

FACTSHEET

January 5, 2007

Ministry of Children and Family Development

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

- The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is a financial benefit that helps British Columbian families with low to moderate incomes meet the costs of child care.
- To be eligible for Child Care Subsidy, parents must:
 - be a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident of Canada or a Convention Refugee;
 - live in and have child care provided in British Columbia;
 - have a reason for child care which meets a social need;
 - provide proof of income to show financial eligibility (income test);
 - select an eligible child care arrangement.
- In October 2005, B.C. allocated additional funding and made Subsidy Program changes so that more children and families are eligible to receive greater amounts of subsidy. This increase in funding is being maintained despite the cancellation of the federal Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.
- Changes included:
 - Increasing the subsidy rates for children under age six in regulated care by an average of 15 per cent.
 - Increasing the income threshold to \$38,000 from \$21,000 for full subsidy for families of children under age six in regulated care.
 - Subsidy is available so that children under age six in unregulated licence-not-required (LNR) or licensed family care can attend a licensed group preschool experience.
- Overall, it is estimated that the October 2005 enhancements have made subsidy available to approximately 6,500 additional children, while an additional 6,000 have seen a rise in their existing subsidy.
- The number of children for whom a claim was made in fiscal 2005/06 was 46,516 and the number of families was 31,825. Due to movement in and out of the program, monthly figures are lower than this. The table below shows figures for specific months, which gives an indication of the impact of the October 2005 changes:

Month	Children	Families
July 2005	20,748	14,078
October 2005	18,236	12,662
July 2006	23,800	16,596
October 2006	23,128	16,332

- Expenditures in fiscal 2006/07 reflect the increased funding available to low and middle income earners, as evidenced in the table below. Figures are in millions.

Actual 04/05	92,375
Actual 05/06	108,262
Forecast 06/07	125,294
Budget 07/08	125,800