

Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare 2nd - 6th September 2024

DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday 27th September 2024 5pm:

Deadline for 2024 Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary Applications

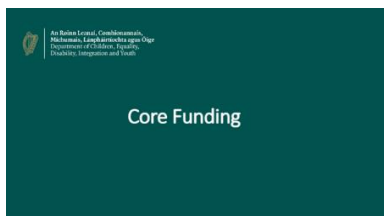
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Core Funding Year 3 (2024/25) financial reporting requirements



The Chart of Account codes for the new Core Funding programme year 3 (2024/2025) are now available on the [Core Funding Documents](#) page of the Early Years Hive. FAQs and other support documents will follow shortly.

Core Funding 2024/2025 payments



- If you submitted your original Core Funding application *on or before* 31 August 2024, the August Review and Confirm needs to be completed and at an 'Approved' status for Core Funding payments to continue.
- If you submitted your original Core Funding application *on or after 1 September 2024*, Core Funding allocations will be representative of an entitlement from the first Monday after which the programme year begins, or the Monday of the week the Funding Agreement is accepted, whichever is later.
- Partner Services in Core Funding for less than a full programme year will be allocated the appropriate number of weekly payments. Core Funding payments will only be processed as per the payment schedule once a Partner Service's original application has reached an 'Approved' status.

Future Core Funding payments will be paid in advance and equate to four or five weekly allocations depending on the number of weeks in the month as per the per the [Core Funding Payment Schedule](#).

Core Funding allocations can be viewed on the [Programme Funding](#) page of the Early Years Hive.

ECCE 2024 programme call payments



The next ECCE batch payment that is due the week ending 13th September 2024 will be based on Approved registrations. The calculation for this payment is the amount due from registrations up to 11 October 2024 minus the amount paid as a preliminary payment.

The preliminary payment amount was for four weeks from 19th August and was based on child registrations in December of last year. If your service was closed at the beginning of the programme call, or has less registrations this year than in December 2023, this may have resulted in an overpayment that will be deducted from the second payment.

There will be no further preliminary payments made, so services are encouraged to register children on the Early Years Hive as soon as possible. The deadline for entering registrations to be included in the payment due the week ending 13 September is close of business Tuesday 10 September.

AIM Expansion applications



The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Expansion application process for AIM Level 7 is now open on the Early Years Hive. This is the link to the [AIM Hive Guides](#) to support you with the submission of your AIM Standard, AIM Plus and AIM Non-term applications.

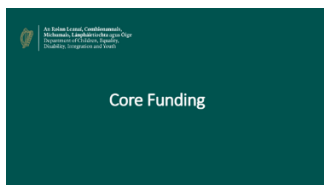
AIM Subsidy Rates 2024/25



DECDIY have announced the rates for AIM Level 7 funding will be increasing from €240 to €246 per week for the ECCE 2024/25 programme.

Queries can be directed to EYPC by raising a request on Hive and selecting the following: Programme (select the AIM level) Request type: Allocation Request type detail: How to

Base rate cap for the 2024/2025 Core Funding programme year



Partner Services who submit their 2024/2025 Core Funding application on or before 31 August will have their base rate capped at their approved August Review and Confirm for the 2024/2025 programme year.

For Partner Services who submit their Core Funding application from 1 September onwards, they will *not* be required to complete the August Review and Confirm window, and their base rate will cap on the approval of their original Core Funding application.

Core Funding Partner Service funding agreement 2024/2025



Partner Services must activate the Core Funding Partner Service funding agreement 2024/2025 after submitting a Core Funding Application. You have 21 days from submission of the CF application to submit the funding agreement. After 21 days, the Core Funding Application Module will be cancelled, and you will be required to start a new application. Step-by-step guidance on how to activate a Core Funding Partner Service funding agreement 2024/2025 can be found [here](#). Any queries can be directed to the EYPC by raising a [Request](#) using the following categories:

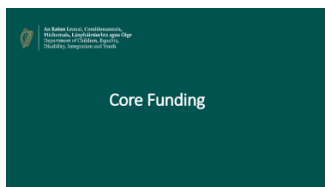
Programme: Core Funding Request Type: Application Request Type Detail: (Please select relevant option)

Notification from the National Fee Review Team: Review of Fee Table and Parent

Statement Required in Advance of Programme Year

Where a Service Provider has signed a Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement for the 2024/2025 Programme Year, they have agreed to uphold certain contractual obligations regarding the fees charged to parents. One of these obligations is that they would not increase their fees beyond what they were on 30 September 2021. For New Partner Services that were not in existence on 30 September 2021, and which subsequently joined Core Funding, they must adhere to their Fees charged by them for the same service as set on the date that they signed the first Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement.

Action for 2024/25 Programme Year



Please be aware that at the Commencement of the Core Funding Partner Service Agreement on 1 September 2024, Partner Services which are suspected of being breach of the Core Funding Partner Service Agreement for 2024/25, may become subject of the Fee Review Process. This process will be utilised to determine whether a breach of the Agreement has occurred. If at the conclusion of this process a determination is made that a breach of the Core Funding Partner Service Agreement or associated Rules has occurred, a Partner Service may be asked to provide evidence of remediation of the breach. Evidence of remediation may include the provision of evidence that demonstrates that a Partner Service has restored fees to the correct level or informed and refunded all parents who have been overcharged the full amount that they have overpaid or agreed a repayment plan with them.

NCS subsidy increased on Monday 2 September



The minimum rate for the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) subsidies increased from €1.40 to €2.14 on Monday 2 September. Parents in receipt of a subsidy which is less than the maximum, will receive a higher subsidy towards their childcare fees. There will be no change to the sponsor rate for children aged 0-52 weeks. Awards have been recalculated with this new rate and updated accordingly. Where there are rates changes, parents' co-payment must be updated, and the parents informed. Service providers do not have to create any new documents or have new signatures in old documents due to the uplift.

For further support, please raise a [Request](#) on Hive as follows:

Request program type: NCS

Request type: Registrations

Request type detail: Claim

ECCE Calendars



ECCE calendars cannot be changed retrospectively during the 2024/25 programme call. ECCE programme rules state, if you want to make a change to the ECCE calendar you must firstly contact your CCC to have it approved; give parents 20 working days written notice and display the revised calendar in your service.

Fee Increase Assessment and Approval Process

To submit an expression of interest in the Fee Increase Assessment and Approval Process, Partner Services can contact their pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com. Applicant Guidelines can be found on the Hive> Resources> Programme Documents> Guidelines on Fee Management

2024 Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary

Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary 2024 offers a bursary to early years educators and registered childminders, who are working in the sector, and have obtained a recognised Level 7/8/9 award. There is also a bursary available for registered childminders who have completed a Level 5 or 6 award. Please contact eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com for application forms and guidance.

Covid Case Advice

Please see below links to relevant information:

[Preventing the spread of covid 19 in school or childcare - HSE](#)

[Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings \(2012\)](#)

General Covid-19 queries: Contact HSE on 1800 700 700 between 8 am and 8 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am - 5 pm Saturday and Sunday / [HSE Covid 19](#)