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Children's Services Funding Policy Statements

Community and Social Services Department

March 2025

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Section 1: Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Funding Statement

Purpose

Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding is intended to support a system of high-quality, affordable, and inclusive early learning and child care services for all eligible families. CWELCC reduces the cost of licensed child care through lower fees, increase equitable access to licensed spaces, and supports improved compensation for qualified workers.

Funding

Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) is funded through contributions made by the Government of Ontario, the Government of Canada, and the City of Ottawa. Children's Services will meet the municipal cost share obligations as directed by the upper levels of government.

One hundred per cent Municipal Funding may be used to enhance provincial funding subject to budget availability.

Application

Eligible licensed Child Care Service Providers (CCSPs) may complete an application to indicate their interest in participating in the CWELCC system or other associated funding. Application approval is subject to the submission of a complete application, meeting eligibility criteria, and availability of funding.

Eligibility

All CCSP applicants must meet the applicable Provincial Guideline eligibility criteria and City's eligibility criteria to be considered for funding.

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Provincial eligibility criteria:

- Be a licensed CCSP by the Ministry of Education and subject to the requirements of all pertinent legislation including the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA);
- Enter into an agreement with the City for the provision of funding and agree with terms and conditions of the agreement which may be adapted from time to time, based on the Provincial Guideline;
- Demonstrate financial viability to the City;
- Agree to abide by CWELCC requirements in accordance with the CCEYA and the Provincial Guideline, as amended from time to time.

City's eligibility criteria:

- Be located in the City of Ottawa;
- Be in Good Standing with the City of Ottawa;
- Agree to use any technology platforms and associated policies and processes as indicated by Children's Services.
- Agree to provide programs and services to children in receipt of fee subsidy and/or children with special needs and other prioritized populations.
- Agree to adapt and adjust programs and services in accordance with the Provincial Guideline and provincial allocations to meet local needs including those outlined in the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029, the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide, future plans and other City of Ottawa plans.

Funding allocation

Applicants who satisfy the provincial and City eligibility requirements may be considered for CWELCC funding, subject to the availability of funding.

Funding will be allocated based on provincial direction in a fair, equitable and transparent manner to meet objectives and local needs. Funding calculations will be

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adjusted from time to time based on the CCEYA, Provincial Guidelines, and plans and frameworks such as Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework 2023, and local needs including those outlined in the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide, the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029 and future service system plans.

All allowable expenses are outlined in the Provincial Guideline and/or in the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide.

Reporting and monitoring

Recipients are required to demonstrate maintained eligibility and use of funding by reporting annually in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the contribution agreement with Children's Services and/or the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide.

As per the Provincial Guideline, where required, applicants may need to complete reconciliations, direct engagements, cost reviews or other as directed by the Province of Ontario.

The City has the right to withhold and/or recover all funding contributions in the event of inappropriate use of funding.

Funding recipients are expected to cooperate fully with any monitoring and evaluation activities conducted by Children's Services and must ensure that all reports are accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

Authority and standards

- *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA)*
- The Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029
- Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework 2023
- Ontario Child Care and Early Years Funding Guidelines
- City of Ottawa Child Care Service Provider User Guide

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Definitions

“CCEYA” means the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, and its regulations, as amended.

“Good Standing” means the applicant CCSP has fulfilled all the terms and conditions of all previous and current agreements and contracts with the City and is in good financial standing with the City (i.e. no arrears).

“Provincial Guideline” means the Ontario Child Care and Early Years Funding Guidelines, or any other directive issued by the Province of Ontario, as amended.

“SSM” means Service System Managers who are designated under the *Child Care and Early Years Act*, to manage child care services and early years programs and services across the province.

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Section 2: EarlyON Child and Family Centre funding policy statement

Purpose

EarlyON Child and Family Centres (EarlyON) offer high-quality, free drop-in and preregistered programs for children 0-6 and their families. They provide welcoming environments where children, families and caregivers can learn, grow and connect together. EarlyON programs and services are offered through a variety of service delivery methods to meet the unique needs of families in their communities, including mobile, virtual and outdoor programs as well as phone services.

Funding

EarlyON Child and Family Centres are funded through contributions made by the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada.

EarlyON Child and Family Centre funding must be designed to achieve the provincial objectives set out in the Provincial Guideline and to deliver mandatory core services and customized community connections.

Children's Services will use the provincial principles in place to inform EarlyON funding priorities while balancing local needs identified in the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029.

One hundred per cent Municipal Funding may be used to enhance provincial funding subject to budget availability.

Application

Eligible Service Providers may complete an application for any associated funding. Application approval is subject to the submission of a complete application, meeting eligibility criteria, and availability of funding.

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Eligibility

Funding may be provided to non-profit service providers, publicly funded school boards or municipalities who offer EarlyON Child and Family Centre programs and services and meet the requirements set out in this guideline.

All EarlyON providers must meet the applicable Provincial Guideline eligibility criteria and City's eligibility criteria to be considered for funding:

- Demonstrate financial viability to the City;
- Agree to abide by funding requirements in accordance with the CCEYA, the Provincial Guideline, and the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide, as amended from time to time;
- Be located in the City of Ottawa;
- Be in Good Standing with the City of Ottawa;
- Enter into an agreement with the City for the provision of funding and agree with terms and conditions of the agreement which may be adapted from time to time, based on the Provincial Guideline;
- Agree to use any technology platforms and associated policies and processes as indicated by Children's Services;
- Agree to adapt and adjust programs and services in accordance with the Provincial Guideline and provincial allocations to meet local needs including those outlined in the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029, the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide, future plans and other City of Ottawa plans.

