



## Community Services Committee

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Council Chambers






### Agenda

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| <b>1. Call to Order</b>   |        |
| <b>2. Land Acknowledgement</b>  |        |
| <b>3. Roll Call</b>   |        |
| <b>4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof</b>   |        |
| <b>5. Adoption of the Open Minutes - August 14, 2024</b>                |        |
| a. <a href="#">Community Services Committee - Aug 14 2024 - Minutes</a> | 3 - 7  |
| <b>6. Adoption of the Closed Minutes - August 14, 2024</b>              |        |
| <b>7. Delegations - None at time of mailing</b>                         |        |
| <b>8. Community Services Department Reports</b>                         |        |
| <b>Director's Report</b>  |        |
| a. <a href="#">Director of Community Services Report</a>                | 8 - 16 |
| <a href="#">Routed in Trauma</a>  |        |
| <a href="#">Pembroke Warming Centre Winter 2024 2025</a>                |        |
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### Community Supports Division

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### **Children's Services Division**

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[Memo to CMSMs DSSABs - New Child Care Funding Approach](#)   
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**9. Approval of the Community Services Department Report as a Whole**

**10. Closed Meeting - None at time of meeting**

**11. New Business**

**12. Date of next meeting (Wednesday, October 16, 2024) and adjournment**

**NOTE:**

- County Council: Wednesday, September 25, 2024.
- Submissions received from the public either orally or in writing, may become part of the public record.



## **Community Services Committee**

Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Miramichi Lodge, 725 Pembroke Street W., Pembroke, Ontario

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Chair Anne Giardini, Warden Peter Emon, Vice-Chair Debbi Grills, Councillor Gary Serviss

**Absent:** Councillor David Mayville, Councillor Neil Nicholson, Councillor Ed Jacyno (City of Pembroke Representative)

**Also Present:** Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk, Andrea Patrick, Director of Community Services, Michael Blackmore, Director of Long-Term Care, Jason Davis, Director of Development and Property, Daniel Burke, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, April Muldoon, Manager of Community Supports, Kevin Raddatz, Manager of Real Estate, Margo Smith, Manager of Children's Services, Greg Belmore, Manager of Human Resources, Gwen Dombroski, Clerk, Tina Peplinskie, Media Relations and Social Media Coordinator, Evelyn VanStarkenburg, Administrative Assistant

**And Others:** Bruce Howarth, Manager of Planning Services, Nicole Moore, Junior Planner, Liwen Zou, Junior Planner

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Giardini called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

#### **2. Land Acknowledgement**

The land acknowledgement identifying that the meeting was being held on the traditional territory of the Omàmiwininì People was recited.

#### **3. Roll Call**

The roll was called.

#### **4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

No pecuniary interests were disclosed.

**5. Adoption of the Open Minutes**

**RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-08-45**

THAT the minutes of the June 12, 2024 meeting be approved.

*Moved by:* Gary Serviss

*Seconded by:* Debbi Grills

**CARRIED**

**6. Adoption of the Closed Minutes**

**RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-08-46**

THAT the closed minutes of the June 12, 2024 meeting be approved.

*Moved by:* Gary Serviss

*Seconded by:* Debbi Grills

**CARRIED**

**7. Delegations**

Kimberly MacLeod, Service Director and Sarah Haaïma, Hub Manager-Addictions Treatment Service / Renfrew County Youth Wellness Hub, Renfrew Victoria Hospital presented on the Youth Wellness Hub Ontario (YWHO) Renfrew County.

Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario (YWHO) is an Integrated Youth Services (IYS) initiative designed to address the service gaps in the youth mental health and substance use sectors in Ontario.

YWHO collects data/statistics from young people accessing services and this information is provided monthly, quarterly and yearly in order to continuously improve their services.

**8. Community Services Department Reports**

**Director's Report**

The Director of Community Services overviewed the Director's Report.

**RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-08-47**

THAT the Community Services Committee directs staff to review options for a warming centre for the period of November 2024 – April 2025; AND THAT staff should initiate discussions with the City of Pembroke and interested service providers (including The Grind Pembroke) regarding these options and bring information back to the September Committee meeting.

*Moved by:* Warden Peter Emon

*Seconded by:* Debbi Grills

**CARRIED**

### **Community Supports Division**

The Manager of Community Supports overviewed the Community Supports Division Report.

Councillor Serviss suggested that staff consider sharing information about Mesa on social media to inform the public about contacting Community Services if there is a need within the community. It was noted that the Community Services is only open during business hours. Staff will review options that could assist with expanding availability by connecting with Community Paramedicine.

### **Children's Services Division**

The Manager of Children's Services overviewed the Children's Services Division Report.

Staff advised that a delegation has been granted at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference with the Minister of Education to discuss the current Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) agreement as the County of Renfrew was not allocated any spaces for 2025 or 2026. Staff will be requesting support in providing an additional 200 CWELCC spaces to be designated for families from equity-deserving populations, as an upstream investment in the health of our community.

### **RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-08-48**

THAT the Community Services Department Report be approved as presented.

*Moved by:* Gary Serviss

*Seconded by:* Warden Peter Emon

**CARRIED**

## **9. New Business**

The Clerk advised that Section 73 (d) of the Procedural by-law states that: "Should any Member of a Committee fail to attend three successive regular or special meetings without being authorized to do so by a resolution of the Committee, the Committee may certify such failure and the membership of such person on the Committee is terminated. Council may appoint another Member in his/her place. Receipt of a written notice of regret by the

Committee or Council will constitute authorization for the purposes of this subsection." The Clerk noted that City of Pembroke Councillor Ed Jacyno sent his regrets prior to the meeting and that this is the third consecutive session of Committee that he has missed.

**RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-08-49**

THAT the Community Services Committee acknowledge Councillor Ed Jacyno's regrets for the August 14, 2024 meeting and authorize his absence as per the County of Renfrew Procedural By-law 85-10, s73(d), as amended.

*Moved by:* Gary Serviss

*Seconded by:* Warden Peter Emon

**CARRIED**

Warden Emon advised that he will reach out to Councillor Jacyno and the City of Pembroke for consideration on whether appointing an alternate member to sit on the Committee is required.

**10. Closed Meeting**

**RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-08-50**

Pursuant to Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, the Community Services Committee moves into a closed meeting to discuss a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (Treatment Centres). Time: 2:46 p.m.

*Moved by:* Debbi Grills

*Seconded by:* Gary Serviss

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-08-51**

THAT the Community Services Committee resumes as an open meeting.  
Time: 2:49 p.m.

*Moved by:* Warden Peter Emon

*Seconded by:* Debbi Grills

**CARRIED**

**11. Date of next meeting (Tuesday, September 10, 2024) and adjournment**

**RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-08-52**

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Time: 2:51 p.m.

*Moved by:* Warden Peter Emon

*Seconded by:* Gary Serviss

**CARRIED**

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Anne Giardini, Chair

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Gwen Dombroski, Clerk

DRAFT

**COUNTY OF RENFREW**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT**

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**TO:** Community Services Committee

**FROM:** Andrea Patrick, Director of Community Services

**DATE:** September 10, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Department Report

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**INFORMATION**

**1. Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit**

On August 14, 2024, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) met with Deputy Minister Greenberg and Assistant Deputy Minister Burke Christian from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), Community and Supportive Housing Branch. The purpose of the meeting was to receive an update from MMAH on the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) funding and when service managers can expect to receive news of their allocations. The Deputy Minister confirmed that the Ministry will have some new and additional COHB funding; however, the Ministry has not set the allocations for the 47 service managers yet. During the National Housing Strategy (NHS) discussions between the federal and provincial governments earlier this year, the province continued to flow the existing COHB payments to eligible recipients with the federal government's agreement to cost share the commitments. Currently, the province is reconciling what was spent and what the federal government's cost sharing commitment will mean for future allocations.

The pressure to municipalities this delay in announcement is causing was shared and OMSSA will continue to follow developments on this issue and keep service managers informed. The Deputy Minister advised that he expects COHB allocations will receive approval by mid-September and then allocations will be provided to services managers.

**2. One Phone Number for Community Services**

Effective September 17, 2024, we will be introducing one phone number for the Community Services Department: **613-732-2601 or toll free 1-866-897-4849.**

When the Children's Services, Community Housing, and Community Supports Divisions were relocated into one location as part of human services integration, all existing



phone numbers and phone lines were moved to the new office locations. Implementation of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone system will enable the department to manage all incoming calls for all program areas with one phone number.

Phone calls to the department will be answered by Program Support Representatives who are available to provide general information about services, assist with applications for all programs offered, and ensure calls are directed to the appropriate staff member. The new telephone system will enable calls to be transferred to staff members who are working in any of our Community Services sites as well as in different locations throughout the County of Renfrew.

The introduction of VOIP will achieve a number of objectives for the department, including the following:

- Simplified access to all programs and services
- Modernized technology that will enable calls to be transferred between sites, and to cell phones when staff are working out in the community
- Flexibility in programming the phone system enables the majority of system maintenance to be done in-house by the IT Department or management team
- Cost savings – reducing the number of phone lines and service calls
- Ability to tailor the phone system to meet changing operational needs to enhance service delivery and community responsiveness

By consolidating to a single phone number for Community Services, we aim to enhance accessibility to the numerous programs we deliver, and ensure a highly responsive experience for individuals reaching out to our office.

