

ECD Employment Stimulus Relief Fund

February 2021

AN EARLY LEARNING SOCIAL FRANCHISE

The logo for Smart Start features the words "smart" and "start" in a lowercase, rounded, sans-serif font. A white curved line starts under the "t" in "start", arches over the "t" in "smart", and ends in a small five-pointed star.

smart
start

GIVING EVERY CHILD THE
POWER TO SUCCEED.

★ Overview of fund and package

- 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 overall.
- All types of employees at all types of ECD programmes, including non-centre based programmes like playgroups and childminders, are eligible.
- **The deadline for applications is Friday 19th February.**

★ Who is eligible?

- A person is eligible if they work at an ECD programme in any role – such as practitioners, cooks, cleaners and administrators.
- An ECD programme is eligible if it is:
 - 1 Registered, conditionally registered or unregistered. If it is unregistered it must provide early learning opportunities.
 - 2 Open and running its service – or if it has not re-opened yet, commits to re-opening within 60 days of receiving the grant.

★ Who is eligible?

- Individual workers employed at an ECD programme cannot submit their own application for the grant. The application must be submitted by:

①

The owner or manager of an ECD centre, for all staff members. **A maximum of 4 staff members per ECD centre will be supported.**

②

The owner or manager of a non-centre based ECD programme, such as a playgroup or childminder. **A maximum of 1 staff member per programme will be supported.**

③

An organisation that has run, managed or overseen multiple ECD programmes for more than 3 years, on behalf of those programmes.



Why can't SmartStarters apply directly?

- The person or organisation that applies must have these things in place:
 - A bank account **in the name of the ECD programme or organisation.**
 - For programmes not currently receiving funding from DSD, registration on the Central Supplier Database. (This requires a tax reference number)
- **These requirements will prevent the majority of SmartStarters from applying for themselves.**

The Practicalities - official process

- **The application form** - <https://govchat.app>

Franchisor requirements

- CSD registration
- NPO registration
- Letter from Chair of ISF

For every SmartStarter:

- ID number
- Gender and race
- Qualifications (if they have any, but this is not compulsory)
- The number and ages of children attending the programme