



Committee Report

CEYD-24-04

To: Chair and Members of the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee
From: Mandy Koroniak, Director of the Children's Early Years Division
Date: Wednesday, May 08, 2024
Subject: **Updates to Ontario's Child Care Workforce Strategy and 2024 Canada-Wide Early Learning Child Care (CWELCC) Allocations**

Background:

In a memo dated November 16, 2023, the Ministry of Education announced the introduction of the Ontario Child Care Workforce Strategy, which included an announcement of increases to the 2024 wage floor and wage ceiling amounts for workforce compensation funding for eligible Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) Programme Staff, Supervisors, and Home Child Care Visitors under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) System. These updates and funding allocation increases to support implementation were not included in the Ministry of Education's 2024 CWELCC Guidelines, released on November 30, 2023.

Update:

On March 28, 2024, the Ministry of Education shared updates to its 2024 CWELCC Guidelines, as well as updates to the funding allocations provided to Service System Managers. The updates include the following:

A. Workforce Compensation

Increases to wage floor amounts

In 2024, the wage floor for eligible RECE Programme Staff is increased to \$23.86 per hour plus benefits, and the wage floor for eligible RECE Child Care Supervisors and RECE Home Child Care Visitors is increased to \$24.86 per hour plus benefits, retroactive to January 1, 2024.

Increases to wage eligibility ceiling

In 2024, the wage eligibility ceiling for eligible RECE Programme Staff is increased to \$26.00 per hour, and the wage eligibility ceiling for eligible RECE Child Care Supervisors and RECE Home Child Care Visitors is increased to \$29.00 per hour, retroactive to January 1, 2024.

B. Professional Learning

In 2024, funding is being provided for one paid professional learning day to improve recruitment and retention of RECEs and other programme staff working in licensed centre- and home child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres and to support the implementation of the CWELCC agreement.

Professional learning funding will support opportunities that build the capacity of the early years and child care sector for the provision of high-quality programmes that align with [How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years](#). This includes support for the provision of mental health and resilience training.

C. Other CWELCC System Updates

The ministry additionally announced increases to Emerging Issues funding allocations to support child care service providers' non-discretionary cost pressures.

To further support child care space creation under the CWELCC System for children from birth to age 5, the ministry announced increases to Start-Up Grants funding allocations, and increased flexibility by:

- Removing the funding cap of \$90 per square foot;
- Lowering the number of child care spaces for a grant of up to \$350,000 in funding from every 50 to every 20 centre-based child care spaces created; and
- Increasing the grants available to eligible licensed home child care agencies from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per CWELCC space created, to a maximum of \$7,200 per provider.

These changes can be applied to projects approved since January 1, 2024.

The incremental allocations to support these updates are summarized in the table below.

County of Wellington 2024 Incremental CWELCC Allocations

Workforce Compensation Incremental	\$ 679,825
Professional Learning	\$ 257,829
Emerging Issues Incremental	\$ 355,825
Start-up Grants Incremental	\$ 2,504,900
Total 2024 Incremental CWELCC Allocation	\$ 3,798,379

This funding is in addition to the Child Care, EarlyON, and CWELCC allocations announced on November 30, 2023, summarized in the table below.

County of Wellington 2024 Allocation Summary

Child Care Allocation	\$ 19,341,068
EarlyON Allocation	\$ 2,325,316
CWELCC Allocation	\$ 27,904,108
Total 2024 Allocation (not including Incremental CWELCC Allocation)	\$ 49,570,492

Financial Implications:

Incremental CWELCC funding that was announced March 28, 2024 is entirely 100% federal funding and does not include a municipal cost share. Although not included in the 2024 Children's Early Years budget, all expenditures from this funding allocation will be completely recovered and there will be no impact to the municipal tax levy.

Strategic Action Plan:

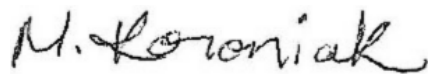
This report relates to the following objectives and priorities in the County's Strategic Action Plan:

- Doing What the County Does Best – Providing Critical Daily Services for Your Residents
- Making the Best Decisions for the Betterment of the Community

Recommendation:

That the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee recommend to County Council that the report, Updates to Ontario's Child Care Workforce Strategy and 2024 CWELCC Allocations, be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,



Mandy Koroniak
Director of Children's Early Years Division