### 3. **Rooted in Trauma Training**

On September 10 and 11, 2024, all Community Services staff will participate in a training session called Rooted in Trauma: How Childhood Trauma Impacts Human Development, Behaviour, and Vitality. The training will be delivered by Mary Hewitt, who is a professor, speaker, writer, and the founder of Unlocking Childhood. The training will enhance staff's understanding of how trauma presents and help them develop effective strategies to support clients experiencing a trauma-response. A poster is attached providing further details regarding the topics that will be covered in the training. This professional development opportunity will help to further refine and elevate our trauma-informed and person-centered service delivery model.

## RESOLUTIONS

### 4. Warming Centre Winter 2024 - 2025

**Recommendation:** THAT the Community Services Committee recommends that County Council approve that the County of Renfrew take on a leadership role with respect to the operations of a warming centre located in the City of Pembroke for the 2024 – 2025 winter season; pending the following:

- i) The Warming Centre ad-hoc committee be once again stood up as the oversight committee, with a review of the Terms of Reference to determine if updates are required;
- ii) The municipalities that participated in last year's Warming Centre model contribute funding equal to 2023/2024 amounts;
- iii) That staff be directed to work with the City of Pembroke on an appropriate location that provides for a more cohesive and effective delivery of services;
- iv) The City of Pembroke initiates the appropriate steps with respect to their zoning by-law to allow flexibility on placement of a Warming Centre;

AND THAT staff be directed to apply the allocated funds from the Homelessness Prevention Program funding envelope toward this initiative to a maximum of \$100,000.

#### **Background**

The County of Renfrew's Mesa initiative has made significant strides in supporting individuals facing mental health challenges, addictions, and homelessness, including the introduction of new housing options such as supportive bridge housing. However, a critical gap remains in assisting those who are not yet ready to engage with service providers in addressing next steps. To bridge this gap, a collaborative community approach is recommended, bringing together service providers and non-profit organizations to ensure that vulnerable individuals are safe and warm throughout the winter months. The established leadership and collaboration from the Mesa initiative provide a solid foundation for implementing a winter solution. The County of Renfrew is well positioned to take on a leadership role regarding the warming centre, manage the financials, track service user data, and continue to work closely with this population to access necessary health and community services.

A letter is attached from Steven Boland, Chair of the Pembroke and Area Community Taskforce (PACT) and Deacon Adrien Chaput from The Grind Pembroke indicating their agencies' willingness to assist in efforts to ensure that the vulnerable members of our community remain safe and protected from severe weather this winter.

### 5. Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs Call for Proposals

**Recommendation:** THAT the Community Services Committee recommends to County Council that the County of Renfrew work with Mesa community partners in Mental Health, Addiction

and Treatment, to identify a lead applicant(s); AND THAT a full proposal to create Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs in Renfrew County be submitted.

**Background**

Attached as information is correspondence received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing/Ministry of Health advising that the Province of Ontario is investing up to \$378 million over four years in support of a Demonstration Project that will create 10 new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs.

HART Hubs will enable enhanced access to locally tailored health and human services supporting the treatment and recovery of individuals with needs such as mental health and addictions, employment, primary care, social services, etc. The Hubs will support stability and improved long-term outcomes for the vulnerable people within Ontario by offering a direct pathway to supportive housing.

Members of the Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy team met to discuss the proposal, and it was determined that an Intent to Apply would be submitted to the Ministry by September 20, 2024. The County of Renfrew, as housing service managers, will be a co-applicant along with Pembroke Regional Hospital as these partners represent eligible applicants.

# Rooted in Trauma:

*How Childhood Trauma Impacts Human Development, Behaviour, and Vitality AND How Trauma-Awareness Can Help Heal Us All*



**For this session,  
we will:**

**When?** Wed. Sept. 11th  
Beginning at 9AM

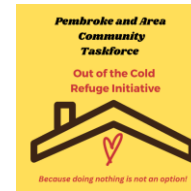
**Where?** Pembroke Office

- discuss the impacts of childhood trauma on development,
- learn to recognize everyday presentations of trauma and how to support clients experiencing a trauma-response,
- reflect on what "connection" might look like for specific clients,
- develop our understandings of how people heal from childhood trauma, and
- reflect on our everyday interactions, environments, and approaches as we evolve our trauma-informed services

*Presented by:*



Mary Hewitt, Early Childhood Specialist,  
MPed, RECE, BA (Psych), BEd



Memo to: Warden Peter Emon, County of Renfrew  
Mayor Ron Gervais, City of Pembroke  
Chief M. Nolan, Director of Emergency Services, County of Renfrew  
Andrea Patrick, Director of Community Services, County of Renfrew

Copy to: Craig Kelley, CAO, County of Renfrew  
Dave Unrau, CAO, City of Pembroke

From: Deacon Adrien Chaput, The Grind - Pembroke  
Steven P. Boland, Chair, Pembroke & Area Community Taskforce

Subject: Pembroke Warming Centre – Winter 2024/25

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As you are aware in early 2023, a group of concerned citizens came together to address the homelessness issue and the need for a temporary warming centre for the Pembroke area. The group was subsequently named the Pembroke & Area Community Taskforce (PACT). The Grind Pembroke along with volunteers from PACT organized setup, operated and decommissioned the warming centre at the site of the Pembroke Farmers' Market during the winter of 2023/24. Representatives from The Grind and PACT also participated in many meetings of the Pembroke & Area Warming Centre Committee over the past year.

Recently, representatives of both The Grind and PACT have been asked by members of the community about the future plans for a warming centre in Pembroke. There are numerous rumours circulating about the need for, status of and location chosen for a warming centre during the next winter season that require clarification.

On August 16, 2024, an email was received from Dave Unrau, CAO of the City of Pembroke by Steve Boland requesting an opportunity to meet to discuss future plans for a warming centre.

Mr. Unrau's email raises a number of questions regarding the issue of a warming centre for the coming winter season and beyond including:

1. Is there a need for a warming centre during the coming winter?
2. Are either the County of Renfrew or the City of Pembroke planning to organize, setup and operate a warming centre during the coming winter and going forward?
3. Where will the warming centre be located?
4. Who will be responsible for the day to day operations?
5. How will a warming centre be funded?
6. How is the warming centre to be organized?
7. What are the operating parameters for the warming centre?

8. Are there plans to reactivate the Pembroke & Area Warming Centre Committee that was established in 2023 by the County?
9. Is there an expectation that The Grind Pembroke and PACT will be involved?

While at this point neither The Grind nor PACT have been actively engaged regarding the foregoing questions, we remain ready to assist to ensure that the vulnerable members of our community remain safe and have protection from the severe conditions that will threaten their wellbeing during the coming winter months.

***WHAT IF WE DON'T***

**Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office  
Community and Supportive Housing  
Division  
777 Bay Street, 14th Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Telephone: 416 585-6738

**Ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement**

Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint  
Division du logement communautaire et du logement avec services de soutien  
777, rue Bay, 14<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Téléphone : 416 585-6738



**Ministry of Health**

Assistant Deputy Minister  
Mental Health and Addictions Division

56 Wellesley Street West, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5S 2S3

Tel.: (647) 339-8830

**Ministère de la Santé**

Sous-ministre adjointe  
Division des services de santé mentale  
et de lutte contre les dépendances

56, rue Wellesley Ouest, 12<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M5S 2S3

Tél.: (647) 339-8830

August 29, 2024

**Re: HART Hubs Call for Proposals**

Dear Service Manager:

The Ministry of Health in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services; and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills is investing up to \$378M over four years to support a Demonstration Project that will result in the creation of 10 new *Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs*. Should there be interest, providers are strongly encouraged to engage with the appropriate Ontario Health Region (see Appendix 1 in the attached *Call for Proposals: Program Guideline and Application*).

These Hubs will connect people with complex needs to a comprehensive locally-based approach to treatment that will offer an array of services such as primary care, mental health care, addiction care and support, social services and employment support. HART Hubs will also increase availability and access to supportive housing in order to promote stability for clients and local communities.

To support the selection of the 10 new Hubs, Ontario has developed a *Call for Proposals: Guideline and Application* (CFP - see attached). We are requesting your support to distribute the CFP to your local service delivery partners and other community agencies as appropriate. We encourage you to share this with any agencies or partners in your community interested in applying to ensure that the right partners are at the table.

To be eligible for funding under this initiative, proposals will require an endorsement from their local Service Manager. While Service Managers are not being asked to make recommendations on the merit of any proposal, this endorsement should indicate that

.../2

the proposal aligns with municipal supportive housing and social service planning and, (if known) any aspects of an applicant organization's capacity that may help them execute on their proposal. This endorsement can come in the form of a short letter or statement included in an applicant organization(s) proposal. The intent of the endorsement is to ensure that Service Managers are aware of possible proposals, the associated service needs these may entail, and help ensure local health and human service coordination.

There is no limit to how many proposals can be submitted within a Service Manager catchment area. To support Service Managers, we will be hosting information sessions in the coming week to provide more details on your role in the CFP. Details on these sessions will follow shortly.

Interested applicant organizations are asked to first submit an **Intent to Apply** to the ministry directly at the following email address: [HARTHHubApplications@ontario.ca](mailto:HARTHHubApplications@ontario.ca) by **Friday, September 20, 2024**. Please see the attached CFP document for more details on this process.

**PLEASE NOTE**, the Ministries ask that only the lead agency on a proposal respond to the *intent to apply* to avoid multiple responses for the same proposal.

