

FAQs for the ECD Employment Stimulus Relief Grant

June 2021

Q 1: What is the current status of the ECD Employment Stimulus Relief Grant pay-outs?

Response: The Western Cape has received 6 batches of applications thus far with a total of 793 facilities from the national Department of Social Development. We are expecting a 7th batch from our national Department of Social Development for other facilities that have applied and been checked against an initial set of eligibility criterion.

The Western Cape Government has received R53 million and has contracted an intermediary organisation, The Foundation for Community Work (FCW), to assist with the processing of payments and verification of the stimulus relief package.

Q 2: How will I know what is the status of my application and whether I have been successful or not? How can ECD centres and services follow up on applications if they have not heard anything?

Response: The success of your application is determined by The National Department of Social Development. Once they have verified the ECD services application against their set criteria, FCW receives the batches. Thus, neither FCW, nor the provincial Department of Social Development, is able to answer on whether your application has been successful.

If FCW has received your ECD services information and your application has been deemed unsuccessful due to incorrect banking details, FCW will contact you to ask you to provide updated banking details.

If ECD services have applied but have not heard anything yet, they can email FCW on admin@fcw.co.za to enquire whether their site was on any of the existing batches we have already received. If not, FCW will put you on a waiting list. On receipt of the 7th batch, FCW will review the waiting list and revert to you.

Q 3: Who can we contact regarding staff not qualifying and the reasons for not qualifying?

Response: The email for the national DSD is ecd@dsd.gov.za. The email for Foundation for Community Work (FCW) is admin@fcw.co.za. FCW can answer questions related to the 6 batches (of 793 facilities) which were received.

Q 4: What is the process? And why have some centres been paid and not others?

Response: There is a process for checking the information provided by the facilities and programmes on a national and provincial level before pay-out. This includes the following:

- The national DSD checks the information provided by the ECD services for the verification of staff and the facility against the Vangasali database, population register and against PERSAL (government staff system). They also do verification of banking details of those facilities that indicated that they are unregistered and unfunded.
- Social service organisations in the province have conducted site visits to check whether the facilities exist
- The DSD Western Cape checks whether the information provided is accurate, such as the registration and funding status, and the bank details.
- Foundation for Community Work (FCW) have been contracted to assist with verification and pay-out. They may conduct site visits or call the organisation if they need further information.
- They pay out if everything is in order. Before the first week in June they paid out 50%, checked whether the right people got paid, and then paid out the other 50%. From the second week in June there is only one single payment being paid out.
- After paying out, they will again check if the right people got paid. They will request the following: Contracts or sign in registers of all staff who received the money as proof that they are employed at your centre; ID documents of staff; NPO registration document; Name of compliant officer; Banks statement of the centre as proof that monies were received; Also proof of payments made to the staff i.e. payslip, bank statement of the staff member.
- The DSD and FCW may conduct monitoring to check whether everything is in order.

Q 5: How can we retrieve or access our application form in order to check our application details? (with specific reference to the staff members which we have applied for)

Response: This is not possible now as the system for application is closed. The Provincial Minister of Social Development has requested that the system be re-opened.

Q 6: How should the funds be distributed?

Response: Each staff member who passed the eligibility criteria qualifies for a total amount of R4 186 per person.

Q 7: What is the turnaround time between the ECD service receiving the funds and paying it out to their staff.

Response: ECD facilities and programmes are encouraged to pay-out as soon as possible after receiving the funds

Q 8: Can the money be paid to current staff when previous staff (at the time of the application) left/resigned.

Response: Unfortunately, it is only the staff that has been included in the application that can be paid as their information (such as IDs) were checked and verified as correct.

Q 9: When staff are being paid full salaries – should they receive the Stimulus amount in addition?

Response: The stimulus package is aimed at supplementing the income generated by the ECD services through subsidising the cost of employment. This will help with restoring the provision of ECD services, support continued operation and reduce the risk of permanent closure. Therefore, it is not intended to replace the salaries the staff would normally receive and is in addition/ top up to their salaries.

Q 10: What are the reasons for site verifications?

Response: The reasons for site verifications is to confirm whether the ECD exists and may include checking documentation submitted to check whether everything is in order. The site visit would also be to check whether the appropriate staff was paid the correct amounts of money.

Q 11: What records should the principal keep?

Response: They need to keep proof that they paid their staff members. this can be in the form of bank statements and salary slips, salary register indicating staff names and amount paid and their signature as receiving.

Q 12: How must the centre report and to whom?

Response: FCW and/ or the Department of Social Development will be in contact with the ECD facilities and programmes that have received the stimulus relief grant. the main aim is to verify whether the appropriate staff received the correct amount of money.

Q 13: Is there communication to centres that goes together with the payment - so the centres know how to make payments to staff correctly, what records to keep and how to report?

Response: FCW will contact the centres after payment and explain this process.