

Financial Supports and Services

Child Care

Child care subsidy is financial assistance to access a range of child care supports and services available through Community Services.

To be eligible for subsidized child care, the applicant must be a resident of Niagara, subject to verification of a qualifying reason, and must undergo a financial eligibility income test.

Reasons for applying include support for:

- Employment (to obtain or maintain)
- School attendance (basic or post-secondary education. Including Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP))
- Attendance in job-related training programs
- Children with developmental (special) needs
- Families/children at risk for healthy development

Community Services provides financial assistance for placements in:

- Licensed centre-based programs
- Licensed home-based settings
- Recreation programs that meet the funding criteria for children from birth to 18 years of age
- Other limited funding options may be available through discussion with a Children's Services Caseworker

Email: childcarecosts@regional.niagara.on.ca for information on subsidized child care.

To Apply

Step One

Is a telephone screening with a Children's Services Caseworker, by calling 905-984-3750 or toll free 1-800-263-7215, extension 3897 who will verify the qualifying reason



for child care subsidy and obtain preliminary information for the completion of a financial income test

- The following information will be requested of the applicant at that time: name and date of birth, child or children's name(s) and date(s) of birth, reason for applying for subsidy, family income as outlined on line 236 of the income tax return(s), excluding payments received from the Federal Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB)
- The applicant will be put on a placement waiting list and contacted by a Children's Services Caseworker in order to finalize the application in step two. Applications are dealt with on a "first come, first served" date of inquiry. Exceptions include families experiencing domestic violence
- A financial eligibility and coordinated services planning letter is forwarded to each applicant in advance of the face-to-face meeting date outlining the documentation to be brought to the interview.

Step Two

Is the eligibility verification for all applicants in a face-to-face interview with a Children's Services Caseworker to confirm financial eligibility and develop a coordinated supports and services placement plan for the child

Providing (subsidized) Recreation/Cultural Opportunities for Children/Youth (PRO – Kids)

Financial assistance is available to support the participation of children and youth from birth to 18 years of age in the recreation and/or cultural activity of their choice

To be eligible for a subsidized recreation and/or cultural activity, the applicant must be a parent/guardian meeting a minimum of one of the following three criteria:

- in receipt of social assistance
- eligible for child care subsidy (with income less than \$40,000 as outlined on line 236 of the Federal Income Tax Notice of Assessment(s) or on the Canada Child Tax Benefit)
- a tenant of Niagara Regional Housing

To Apply

Call the Children's Services Intake line at 905-984-3750 or 1-800-263-7215 ext. 3897. • Email: pro-kids@regional.niagara.on.ca