If you have any questions about the Homelessness and Addictions Recovery Treatment Hubs project, please contact the Ministry of Health at [HARTHHubApplications@ontario.ca](mailto:HARTHHubApplications@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

**Kyle MacIntyre**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Mental Health and Addictions Division  
Ministry of Health

**Burke Christian**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Community and Supportive Housing Division  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Attachments:**

Call for Proposal Guideline and Application Document  
Call for Proposal Overview - Powerpoint  
Suggested Memo Language: From Service Managers to Organizations  
Key Messages  
Supporting Questions and Answers



## COMMUNITY SUPPORTS DIVISION REPORT

Prepared by: April Muldoon, Manager of Community Supports

Prepared for: Community Services Committee

September 10, 2024

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### INFORMATION

#### 1. Employment Services Transformation (EST) Update

The Employment Services Transformation began in 2020 with nine prototype sites across the Province of Ontario. In October 2023, the County of Renfrew entered into Phase 1 of the Employment Services Transformation (EST) along with nine other municipalities. EST is currently in Phase 2 and to date has 36 municipalities participating. Full rollout is anticipated in 2025 with the third and final phase. Much of the 2024 year will serve as a "test year", using lessons learned to inform the full rollout.

Social Assistance staff and Employment Ontario (EO) staff are both responsible for completing Common Assessments (CA) to identify what services or supports recipients may need. The Common Assessment has two modules. Module 1 helps to identify service needs and/or barriers to employment, while Module 2 is completed by EO staff and focuses more on the employment history, completed education and skill set to better support the client in reaching employment goals. Once Module 1 of the Common Assessment is completed, if no significant barriers are identified, a referral is made to a local EO office. Ontario Works Agents then create an individualized Action Plan identifying next steps in addition to other service needs.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD), the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), Serco Canada and local Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), and Ontario Works (OW) management continue to meet quarterly for Kingston-Pembroke catchment level meetings to discuss the ongoing implementation. In addition to this, quarterly EST Community of Practice meetings are held which include management and front-line staff from all social assistance offices taking part in EST.

Below is a summary of the progress since the onset of EST in October 2023 to July 2024.

	County of Renfrew	Province
% of Action Plans Completed (based on those with participation requirements)	51.1%	72.6%
% of Participants with an Action Plan that have been referred to EO	16.7%	21.7%

% of Ontario Works Cases exiting to employment	5.7%	5.4%
% of Ontario Works Cases who exit and return within one year	32.7%	34.7%

## 2. Centralized Intake Update

The County of Renfrew has been participating in the Centralized Intake model since its launch in 2020. Currently, all Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards are enrolled in the centralized model. Centralized Intake uses a Risk Based Eligibility Determination (RBED) model to grant Ontario Works (OW) applications using third party data to corroborate information declared on an OW application and assess risk level based on a number of criteria. Applications determined to be low or medium risk are automatically granted, while applications determined to be high risk are transferred to the local office. A centralized unit, known as the Intake and Benefits Administration Unit (IBAU) oversees all OW applications at the preliminary stage. A number of enhancements to the technology have been implemented since the onset, which include centralized processing of benefits for Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits and the newly implemented Provincial Support Unit which is now processing ODSP granted applications. We are continuing to receive communication updates and participate in calls led by MCCSS where local offices are able to learn more and share feedback related to the processes and opportunities that exist to further enhance the model.

The chart below demonstrates the application volume processed locally for the months of June, July and August 2024.

	Emergency Assistance	Temporary Care Assistance	Ontario Works (processed at local office – Unsuccessful RBED)	RBED Grant completed by IBAU	Total Applications Completed
	Emergency Assistance and Temporary Care Assistance are not eligible for processing through IBAU				
June	25	4	68	22	119
July	38	2	74	30	144
August	51	0	84	34	169
3 Month Average	n/a		72%	28%	

## 3. MyBenefits Update

MyBenefits is an online tool and mobile application that can be used by recipients of social assistance to communicate with their caseworker. The tool allows applicants and

recipients to check the status of their application and check the status of their social assistance file, receive communication including formal decision letters, verification of social assistance eligibility, statements for benefits issued, and two-way digital communications from their caseworkers. Recipients can also report earnings and changes to their circumstances using the MyBenefits app. Applicants are encouraged to register for MyBenefits during the application process but have the ability to register anytime as long as they have an active social assistance file. Recipients who register with MyBenefits have an option to receive all communication digitally, reducing the administration for local office in printing and mailing communications. Currently, the registration rate for recipients of Ontario Works in the County of Renfrew is approximately 30% of the caseload.

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION REPORT**

Prepared by: Margo Smith, Manager of Children's Services Division

Prepared for: Community Services Committee

September 10, 2024

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### **INFORMATION**

#### **1. Special Needs Resourcing Funding and Support Paper**

Attached is a Special Needs Resourcing Funding and Support paper that was created through a collaboration between the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the 47 municipal service system managers who plan, fund, and manage early years and child care services throughout the Province of Ontario. Children with special needs have been identified as one of the key populations to be considered within the Canada-Wide Early and Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) access and inclusion framework. The paper discusses approaches, strengths, challenges, needs and recommendations relating to special needs resourcing services to help inform the future development of policies and funding in this area. The paper was submitted to the Ministry of Education for review on August 27, 2024.

#### **2. New Child Care Funding Approach Memo**

Attached is a memorandum dated August 1, 2024, from Holly Moran, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years and Child Care Division for the Ministry of Education, detailing information about the implementation of a new cost-based approach to Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding, effective January 1, 2025. Key updates have been provided in the following areas:

- Incremental 2024 CWELCC Administrative Funding – a one-time increase to CWELCC administrative funding has been issued to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards (CMSMs/DSSABs) to help support the implementation of the new funding approach
- Cost-based Funding – a new Cost-Based Funding Guideline will be effective January 1, 2025 for all licensees enrolled in CWELCC to support the delivery of child care to children aged 0-5. The Guideline is intended to be transparent, representative, simple and accountable
- Local Priorities – the local priorities funding will be allocated to CMSMs/DSSABs to support other programming within the child care and early years sector, outside of the CWELCC system
- Non-CWELCC Enrolled Licensees – routine funding will not be provided to licensees not participating in CWELCC, with the exception of existing fee subsidy agreements, until the child ages out of the program or leaves the licensee

- Next Parent Fee Reduction – to continue to support the transition to an average daily fee of \$10, families with children enrolled in CWELCC will see child care base fees capped at \$22 per day starting January 1, 2025

The preliminary funding allocations for each CMSM and DSSAB are listed at the end of the memo in Appendix A.

**DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVALS**

3. The following item was approved under By-law 98-24, Delegated Authority By-law:

BY-LAW/ RESOLUTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY-LAW REFERENCE
124-24 D CS-C-24-09-53 D	September 3, 2024	Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement - 2024 Child Care, EarlyON and CWELCC Revised Schedule (memo attached)	Section 5.2 - Agreements - Funding

**RESOLUTIONS**

4. **Hourly Rate for Program Support Staff**

**Recommendation:** THAT the Community Services Committee recommends that County Council approve an increase to the Program Support Staff (formerly Resource Staff) capped rate of \$18.00 per hour plus mandatory benefits, to \$21.00 per hour plus mandatory benefits, effective September 1, 2024.

**Background**

As the service system manager, the County of Renfrew Children's Services Division provides funding to licensed child care centres to pay for Program Support Staff. This funding provides enhanced staffing supports for children with varying needs and abilities to be successful in their programs. The Program Support Staff are hired and trained by each child care agency and monitored by Inclusion Services staff.

Effective October 1, 2024, minimum wage rates are projected to rise from \$16.55 to \$17.20 an hour. The increase of the hourly rate for Program Support Staff from \$18.00 to \$21.00 per hour will support recruitment and retention of qualified staff. The last pay increase was January 2022. The increase to the Inclusion Services budget will be mitigated with 100% provincial funding.



# Special Needs Resourcing Funding and Support



An aerial photograph of a vast, lush green forest landscape. In the foreground, a wide, calm river flows through the forest, its surface reflecting the surrounding trees and the soft light of the sky. The forest extends to the horizon, with rolling hills and valleys visible. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The land on which OMSSA operates is the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Ojibwe, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat, and it is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. We also acknowledge that our Members span an area known as the Province of Ontario which is covered by 46 treaties and agreements.

## Executive Summary



The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system has resulted in a historic investment to Canada's child care sector.<sup>1</sup>

CWELCC also communicates clear national priorities around ensuring all children have quality early years and child care experiences.

Ontario's action plan for CWELCC focuses on the five following pillars:

1. **Affordability:** Lowering child care fees for families to make child care more affordable, with a goal of achieving an average cost of \$10-per-day for families by March 2026.
2. **Access:** Addressing increasing demand for child care by creating 86,000 new licensed child care spaces across the Province and supporting expansion of child care for priority groups such as children with special needs
3. **Quality:** Increasing Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) compensation and creating a RECE workforce recruitment and retention strategy to promote quality care.
4. **Inclusion:** Ensuring child care expansion plans and early years programs meet the needs of vulnerable and diverse populations, for example, Indigenous communities, newcomers, low-income families, and children with special needs.
5. **Data Reporting:** Monitoring progress towards CWELCC goals, meeting federal data requirements, and evaluating how child care systems support children and families.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [Early Learning and Child Care Agreements \(Government of Canada\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Canada-Ontario Early Years and Child Care Agreement \(Ontario Government\)](#)



# Special Needs Resourcing Funding and Support



The 47 Municipal Service System Managers (SSMs) who plan, fund, and manage early years and child care services across Ontario are tasked with implementing the Province's action plan.

Following the policies, requirements, and expectations set out by Ontario's Ministry of Education (the Ministry), SSMs develop local programs and policies responsive to their specific community needs.

One such program area is Special Needs Resourcing (SNR), a core early years and child care service that supports the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care settings.<sup>3</sup> SNR is a public service provided at no cost to families.

