MN Great Start Compensation Support Payments

What is the Minnesota Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program?
The Minnesota Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program is a new state program that provides compensation support to eligible child care centers specifically to recruit and retain child care employees who regularly care for children. Funds for this program are distributed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS).

Who qualifies for payments?
Childcare employees who are counted as part of the DHS required staff to student ratio and who regularly care for children can receive payment through the Minnesota Great Start program. In the Edina Public Schools Little Kids Club program, this applies to the positions of Childcare Assistants and Site Lead.
Little Kids Club Leads and Site Leads must be actively employed and working in Little Kids Club to receive these payments. If a Childcare Assistant or Site Lead resigns or is terminated from their Little Kids Club position before a scheduled payment date, then they will not receive a Minnesota Great Start payment.
How are payments calculated?
Payments are based on the number of hours that a Little Kids Club Childcare Assistant or Site Lead has worked caring for children during before and after school care, and on non-school days. Prep time is not included in the payment calculation. Payments are made in a lump sum and are expected to equate to approximately $2 of additional pay per hour. Actual payment amounts are subject to change based on state funding.

When will payments be made?
Payments will be made on a quarterly basis and per the following schedule.

Hours Worked During	Great Start Payment Date
Sept, Oct, Nov 2026	Jan 30, 2027
Dec, Jan, Feb 2027	April 30, 2027
March, April, May 2027	July 30, 2027
June, July, Aug 2027	Oct 30, 2027

What do employees need to do in order to receive payments?
No action is required by Childcare Assistants and Site Leads. The Community Education and Strategic Partnerships main office will work with Payroll to calculate and process payments.

Is the Minnesota Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program permanent?
This program is entirely funded by DHS, and if the funding is discontinued, the Minnesota Great Start payments will cease.

For questions, contact:
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