**Training and Capacity Building for Early Childhood Educators**

**Information sheet**

**Funding Program:** Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC), Official Languages Stream

**Funding Source:**

* 2023-2028 Action plan for Official Languages ([Pillar 2: Promoting Lifelong Learning Opportunities](https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/official-languages-bilingualism/official-languages-action-plan/2023-2028.html#a11)): Renewal of funding to support early learning and child care development – Training and Capacity Building for Early Childhood Educators
* 2018-2023 Action plan for Official Languages (ongoing and permanent funding): Support for Early Childhood DevelopmentFunds

**Funding Recipient:** [Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne](https://acufc.ca/)

**Funding Amount:** $16,253,622

**Funding Duration:** 2025/01/10 to 2028/03/31

**Funding Announcement:** [New funding for early learning and child care initiatives in Francophone minority communities - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2025/03/new-funding-for-early-learning-and-child-care-initiatives-in-francophone-minority-communities.html)

**Project details:** [Grants and Contributions](https://search.open.canada.ca/grants/record/esdc-edsc,014-2024-2025-Q4-00049,current)

***This initiative was renewed based on the positive impacts of the former initiative from the 2018-2023 Action Plan for Official Languages and the persisting needs for new qualified francophone ECEs in the sector. The former initiative was also funded by ESDC and led by the ACUFC. It started on 2019/07/15 and ended on 2024/07/10.***

**Summary of the initiative:**

The Training and Capacity Building for Early Childhood Educators in Francophone Minority Communities (FCMs) Initiative aims to support the development and improvement of training programs and to strengthen the capacity of early childhood educators (ECEs) in FMCs, in order to meet labour market needs in the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) sector.

This renewed and enhanced initiative is led by the Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne (ACUFC), which is the recipient of $16.3 million in funding, including $12.6 million in new funding for ELCC from the Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028, and $3.7 million from the early childhood development fund.

As the primary funding recipient, the ACUFC redistributes funds to eligible organizations to support the development and improvement of professional training, as well as the capacity building of early childhood educators in the ELCC sector in FMCs.

As part of this project, the ACUFC also aim to develop research capacity on early childhood within FMCs, to document the current state of the sector and guide future developments, particularly by identifying best practices and mechanisms to share resources. To achieve this, they are undertaking collective knowledge mobilization initiatives, in collaboration with partners from various sectors. To support this work, the ACUFC recently launched the [Observatoire de la formation en petite enfance](https://formationpetiteenfance.ca/mobilisation-des-connaissances/) that has a section to disseminate the results of the funded research.

Moreover, the project aims to improve the recognition of the profession of Early Childhood Educator, which led the ACUFC to initiate the [first Early Childhood Educator in FMCs Recognition Week.](https://merci-mon-educ.ca/programmation/)

**Expected results:**

* Early learning and child care service providers have a greater capacity to serve children and families in Francophone minority communities

Indicators:

* Increased number of cross-sectoral partnerships to support the development and delivery of training and capacity building for ECEs
* Increased number of participants in early childhood professional development activities in Francophone minority communities
* Increased number of post-secondary institutions offering new and/or adapted training program or professional development training
* Increased number of learning resources and training created and/adapted (initial and continued training)