Funding allocation

Applicants who satisfy the provincial and City eligibility requirements may be considered for funding, subject to the availability of funding.

Funding will be allocated in a fair, equitable and transparent manner to meet program objectives and local needs. Funding calculations will be adjusted based on the CCEYA, Provincial Guideline, Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework 2023, previous Council

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approved framework and local priorities, including those outlined in the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide, the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029 and future service system plans.

Reporting and monitoring

Recipients of this funding are required to demonstrate maintained eligibility and use of funding by reporting in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the contribution agreement with Children's Services. To ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of funding, all funding recipients are required to meet specific reporting requirements outlined in the contribution agreement with Children's Services and/or the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide.

Funding recipients are expected to cooperate fully with any monitoring and evaluation activities conducted by Children's Services and must ensure that all reports are accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

Authority and standards

- *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA)*
- Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029
- Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework 2023
- Ontario Child Care and Early Years Funding Guidelines

Definitions

"CCEYA" means the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, and its regulations, as amended.

"Good Standing" means the applicant CCSP has fulfilled all the terms and conditions of all previous and current agreements and contracts with the City and is in good financial standing with the City (i.e. no arrears).

"Provincial Guideline" means the Ontario Child Care and Early Years Funding Guidelines, or any other directive issued by the Province of Ontario, as amended.



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“EarlyON” means EarlyON Child and Family Centre

“SSM” means Service System Managers who are designated under the Child Care and Early Years Act, to manage child care services and early years programs and services across the province.

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Section 3: Local priorities funding policy statement

Purpose

Local priorities funding is intended to support the following:

- Wage Enhancement/Home Child Care Enhancement Grant;
- Workforce Compensation;
- Professional Learning;
- Small Water Works;
- Flexibility Funding;
- And any other project, program, service, or funding stream identified by the Government of Ontario or City of Ottawa.

Funding

Local priorities funding is funded through contributions made by the Government of Ontario, the Government of Canada, and the City of Ottawa.

One hundred per cent Municipal Funding may be used to enhance provincial funding subject to budget availability.

Children's Services will use the Provincial Guideline to inform funding priorities while balancing local needs identified in the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029 or other City of Ottawa plans.

Application

Children's Services may solicit applications for funding. Application approval is subject to the submission of a complete application, meeting eligibility criteria, and availability of funding.

Applicants who satisfy the provincial and City eligibility requirements may be considered for funding, subject to the meeting requirements and the availability of funding.

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Eligibility

All CCSP applicants must meet the applicable Provincial Guideline eligibility criteria and City's eligibility criteria to be considered for funding.

Provincial eligibility criteria:

- Be a licensed CCSP by the Ministry of Education and subject to the requirements of all pertinent legislation including the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA);
- Enter into an agreement with the City for the provision of funding and agree with terms and conditions of the agreement which may be adapted from time to time, based on the Provincial Guideline;
- Demonstrate financial viability to the City;
- Agree to abide by CWELCC requirements in accordance with the CCEYA and the Provincial Guideline, as amended from time to time.

City's eligibility criteria:

- Be located in the City of Ottawa;
- Be in Good Standing with the City of Ottawa;
- Agree to use any technology platforms and associated policies and processes as indicated by Children's Services.
- Agree to provide programs and services to children in receipt of fee subsidy and/or children with special needs and other prioritized populations.
- Agree to adapt and adjust programs and services in accordance with the Provincial Guideline and provincial allocations to meet local needs including those outlined in the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029, the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide, future plans and other City of Ottawa plans.

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Funding allocation

Applicants who satisfy the provincial and City eligibility requirements may be considered for funding, subject to the availability of funding.

Funding will be allocated in a fair, equitable and transparent manner to meet program objectives and local needs. Funding calculations will be adjusted based on the CCEYA, Provincial Guideline, Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework 2023, and local priorities, including those outlined in the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide, the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029 and future service system plans.

Reporting and monitoring

Recipients of this funding are required to demonstrate maintained eligibility and use of funding by reporting in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the contribution agreement with Children's Services and/or the City's Child Care Service Provider User Guide.

The City has the right to withhold and/or recover all funding contributions in the event of inappropriate use of funding.

Funding recipients are expected to cooperate fully with any monitoring and evaluation activities conducted by Children's Services and must ensure that all reports are accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

Authority and Standards

- *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA)*
- Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2025-2029
- Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework 2023
- Ontario Child Care and Early Years Funding Guidelines

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Definitions

“CCEYA” means the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, and its regulations, as amended.

“Good Standing” means the applicant CCSP has fulfilled all the terms and conditions of all previous and current agreements and contracts with the City and is in good financial standing with the City (i.e. no arrears).

“Provincial Guideline” means the Ontario Child Care and Early Years Funding Guidelines, or any other directive issued by the Province of Ontario, as amended.

“SSM” means Service System Managers who are designated under the Child Care and Early Years Act, to manage child care services and early years programs and services across the province.

“WEG” means Wage Enhancement Grant.

“HCCEG” means Home Child Care Enhancement Grant.