

The ECD Employment Stimulus Relief Fund

What does it mean for SmartStarters?

A QUICK SUMMARY

- Last year, the government announced emergency funding to help to protect jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of this funding is for workers at ECD programmes. It is called [the ECD Employment Stimulus Relief Fund](#).
- The Fund will pay a special grant to people who work at ECD programmes, who have suffered a loss of income as a result of the pandemic. [The support provided will amount to a maximum value of R4,470 per staff member](#). The final amount might be less depending on how many people apply.
- [All types of employees at all types of ECD programmes](#), including non-centre based programmes like playgroups and childminders, are eligible.
- The deadline for applying for this one-off grant is [Friday 19th February](#).



THIS GRANT IS DIFFERENT TO THE SMARTSTART RELIEF GRANT.
This means that you can apply for BOTH of these grants.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- ‘Eligible’ means ‘allowed to receive the grant’. A person is eligible if they work at an ECD programme in any role – such as practitioners, cooks and administrators.
- All SmartStart programmes [operating before the 1st March 2020](#) are eligible.
- In addition, programmes [need to be open to be eligible](#). If your programme has not re-opened yet, you must commit to re-opening within 60 days.
- Being eligible is not by itself enough. The government requires applicants to have certain things in place, like a bank account. Many SmartStarters will find this difficult. [However, your Franchisor can apply for you](#). There is more information on this over the page.

There's not much time – keep reading to find out how to apply!

WHO CAN APPLY?

- The government says that the application must be submitted by:
 - ① The owner or manager of an ECD centre, for **all** staff members. The total value of the grant will be for a maximum of 4 staff members per ECD centre, which must be shared between all staff. *OR*
 - ② The owner or manager of a non-centre based ECD programme, such as a playgroup or childminder. The total value of the grant will be for 1 staff member per programme, to be shared between all staff. *OR*
 - ③ An organisation that manages or oversees multiple ECD programmes – on behalf of any programme with whom a written agreement was in place before 1st March 2020. This means that your Franchisor can apply for you.

IF YOU WANT YOUR FRANCHISOR TO APPLY FOR YOU

- If you want your Franchisor to apply on your behalf and your Franchisee Agreement was signed on or before 1st March 2020 then:
 - Complete the online consent form – you can access it here: smartstart.org.za/contracts/login
 - Your Franchisor will try to apply on your behalf. If they are successful, they will pay the grant to you (probably between April and May).
 - You will need to provide proof that you re-opened within 60 days.



By signing the consent form, you commit to re-open within 60 days of receiving the grant. **Only sign the form if you can make this commitment.**

IF YOU WANT TO APPLY DIRECTLY FOR YOUR PROGRAMME

- The government says that *any person or organisation who applies* (not the person who receives the grant) must have these things in place:
 - ① A bank account in the name of the ECD programme or organisation.
 - ② Registration on the Central Supplier Database (if you are not funded by DSD). Just fill in the form at: secure.csd.gov.za/Account/Register
- If you have these things and **you want to apply for yourself**, go to <https://govchat.app>, fill in your details and upload the documents requested.



You cannot apply directly yourself *and* through your Franchisor. This is fraud and could result in criminal charges. Choose one method.

Need more information? Call your Coach or visit www.dsd.gov.za