As noted, the Ministry has identified children with special needs as a key population to consider within its access and inclusion CWELCC pillars. The Ministry has further articulated its prioritization of this group through the 2023 Ontario Access and Inclusion Framework.

Yet, despite affirmations that access and inclusion for children with special needs is foundational to CWELCC's success, current Ministry guidelines restrict SSMs from using CWELCC funding for SNR service provision.

The exclusion of SNR undermines SSMs' abilities to meet child care system needs, both currently and as the system continues to grow.

These threats are particularly disruptive in the context of existing challenges SSMs are navigating related to delivering SNR services, such as limited RECE workforce capacity and high SNR caseloads.

<sup>3</sup>O. Reg 137/15 of the *Child Care and Early Years Act* defines children with special needs as a child whose cognitive, physical, social, emotional, or communicative needs, or whose needs relating to overall development, are of such a nature that additional supports are required for the child.

In recognizing that SSMs are experiencing complex challenges related to SNR services and require responsive action from the province, the Ontario Municipal Social Service Association (OMSSA) has solicited input from Ontario's 47 SSMs related to SNR service provision. OMSSA invited SSMs to submit discussion papers that discussed their local SNR service models, outcome and evaluation approaches, strengths, challenges, needs, and recommendations.

This paper summarizes the 43 discussion paper submissions OMSSA received.

OMSSA anticipates that the SSMs' input will inform the development of Ontario's CWELCC funding formula and policy direction going forward.

The purpose of this input is to enable the Ministry to implement policies to address the SNR-related needs of SSMs across the province.

## Findings

In their discussion papers, SSMs described varied approaches to delivering and managing SNR services. Commonly, SSMs discussed tailoring their service model and accompanying outcome measurement strategies to the needs of their local system.

SSMs noted there was value in being able to adapt their service approaches to their local context and appreciated the flexibility in using child care funding to meet SNR needs. Other clear strengths SSMs discussed related to their current approaches included using a resource consultant service model with access to enhanced program supports and specialized services as needed.

As anticipated, SSMs also described facing extensive challenges related to the provision of SNR services. The top SNR-related challenges SSMs noted were the inability to use CWELCC funding for SNR services, limited early years and child care workforce capacity, and high demand for SNR services.

These identified challenges are straining the SNR system, which was reflected in the SSMs' funding utilization, number of children served per year, and SNR referral times and waitlists.

For the SSMs who provided information about their 2018 and 2023 SNR spending:

**75%** had spent proportionately more of their child care budget on SNR services in 2023 compared to their 2018 spending. SSMs also typically noted increased service utilization since 2018.

Of the SSMs who reported the number of children served in both 2018 and 2023:

**60%** indicated that the number of children they served in 2023 had increased by 5% or more compared to 2018 rates.

The growing cost of SNR service delivery and increasing demand for SNR services are resulting in critical issues, such as burnout amongst resource consultants who deliver SNR services, termination of child care placements for children with special needs, and longer wait times to access SNR services.

These challenges are exacerbated in rural and remote regions with large geographical areas where RECE recruitment can be difficult.

As demand for SNR already outpaces the available funding and system capacity in many areas, a growing number of SSMs have either already implemented a waitlist for SNR services or anticipate needing to do so soon.

Long wait times for SNR services actively threaten child care access and inclusion for children with special needs. Further, as CWELCC drives expansion of the child care system, demand for SNR services will also continue to increase.

The current state of SNR services in Ontario is concerning. If the Province fails to act now and appropriately resource the system, there is a real risk that Ontario will fail to achieve its goals related to the CWELCC action plan access and inclusion pillars. As such, OMSSA gathered SSM input and puts forth three key recommendations.

## Recommendations

OMSSA applauds and enthusiastically shares Ontario's goals of improving child care access and inclusion for children with special needs. However, the Province's current funding policy approaches are incompatible with these goals, and there are additional system pressures that threaten the ability of SSMs to achieve improved access and inclusion for children with special needs. To address these pressing issues, OMSSA provides the Ministry with the following three recommendations:

### **Recommendation 1: Fully fund the cost of SNR service delivery as a core component of an inclusive and accessible CWELCC system.**



All children in Ontario deserve equitable access to CWELCC spaces. However, this will not be possible if SNR is not fully funded as part of the CWELCC system. SNR is not a supplemental service; it is an essential component of an equitable and accessible child care system.

Under current provincial guidelines, SSMs have flexibility to determine their SNR funding allocations, so long as the SSM dedicates a minimum of 4.1% of their child care allocation<sup>4</sup> towards SNR service provision. There is strong

agreement across SSMs that the flexibility in the current funding formula supports SSMs in responding to local circumstances and system needs, which in turn promotes quality services and helps minimize waitlists. However, existing funding no longer meets the needs of all SSMs.

SSMs require consistent stable funding for SNR services to appropriately respond to the rapidly expanding child care spaces and the priorities of promoting access and inclusion as part of CWELCC.

- **To facilitate inclusion for all children in licensed child care, OMSSA recommends that the Ministry fully funds the provision of SNR services as a core component of CWELCC, while supporting SSMs to maintain authority over their SNR service models.**

<sup>4</sup> Less TWOMO allocation, Wage Enhancement/HCCCEG, Administration for Wage Enhancement/HCCCEG and One- Time Transitional Grant. Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres Service Management and Funding Guideline 2024.

## Recommendation 2: Support capacity building within in the child care and SNR workforces.



The current early years and child care workforce capacity is limited, which strains the SNR providers who support child care.

OMSSA recommends the following actions for the Ministry to take to build capacity in child care and support SNR service providers in the meaningful inclusion of all children in licensed child care.

- *Introduce a sustainable wage grid for RECEs comparable to Designated Early Childhood Educators (DECEs) in Ontario's school boards. Fair compensation in early years programming will help stabilize the child care workforce and to build capacity for child care programs to deliver inclusive programming. Higher child care capacity will reduce the existing strain on SNR service providers.*
- *Provide direction on foundational principles of quality to support greater consistency across the province, while recognizing the importance of local quality tools in the development and management of quality child care programs.*
- *Enhance ECE training requirements for the Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology related to delivering inclusive child care programming and supporting children with diverse developmental and behavioural support needs.*
- *Maintain capacity building by and for resource consultants, including specialized services from qualified clinicians as an eligible expense under SNR.*
- *Ensure the continued availability of enhanced program staffing for child care programs to hire additional staff to support classrooms with complex needs.*

## Recommendation 3: Strengthen inclusive practices and adopt inclusive language.



Achieving inclusion for children of all abilities and needs requires thoughtfulness and a focus on the environments where children spend time.

To this effect, OMSSA recommends the following actions to further inclusion within child care.

- *Collect data on program-level supports provided by SNR, such as the number of classrooms supported annually by SNR services to accurately reflect the scope and impact of SNR service supports being delivered across the province.*
- *Strengthen inclusion requirements in child care licensing and CWELCC funding in alignment with the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC).<sup>5</sup>*
- *Update SNR terminology to more inclusive language that focuses on describing the service rather than describing the children who use SNR services. OMSSA recommends the term ‘inclusion resource services’ as a replacement for SNR.*
- *Invest in classroom-based staffing supports above and beyond ratio to facilitate greater inclusion of all children in licensed child care. The additional staffing would help programs proactively support access and inclusion rather than having to staff reactively based on needs.*
- *Work with Ministry of Health to ensure access to medical supports for children with medically complex needs are available in licensed child care equivalent to those provided in the public school system.*

By fully funding SNR service delivery, building workforce capacity, and adopting inclusive practices, the Ministry can immediately support SSMs in effectively delivering SNR services, thus enabling SSMs and the Province to achieve Ontario’s vision for an affordable, accessible, inclusive, high quality, and accountable child care system.

<sup>5</sup> OHRC’s Human Rights-Based Approach to Policy and Program Development

## Background



In Ontario, there are 47 Municipal Service System Managers (SSMs) who plan, fund, and manage local early years and child care services across the Province. This includes 37 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs), who oversee services for upper-tier or single-tier municipalities, as well as 10 District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs), who oversee services in regions where no upper-tier municipality exists.<sup>6</sup>

Ontario's Ministry of Education (the Ministry) establishes policies, standards, and reporting requirements for SSMs to in the delivery and management of early years and child care services, including special needs resourcing (SNR) services. The Ministry also allocates funding to SSMs for the delivery of these services.

## SNR Funding Context

Provincial funding for early years and child care services has evolved in recent years, both in ways that have assisted as well as challenged SSMs in SNR service provision. In 2013, the Ministry introduced a new early years and child care funding framework that provided SSMs increased flexibility for delivering SNR services. Within this framework, SSMs access a set of early years and child care grants that SSMs can use to meet their individual program needs, with the requirement that SSMs must spend a minimum of 4.1% of their child care allocation on SNR services.<sup>7</sup> This flexibility has been helpful in enabling SSMs to adapt SNR policies and programs to meet their local communities' needs.

More recently, the Province joined the CWELCC system and introduced the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in 2022. Ontario's participation in CWELCC provides a transformational investment to the Province's licensed child care sector and offers significant promise for improvement to the early years and child care system. Since 2022, licensed child care programs participating in CWELCC across Ontario have made significant progress in lowering child care fees for families of children aged six years and younger.<sup>8</sup> By March 2026, families with children attending CWELCC-enrolled child care programs can expect to pay on average fees of \$10-a-day.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> [Service System Managers for Child Care and Early Years Programs \(Ontario Government\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> Ontario Child Care Service Management and Funding Guideline 2013

<sup>8</sup> Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Guidelines 2024

<sup>9</sup> [Canada-Ontario Early Years and Child Care Agreement \(Ontario Government\)](#)

As child care has become increasingly affordable to families, more families seek child care. Under the CWELCC system, the Province has tasked SSMs with expanding the licensed child care system by 86,000 spaces to improve families' access to child care. The creation of new spaces will greatly benefit children, families, and communities across the province. However, there is a concern that, along with other vulnerable groups, children with special needs may be disproportionately disadvantaged in accessing CWELCC-funded child care spaces.

