The estimates provided will be evaluated.

If a centre is unable to obtain 3 estimates you are required to indicate in the work plan why the centre was unable to obtain 3 estimates. Please include the list of the vendors that estimates were requested from and include copies of correspondence to or from the vendor.

14. Why is there a requirement to use CSA equipment and ensure that it is installed according to standards outlined in the CSA *Children's Playspaces and Equipment*?

The CSA Children's Playspaces and Equipment standard "...is intended to promote and encourage the provision and use of playspaces that are well-designed, well-maintained, innovative, and challenging, and, in so doing, contribute to the development of healthy children in the broadest sense of the word."

15. Are there resources available to help with the design of the outdoor play space?

Your first point of contact for support is the centre's regional ECDO. Additional resources are can be found at the following organizations:

Best Practices

Canadian Standards Association (www.csa-intl.org)

Children's Playspaces and Equipment

(http://www.csa-intl.org/onlinestore/ISO_Search_Results.asp?query=Playspaces)

Canadian Child Care Federation (www.cccf-fcsge.ca)

Quality Environments and Best Practices for Physical Activity in Early Childhood Settings

http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/subsites/physicalactivity/home_en.htm

Evergreen (www.evergreen.ca)

Resources web page: <http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lq/lq-resources.html>

Small Wonders: Designing Vibrant Natural Landscapes for Early Childhood:

<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lq/small-wonders.pdf>

Inclusive Playspaces

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (United Kingdom)

Developing Accessible Play Space: A Good Practice Guide

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/763/DevelopingAccessiblePlaySpaceAGoodPracticeGuide_id1127763.pdf

Canadian Cancer Society

SunSense

http://www.cancer.ca/ccs/internet/standard/0,3182,3172_1046449084_1176414410_langld-en,00.html

Architect Associations

Nova Scotia Association of Architects (<http://nsaa.ns.ca/main.html>)

Atlantic Provinces Association of Landscape Architects (<http://www.apala.ca>)

Atlantic Association of Landscape Designers: (<http://www.aald.ca/index.html>)

Landscape Nova Scotia (<http://www.landscapenovascotia.ca>)