Therefore, there is a need to implement a strategic plan to ensure that all children, including children with special needs, have equitable access to licensed child care.

## CWELCC Access and Inclusion Framework

In recognizing the need to ensure equitable access and inclusion to child care for all children and families across the province, the Ministry developed Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework. This framework, released in June 2023, intends to support SSMs in developing and implementing child care service system plans that promote equitable child care access and inclusion for all children and families across the province, particularly underserved and vulnerable populations. The framework articulates its vision in the following way:

*Ontario's vision for access and inclusion is that more children (of all abilities and socio economic backgrounds) can actively and meaningfully participate in child care, and be supported in forming authentic, caring relationships with their peers and educators.*

The framework goes on to share the following about the Province's perspective on inclusion:

*The Ministry acknowledges that every Ontarian has their own unique circumstances and that multiple factors that can act as barriers will need to be identified and assessed in the creation of an inclusive system of early child education. The CWELCC system presents an opportunity for Ontario to introduce initiatives that support the needs of diverse and underserved and vulnerable populations, including low-income, Francophone, Indigenous, Black, other racialized and newcomer communities, as well as children with special needs. It aims to support children to have access to inclusive environments where they can participate, play, and learn in meaningful ways, and form authentic caring relationships.*

*This vision is supported by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which both highlight how all children, including those with special needs, are entitled to the same opportunities – for example to health care, nutrition, education, social inclusion, and protection.*

*- Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework, June 2023*



Through this framework, the Ministry shares its clear vision for a more accessible and inclusive child care system for all children and families, including children with special needs.

The Access and Inclusion Framework also affirms the Ministry’s commitment to collaborating with SSMs to “gather data, assess barriers to access and inclusion, and support a plan for increased access to affordable licensed child care.”<sup>10</sup> Given that CWELCC funding and policy directions requires continual refinement as CWELCC system implementation continues, this collaboration is essential.

As such, input from the SSMs is needed to ensure appropriate Ministry funding formula and policy direction towards the SSMs’ and Ministry’s goals of access and inclusion. To that end, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) has engaged the SSMs across Ontario to provide necessary input to the Ministry.

## OMSSA Engagement with SSMs

OMSSA is a non-profit association who supports, connects, and advocates for its Members, Ontario’s SSMs.<sup>11</sup> To inform the Ministry’s CWELCC funding formula and policy, OMSSA invited SSMs to provide input about their local circumstances and challenges related to SNR.

Specifically, OMSSA asked SSMs to submit discussion papers that responded to questions about the SSM’s SNR service model, measurement and evaluation approaches, SNR system capacity and current challenges to service delivery, and recommendations for improvement. A full list of the questions OMSSA posed to SSMs can be found in Appendix A.

<sup>10</sup> Ontario Access and Inclusion Framework (2023)

<sup>11</sup> [About OMSSA - Ontario Municipal Social Services Association](#)

## Findings

Of the 47 SSMs across Ontario, 43 submitted discussion papers in response to OMSSA's invitation. These findings summarize the perspectives discussed in the 43 SSM submissions.

### SNR Service Delivery Models

SSMs discussed a variety of service delivery models and adaptations to suit their unique local context and meet system needs. Some SSMs indicated they deliver SNR services directly to child care programs, whereas other SSMs contract third party community agencies to deliver these services.

Commonly, SSMs discussed using tailored models that provide different services based on needs. Some examples of this tailoring approach included offering both classroom-wide and child-specific supports, short-term and long-term supports, and other tiered service options. SSMs also described their individual approaches to the following SNR service features:

- **Enhanced program supports:** SSMs typically provide resources to support additional short-term staffing above ratio requirements in classrooms with complex needs. Some SSMs directly hire enhanced program staff to support child care centres and others allocate funding to child care centres for the programs to use for this purpose.
- **Specialized consultation services:** SSMs engaged specialized clinical services to support Resource Consultants<sup>12</sup> (RCs) to identify goals, associated strategies, and/or accommodations for children on their caseloads. The clinical services included professionals such as occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, behaviour therapists, physical therapists, and mental health clinicians.
- **Professional learning supports:** SSMs described supporting professional learning and capacity building of child care programs through activities such as RC mentoring, modeling, and workshops for child care programs.
- **Quality initiatives:** Many SSMs noted they deliver quality initiatives to make classrooms more inclusive by requiring program staff to reflect on their program delivery, potential barriers, and existing efforts to deliver accessible and welcoming programs.

<sup>12</sup> Please note the term resource consultant will be used throughout this paper to denote the individual who provides SNR services, however, note some SSMs use a different term such as early interventionist.

## Strengths of Current Service Models

SSMs highlighted the following features as helpful and important to maintain in their service models going forward: funding flexibility, resource consultant service delivery models, enhanced program supports, and specialized consultation services. Details are noted below.

### Funding Flexibility

Provincial guidelines allow SSMs to determine their own SNR budget with the requirement that SSMs allocate a minimum of 4.1% of their child care allocation to SNR. This flexible model of funding allows SSMs to modify their allocations based on their models of service or existing needs, which in turn minimizes waitlists. In the context of CWELCC this flexibility has helped, however the current funding no longer meets the needs of all SSMs. If the Province wishes to meet its goals around inclusion, SNR must be fully funded as part of the CWELCC system. Insufficient funding will lead to increased prevalence of the challenges raised throughout this paper including longer wait times, inequitable access to spaces and termination of care.

### Resource Consultant Model

The SSMs who responded to the discussion paper indicated that RCs are each assigned a group of child care providers who they consistently support to facilitate inclusion in child care programs. Whether RCs are employed by the SSM or a third-party agency contracted by the SSM to deliver the services, a service model where each RC is responsible for supporting a distinct set of child care programs allows for child care programs to access consistent, predictable and high-quality inclusion supports. RCs' relationships with child care providers also offers stability for child care programs during a period where child care programs are experiencing ongoing recruitment and retention issues.

Further, assigning RCs a stable group of programs helps families build trust. One SSM noted, “[Our region] does not have a robust early intervention system [or] clinical complex case managers. Resource consultants are often the first person to get to know the child/family before a diagnosis. These consultants provide hands on, boots-on-the-ground supports.”

When a child who requires SNR services begins attending a child care placement, having a RC assigned to that program facilitates timely SNR service access. Additionally, for families who need to change programs, it is helpful to have a dedicated RC supporting the new program before the child transfers to facilitate seamless service.

## Enhanced Program Supports

SSMs noted that enhanced staffing is used as a short-term inclusion support for licensed child care centres to access where they have a classroom with complex needs. SSMs overwhelmingly identified this as a high-demand area that needs to be maintained, with 38 of 43 SSMs identifying this as priority component of their system.

SSMs noted that there is currently an exceedingly high demand for enhanced program staffing because of greater behavioural needs present in child care programs combined with limited workforce capacity related to child care staff recruitment and retention.

## Specialized Services

A final service model strength that the majority of SSMs identified was access to specialized services such as occupational therapists, behavioural therapists, speech language pathologists, physical therapists, and mental health therapists. SSMs noted these services provide a crucial support for resource consultants as it gives them the ability to consult with clinicians on goals and strategies to support children receiving SNR services.

Taken together, SSMs greatly appreciated having flexibility to adapt their service models as needed to respond to local circumstances, a RC-based service model built on trusting relationships with child care providers, and access to enhanced program supports and specialized services when needed.

## Monitoring and Evaluation Approaches

SSMs reported using a variety of approaches for measuring service outcomes and the quality of SNR service delivery. Most commonly, SSMs collected and monitored the following:

- Ministry Key Performance Indicators (required)
- Family surveys
- Connections to local quality initiatives
- Formal and informal data collection from child care licensees
- Waitlist data
- Staff professional learning (completion and evaluation results)
- RC observations about licensee participation and successful engagement in SNR
- Child outcomes such as transitions to school, number of terminated placements

When asked about the effectiveness of existing Ministry KPIs, SSMs typically agreed that the Ministry KPIs should include recognition of a class-wide support provided by RCs, which is not currently reflected. A new annual KPI could be: Total classrooms supported. Aside from the classroom KPI, SSMs had varied interest and feedback related to KPIs collected.

## Current SNR System Capacity

To understand the current SNR system capacity across the province, including how this has changed in recent years, OMSSA asked SSMs to report their funding allocations and SNR utilization rates in 2018 and 2023, along with SSMs' current wait times for SNR services.

### Funding Allocation

SSMs were asked to share the percentage of their child care allocation spent on SNR in 2018 as well as in 2023. In total, 36 SSMs provided data to both parts of this question. Of these SSMs, all spent at least 4.1% of their child care allocation in 2018 and 2023 on SNR. Almost all SSMs also exceeded the minimum requirement at both points as well (100% of SSMs in 2018 and 97% in 2023).

Importantly, 75% of SSMs reported spending a larger proportion of their child care budget on SNR in 2023 compared to 2018. SSMs who reported both years' allocations spent an average of 10.76% of their child care budget on SNR services in 2018 and 12.30% in 2023.

For the SSMs who reported spending a similar or reduced proportion of their child care budget on SNR in 2023 compared to 2018, it is possible that this finding can be attributed to increases in the SSMs' overall child care funding, child care room closures resulting from workforce challenges or continuing COVID recovery.

### Service Utilization

In addition to exploring funding allocation changes over time, OMSSA asked SSMs to share the changes to SNR service demand. For this question, 25 SSMs provided details of their SNR service utilization rate in both 2018 and 2023. Of these, 60% (n=15) of the SSMs reported a 5% or higher increase in children served in 2023 compared to 2018. The remaining 40% (n=10) of SSMs reported a comparable or decreased number of children served in 2023.

The SSMs who provided service to fewer children in 2023 compared to 2018 noted a few key reasons for the decrease, including lack of child care program staffing, limited staff capacity within child care programs, and instability within the SNR workforce. The lack of child care staffing has resulted in programs closing classrooms and higher SNR waitlists, which are not reflected in SNR caseload data.

Further, the limited capacity of the child care workforce has resulted in child care programs turning away or terminating the placements of children who need inclusion supports, especially children with diagnoses. SSMs also noted that lack of funding for new RC positions and the lack of information on upcoming SNR funding added further strain. Other reasons for decreased service utilization included ongoing pandemic recovery processes and challenges with family readiness to engage in SNR services.

## Wait Times

As a third indicator of system capacity, OMSSA asked SSMs to share their SNR wait times. Of the 38 SSMs who responded to this question, SSMs reported a wide range of time frames for service. In some cases, SSMs noted delays of over 100 days for children to access services.

For the SSMs who provided information on whether they maintain a waitlist or not, 24% (n=9) of the SSMs reported maintaining an active SNR waitlist. Some of the SSMs who noted they do not currently keep a SNR waitlist indicated that they anticipate needing to implement one soon in response to growing demand. Further, some SSMs indicated that while they do not have a waitlist for general SNR services, they did have waitlists associated with particular SNR service aspects, such as enhanced program supports or specialized consultative services.

## Additional System Capacity Challenges

As discussed above, most SSMs spent a higher proportion of their child care budget on SNR services in 2023 compared to 2018. SSMs also reported providing service to more children per year in this same period. Finally, a growing number of SSMs reported either currently maintain a waitlist for SNR or needing to implement one soon, meaning children and families will keep experiencing delays in accessing necessary inclusion supports.

Beyond these above indicators of system capacity strain, SSMs discussed the presence of increasingly complex needs of children in the child care system, a limited capacity of the child care system to meet children's needs, high SNR caseloads, and child care terminations.

## Increased Complexity of Support Needs

SSMs reported finding that children currently attending child care have higher-than-typical behavioural and self-regulation support needs, possibly due to the lingering impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on children's development. 32 of 43 SSMs noted that SNR services are seeing an increase in the number of children with complex needs.

Further, SSMs are currently unable to meet the needs of some children, particularly those with complex medical needs. SSMs cannot use SNR funding for one-on-one support that may be required for children with complex medical needs unlike the public school system. This means that some children with complex needs do not have access to licensed child care.

Some SSMs have been able to find alternative support options, but there is a growing concern that the lack of funding and collaboration with the Ministry of Health may result in a violation of Ontario's Human Right Code.

## Limited Ability of Child Care to Meet Complex Needs

While needs within child care programs are increasingly complex, SSMs discussed a limited capacity for the child care system to meet all children's needs. Child care programs are struggling to staff programs, both in terms of number of staff required to provide child care as well as the capacity of those staff.

New RECE graduates are entering the workforce without the skills they need to successfully support inclusion needs in their classrooms, an issue which is further exacerbated by the reality that child care programs are lacking experienced staff to mentor junior staff. Educators are also burning out more quickly because they do not have the tools they need or a stable team to lean on.

With child care programs struggling to function at a more basic level, SSMs noted that classroom educators are viewing children's behavioural needs as overly 'challenging' and 'stressful'. SSMs discussed being concerned that children and families are experiencing increased child care placement terminations, reduced hours at child care, or denial from child care entirely due to their child's needs.

## Increased Reliance on SNR Services

Given the lack of basic inclusion knowledge in licensed child care programs, RCs are receiving referrals for basic child care programming support that, historically, experienced educators at the child care programs would manage through inclusive classroom programming. RCs are then being stretched to take on larger caseloads and support more basic inclusion needs. SSMs have heard that RCs are increasingly receiving referrals that could have been prevented through basic inclusive pedagogical practices which RECEs should have learned in their Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology programs.

## Geographically Isolated Regions

The above system strains are exacerbated in Northern, remote, and rural communities with large geographical areas where RECEs can be more difficult to recruit. Additionally, RCs travel long distances between programs which means the frequency of their support is reduced. In some circumstances, child care programs will only see their RCs in-person once per month with virtual visits in between.

In summary, SNR service systems are strained, and SSMs are facing extensive challenges with SNR service delivery. Taken altogether, the SSMs experiences related to SNR services show an increasing demand for SNR services that is outpacing the current SNR system capacity. With the planned expansion of the child care system under CWELCC, the strains on the system are likely to further intensify further if the Ministry does not take responsive action.



## Opportunities and Future Directions

For Ontario to reach its access and inclusion goals under the Ontario CWELCC action plan, the Ministry must take responsive action to alleviate SNR system strains. There were several consistent recommendations for the Ministry across the SSMs' papers. These recommendations relate to funding and policy flexibility, child care and SNR system capacity, general inclusive approaches, and administrative support for SSMs.

### SNR Funding and Policy Flexibility

There was overall agreement across SSMs that the flexibility in the current funding formula is helpful for SSMs to respond to local service needs and circumstances. However, in order to meet the Province's access and inclusion goals SNR must be fully funded. The inclusion of SNR costs within CWELCC funding would have an immediate positive impact on SNR service delivery across the province. Therefore, OMSSA recommends that the Ministry fully funds SNR as a central component of CWELCC funding.

### Capacity Building in the Child Care and SNR Workforces

SSMs provided recommendations related to building capacity in the child care and SNR workforce. One such opportunity is to introduce a stable and equitable wage grid for all licensed child care program staff, which would help stabilize the child care workforce. In turn, increased stability in child care programs allows for capacity building and would alleviate the existing pressures on SNR service providers to provide basic programming support.

Relatedly, there are opportunities for the Ministry to support greater consistency of program quality. Most SSMs have some mechanism for supporting quality in their licensed child care programs, and these quality initiatives pose an opportunity to promote ongoing reflection in programs on inclusive program design. Direction from the Province on foundational principles of quality would support greater consistency across the province. A quality initiative could be further strengthened by the inclusion of those principles in licensing regulations.

Given that SSMs note that recent RECE graduates have limited basic inclusion skills, OMSSA recommends that the Ministry enhance ECE training requirements for the Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology related to delivering inclusive child care programming and supporting children with cognitive, physical, social, emotional, communicative, and/or broader developmental support needs.

OMSSA recommends that the Ministry continue to support capacity building for child care programs through RC mentorship, workshops, and specialized services from qualified clinicians. Lastly, as the current child care system capacity is limited, OMSSA recommends that the Ministry ensures the continued availability of enhanced program staffing to bolster child care programs' abilities to meet the needs of all children in their classrooms.

## Inclusive Practices and Language

The third category of recommendations relates to the Ministry adopting more inclusive practices and language. To do this, OMSSA recommends that the Ministry begin to collect data on program-level supports provided by SNR, specifically the number of classrooms supported annually by SNR services rather than only child-specific data. OMSSA also recommends that the Ministry update SNR terminology to more inclusive language that focuses on describing the service rather than describing the children who use SNR services.

Additional actions to move towards more inclusive practices include moving towards a policy framework informed by the Ontario Human Rights Code, investing in classroom-based staffing supports for child care programs, and working to improve access to child care for children with medically complex needs.

## Conclusion

The CWELCC system has resulted in a historical investment in Ontario's early years and child care system. This initiative offers enormous potential to increase children and families' access to affordable, inclusive, high quality, and flexible licensed child care.

Under CWELCC, Ontario has set ambitious priorities for SSMs to expand child care spaces and prioritize access and inclusion for underserved populations such as children with special needs.

The SSMs who implement the Province's vision for early years and child care services are committed to achieving these goals but are facing extensive pressures and navigating complex challenges related to SNR services.

Through Ontario's CWELCC funding formula and policy, there is an opportunity for the Ministry to address the key SNR-related constraints and challenges facing SSMs. Specifically, based on the collective experiences and input of 43 SSMs, OMSSA provides the three following recommendations to the Ministry:

1. Fully fund the cost of SNR service delivery as a core component of CWELCC.
2. Support capacity building within the child care and SNR workforces.
3. Strengthen inclusive practices and adopt inclusive language.

SSMs and the Ministry are aligned in their aims to achieve child care access and inclusion for all children. By taking these three actions, the Ministry will remove significant barriers and improve the ability of SSMs to effectively deliver SNR services in a way that meets the needs of Ontario's children, families, child care providers, and the SNR system overall.

## Appendix A: OMSSA Discussion Paper Questions for SSMs Related to SNR Services

### Service Delivery

1. SSMs deliver SNR in a variety of ways including direct delivery and third-party contracting. Please provide a brief overview of your SNR service delivery model. Please consider all aspects of your funding including direct supports to children and families, supports to licensees and professional learning. (250 words)
2. What aspects of your SNR service delivery model are important for your SSM to maintain going forward and why? (250 words)
3. How do you measure your SNR service outcomes and/or quality? Are the existing Ministry KPIs reflective of your SSMs services? (500 words)

### Changes in System Capacity

1. What percentage of child care funding did your SSM use to deliver SNR in 2018 and 2023? Please include the percentage change in funding between 2018 and 2023. (100 words)
2. What has your experience been with SNR usage over the last two years? Are your caseloads and referrals increasing or decreasing? Are there factors that may be driving this change (e.g. pandemic impacts)? Please include the percentage change in the number of children served between 2018 and 2023, example below. (250 words)  $(\# \text{ of children served } 2023) - (\# \text{ children served } 2018) / (\# \text{ children served in } 2018) \times 100$
3. What is the average time it takes to transition a child from referral into service (in days)? Does your SSM maintain a waitlist for SNR services? If so, how many children were on it as of January 31, 2024? (100 words)

### Changes in System Capacity

1. What are the largest pain points you are experiencing as the SSM related to SNR? What concerns are you hearing from agencies, providers and families (e.g. access issues at the centre/home level for children with identified special needs, access related to children with medically complex needs)? (500 words)
2. Has your SSM experienced any barriers in delivering the necessary SNR services based on the funding available? If so, please describe (250 words)
3. Are you facing workforce challenges related to SNR? What workforce supports do you feel are required in your SSM and/or across the province? Have you implemented any workforce strategies to date for SNR? If so, please list. (500 words)

## Appendix A: OMSSA Discussion Paper Questions for SSMs Related to SNR Services

### Opportunities

1. What opportunities are there to improve SNR service across the province? Do you have any specific recommendations for the Ministry? (500 words)
2. What is working well in your SSM's delivery of SNR? (250 words)
3. What does your SSM need from the province to support access and inclusion for children and families who use SNR services in the continued expansion of CWELCC? (500 words)

# Special Needs Resourcing Funding and Support

## Thank You

OMSSA would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance in developing this report:

City of Greater Sudbury

- Caitlyn Bourque
- Miranda Mackie

Regional Municipality of Durham

- Melissa Beaucaire
- Emily Witlarge

Regional Municipality of Peel

- Marianna Healey
- Laura Sparling

Regional Municipality of York

- Stacey Hodgson

And all the individuals on the Special Needs Resourcing Committee, including OMSSA Staff, for their dedication to this work.



 **OMSSA**  
ONTARIO MUNICIPAL SOCIAL  
SERVICES ASSOCIATION

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## MEMORANDUM

2024: EYCC04

**TO:** Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards

**FROM:** Holly Moran, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Years and Child Care Division

**DATE:** August 1, 2024

**SUBJECT:** **New Child Care Funding Approach**

---

The ministry is grateful for your continued collaboration and values your ongoing feedback as we work together toward our shared goals of providing Ontario families with high-quality and affordable child care.

I am pleased to share the following to support early CMSM/DSSAB planning to implement a new cost-based approach to Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding, starting in 2025:

- A new CWELCC Cost-Based Funding Guideline, effective January 1, 2025;
- Preliminary 2025 child care funding allocations (excluding other funding not listed below, such as EarlyON allocations, which will be communicated later in 2024);
- Incremental 2024 CWELCC administrative funding allocations to support set-up costs associated with implementing the new cost-based approach; and
- Questions & Answers regarding the new child care funding approach.

As requested, to support smooth, effective, and consistent implementation, the ministry is providing CMSMs/DSSABs with these materials in advance of releasing the new guideline and related supports to licensees – and well in advance of the effective date. Note that the new CWELCC Cost-Based Funding Guideline includes placeholder references to sections of the remaining funding guidelines, which will come later in 2024, as well as a release date of the new Cost-Based Funding Guideline to licensees, all of which will be updated at appropriate times.

### **Investments for 2025**

Investments from the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada in the child care and early years system will **total more than \$5.6B for 2025** (excluding EarlyON):

- **\$4.61B in Cost-based funding** to support operating costs for licensees participating in CWELCC for the delivery of child care to children aged 0-5;



- **\$0.15B in Start-up Grant funding** to support capital costs for the achievement of creating affordable child care spaces for children aged 0-5;
- **\$0.76B in Local Priorities funding** to support operating costs largely outside of the CWELCC system, including fee subsidies and Special Needs Resourcing; and
- **\$0.08B in administrative funding** to support CMSMs/DSSABs with their administrative capacity to support the early years and child care sector.

The investments listed above have been allocated taking into account your current directed growth targets and may be adjusted through a potential recalibration of CWELCC space targets for 2025 and 2026. More information on space recalibration will follow later, including a request for data on progress towards space creation targets that will be used to inform the process.

Please refer to Appendix A for the Preliminary 2025 Child Care Funding Allocations.

### **Key Updates**

#### **a) Incremental 2024 CWELCC Administrative Funding**

The Province recognizes that cost-based funding and the related accountability framework will transform sector funding and implementation. As a result, changes to existing policies and procedures, IT systems, service agreements with licensees, and the development of comprehensive training and communication materials may be required.

To support such set-up costs, the ministry will be releasing \$27.5M in one-time-only, incremental CWELCC administrative funding to CMSMs/DSSABs for 2024. CMSMs/DSSABs can refer to Section 3 of the most recent [2024 CWELCC Guideline](#) for more details on administrative spending guidance.

Please refer to Appendix B of this memo for one-time, incremental 2024 CWELCC funding allocations. 2024 transfer payment agreements and cashflow payments will be amended to reflect this increase in CWELCC administrative funding allocations as soon as possible.

#### **b) Cost-based Funding (2025 onwards)**

Starting January 1, 2025, the new funding approach described in the new Cost-Based Funding Guideline will take effect. Cost-based funding provides support for operating costs for licensees participating in CWELCC for the delivery of child care to children aged 0-5 years.

As described in the new guideline, cost-based funding is guided by the following principles:

- **Transparent:** Clear and consistent approach, both locally and across CMSMs/DSSABs so that licensees know what to expect from CMSMs/DSSABs.
- **Representative:** Funding is responsive to how child care is delivered in Ontario and based on the true costs of providing child care to eligible children.
- **Simple:** Easy to understand with minimal administrative burden.
- **Accountable:** Cost control structures and safeguards ensure accountability for and equitable distribution of public funding.

To achieve balance towards realizing these principles, cost-based funding allocations to licensees will include benchmark-based allocations with adjustment factors to account for geographic variances, growth top-ups for new spaces or top-ups for existing licensees whose cost structures exceed their benchmark allocations, and amounts in lieu of profit and surplus.

To ensure cost containment and the proper use of public funds, CMSMs/DSSABs will be required to reconcile funding allocated to licensees with their actual eligible costs at the end of the year, select licensees subject to Direct Engagements to Report on Compliance, and perform cost reviews of the most disproportionately high top-up allocations, among other measures.

Like previous years, the ministry is withholding a portion of child care funding – specifically cost-based funding for 2025 – to minimize recoveries at the end of the year. Like 2024, these amounts are based on ministry assumptions, such as operating capacity.

Please note that cost-based funding does not change the direct relationship between CMSMs/DSSABs and licensees, including dispute resolution.

For more information on the cost-based funding approach, please refer to the new Cost-Based Funding Guideline. The ministry also expects to share a technical paper with CMSMs/DSSABs later in 2024, which will provide further details on how the cost-based funding approach was designed.

### **c) Local Priorities**

As part of the new child care funding approach, starting 2025, CMSMs/DSSABs will receive local priorities allocations to support child care programs as follows:

- General operating grants (for ages 6-12);
- Wage Enhancement Grant (WEG)/Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) and CWELCC wage enhancements, including those under the Workforce Strategy (for ages 6-12);
- Workforce Strategy – Professional Learning (for ages 0-12);
- Fee subsidies (for ages 0-12);
- Special needs resourcing (for ages 0-12);
- Capacity building (for ages 0-12); and
- Claims-based funding: Small Water Works and Territory without Municipal Organization (for ages 0-12).

While CMSMs/DSSABs will have flexibility in how to spend local priorities allocations, the remaining funding guidelines will include certain limitations on how such funding may be spent (for example, a minimum percentage spent on special needs resourcing; municipal cost share requirements). However, no significant changes for the above-listed child care programs are expected for 2025.

The ministry has been informed that employees in 25 of 47 regions may have received part or all of their CWELCC wage increase up front, rather than gradually, based on an interpretation of ministry guidelines for the program.

While not part of the Province's plan, service managers **will not** be required to recover related funding that has already been flowed to licensees in such cases. Wage increases for affected employees can be held constant until affected employees become eligible for additional increases.

For greater certainty and to ensure consistency across CMSMs/DSSABs going forward, the ministry is clarifying that “base wages” – for the purposes of wage enhancement allocations (such as WEG/HCCEG or wage enhancements as part of the Child Care Workforce Strategy) – must include any general operating funding provided to licensees for the purposes of improving wages.

#### **d) Non-CWELCC-Enrolled Licensees**

Under the new cost-based funding approach, licensees not participating in CWELCC may continue to run their operations under the existing provincial licensing and regulatory framework.

Some of these non-participating licensees may currently be recipients of child care routine funding (that is, general operating, fee subsidy, or wage enhancement grants). Starting in 2025, as the age 0-5 portion of the routine funding is being integrated into cost-based funding under CWELCC to ensure the success of that system, routine funding must not be used to support such licensees, unless it relates to fee subsidies.

Existing fee subsidy agreements may continue to be funded until the benefitting child ages out of the program or leaves the licensee.

#### **e) Next Parent Fee Reduction**

Along with implementation of the new funding approach, to support the transition to \$10 per day average fees by the end of 2025-26, families with children in programs enrolled in the CWELCC system would see child care base fees capped at \$22 per day effective January 1, 2025. Regulatory amendments to Ontario Regulation 137/15 under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA)* will be required to operationalize this change to base fees, pending consultation and approval. When proposing changes to the regulations under the CCEYA, the ministry is required to consult with the sector for at least 45 days. Details related to this consultation will be communicated with the sector shortly and more information on the next parent fee reduction will be shared later in 2024.

#### **f) Home Child Care Agencies with Active Homes in Multiple CMSM/DSSAB Jurisdictions**

Starting in 2025, when an eligible agency has active homes in multiple CMSM/DSSAB jurisdictions, the overseeing CMSM/DSSAB will receive an allocation to cover all the agency’s active homes, other than new active homes within other (“secondary”) CMSM/DSSAB jurisdictions after a “specified date” (for 2025, this specified date is December 31, 2022).

Thank you for your ongoing support and valuable feedback. We look forward to continuing to work together to support Ontario's early years and child care sector and the children and families it serves.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

---

Holly Moran  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Years and Child Care Division

cc: Matthew DesRosiers, Director, Funding Branch  
Katie Williams, Director, Early Years Branch  
Karen Puhmann, Director, Child Care Branch

## APPENDIX A - 2025 Child Care Allocation

CMSM/DSSAB	Cost-Based Allocation	Cost-Based Allocation Holdback	Total Cost-Based Allocation	Start-up Grants	Local Priorities Allocation	Administration Allocation	Total 2025 Child Care Allocation
Corporation of the City of Brantford	30,392,229	570,080	30,962,309	1,897,200	5,879,164	708,234	39,446,907
City of Cornwall	18,344,381	397,788	18,742,169	1,323,000	5,245,112	570,462	25,880,743
City of Greater Sudbury	56,004,567	3,328,432	59,332,999	105,600	10,223,437	1,076,908	70,738,944
The City of Hamilton	142,157,399	1,630,081	143,787,480	3,728,700	33,064,094	3,223,315	183,803,589
Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes	14,631,748	558,263	15,190,011	1,241,100	3,387,865	401,649	20,220,625
Corporation of the City of Kingston	28,397,499	348,658	28,746,157	819,000	6,307,386	700,493	36,573,036
Corporation of the City of London	114,322,605	1,363,052	115,685,657	8,140,500	23,447,411	2,381,543	149,655,111
City of Ottawa	368,461,403	7,115,880	375,577,283	4,591,200	57,495,575	6,041,250	443,705,308
Corporation of the City of Peterborough	34,961,916	558,415	35,520,331	713,100	6,125,889	700,545	43,059,865
Corporation of the City of St. Thomas	20,837,770	718,278	21,556,048	2,469,600	4,318,741	499,158	28,843,547
Corporation of the City of Stratford	19,166,721	457,203	19,623,924	2,781,900	2,949,874	399,046	25,754,744
City of Toronto	1,249,998,631	19,092,766	1,269,091,397	34,276,500	209,041,809	19,411,007	1,531,820,713
Corporation of the City of Windsor	104,266,989	2,887,240	107,154,229	4,527,000	20,936,706	2,096,803	134,714,738
Corporation of the County of Bruce	21,012,071	644,445	21,656,516	1,443,300	2,874,809	393,884	26,368,509
Corporation of the County of Dufferin	18,200,272	176,957	18,377,229	1,692,000	2,463,032	356,199	22,888,460
Corporation of the County of Grey	18,644,184	265,905	18,910,089	1,132,200	4,007,731	461,416	24,511,436
Corporation of the County of Hastings	33,555,715	356,499	33,912,214	372,300	5,924,790	683,048	40,892,352
Corporation of the County of Huron	11,716,857	198,379	11,915,236	450,000	2,478,369	320,412	15,164,017
Corporation of the County of Lambton	27,626,095	970,512	28,596,607	1,140,900	7,811,513	765,565	38,314,585
County of Lanark	16,753,366	516,999	17,270,365	220,500	2,954,102	398,525	20,843,492
County of Lennox & Addington	11,262,909	242,662	11,505,571	1,008,000	2,529,214	338,987	15,381,772
County of Northumberland	16,066,439	543,944	16,610,383	319,200	3,039,965	384,779	20,354,327
County of Oxford	24,334,873	335,973	24,670,846	8,184,900	4,002,663	528,365	37,386,774
County of Renfrew	18,756,278	421,691	19,177,969	-	4,160,781	452,012	23,790,762
County of Simcoe	114,071,535	960,873	115,032,408	3,975,900	18,342,201	2,079,719	139,430,228
County of Wellington	73,805,742	430,150	74,235,892	3,656,700	9,420,068	1,003,843	88,316,503
District Municipality of Muskoka	11,539,404	351,090	11,890,494	412,500	2,426,283	319,841	15,049,118
Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent	27,654,612	1,081,180	28,735,792	22,500	7,391,752	712,161	36,862,205

CMSM/DSSAB	Cost-Based Allocation	Cost-Based Allocation Holdback	Total Cost-Based Allocation	Start-up Grants	Local Priorities Allocation	Administration Allocation	Total 2025 Child Care Allocation
The Corporation of Norfolk County	17,394,198	769,507	18,163,705	256,500	4,167,041	462,622	23,049,868
Regional Municipality of Durham	188,853,645	2,631,981	191,485,626	3,465,000	29,258,431	3,188,195	227,397,252
Regional Municipality of Halton	209,790,099	2,267,079	212,057,178	1,765,800	23,873,777	2,906,172	240,602,927
Regional Municipality of Niagara	152,955,481	1,659,691	154,615,172	9,360,000	19,759,619	2,134,306	185,869,097
Regional Municipality of Peel	457,298,779	4,025,665	461,324,444	27,135,900	79,172,798	7,866,851	575,499,993
Regional Municipality of Waterloo	174,556,756	4,095,551	178,652,307	5,993,100	25,265,386	3,064,522	212,975,315
Regional Municipality of York	450,853,570	10,219,064	461,072,634	4,099,500	61,688,944	6,531,543	533,392,621
United Counties of Leeds & Grenville	23,856,604	188,473	24,045,077	1,368,000	3,789,378	460,526	29,662,981
United Counties of Prescott & Russell	25,926,249	1,222,648	27,148,897	103,200	4,206,192	552,769	32,011,058
Algoma District Services Administration Board	11,264,933	493,046	11,757,979	368,400	2,648,432	312,883	15,087,694
District of Cochrane Social Service Administration Board	22,156,342	1,441,437	23,597,779	508,500	5,439,218	555,313	30,100,810
District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board	32,532,132	1,329,021	33,861,153	205,500	5,518,800	602,099	40,187,552
District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board	8,840,287	216,559	9,056,846	116,400	2,850,056	318,249	12,341,551
District of Sault Ste Marie Social Services Administration Board	21,748,933	478,403	22,227,336	353,100	4,035,407	444,486	27,060,329
District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board	11,809,583	484,964	12,294,547	135,000	3,591,781	356,224	16,377,552
Kenora District Services Board	25,666,268	443,095	26,109,363	4,345,200	4,063,259	434,374	34,952,196
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board	10,588,124	427,995	11,016,119	97,200	3,621,872	351,093	15,086,284
Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board	11,462,023	583,206	12,045,229	531,000	2,002,392	240,956	14,819,577
District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board	26,988,479	1,110,752	28,099,231	171,000	7,506,550	709,771	36,486,552
<b>PROVINCIAL TOTAL</b>	<b>4,531,486,695</b>	<b>80,611,532</b>	<b>4,612,098,227</b>	<b>151,023,600</b>	<b>760,709,669</b>	<b>78,902,123</b>	<b>5,602,733,619</b>

## APPENDIX B - 2024 Incremental Administration Allocation

CMSM/DSSAB	2024 Incremental Administration Allocation
Corporation of the City of Brantford	276,619
City of Cornwall	183,029
City of Greater Sudbury	445,105
The City of Hamilton	1,139,665
Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes	194,048
Corporation of the City of Kingston	357,006
Corporation of the City of London	915,760
City of Ottawa	1,932,087
Corporation of the City of Peterborough	350,910
Corporation of the City of St. Thomas	226,857
Corporation of the City of Stratford	204,967
City of Toronto	4,315,927
Corporation of the City of Windsor	730,596
Corporation of the County of Bruce	232,942
Corporation of the County of Dufferin	197,935
Corporation of the County of Grey	210,405
Corporation of the County of Hastings	328,628
Corporation of the County of Huron	179,472
Corporation of the County of Lambton	310,435
County of Lanark	220,220
County of Lennox & Addington	163,124
County of Northumberland	217,052
County of Oxford	314,824
County of Renfrew	246,213
County of Simcoe	725,185
County of Wellington	427,519
District Municipality of Muskoka	181,981
Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent	298,727
The Corporation of Norfolk County	270,294
Regional Municipality of Durham	1,288,822
Regional Municipality of Halton	1,115,528
Regional Municipality of Niagara	816,888
Regional Municipality of Peel	2,882,766
Regional Municipality of Waterloo	1,016,492
Regional Municipality of York	2,151,695
United Counties of Leeds & Grenville	232,695

CMSM/DSSAB	2024 Incremental Administration Allocation
United Counties of Prescott & Russell	271,398
Algoma District Services Administration Board	127,564
District of Cochrane Social Service Administration Board	239,793
District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board	281,504
District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board	169,795
District of Sault Ste Marie Social Services Administration Board	215,800
District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board	143,775
Kenora District Services Board	224,708
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board	156,258
Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board	134,842
District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board	281,928
<b>PROVINCIAL TOTAL</b>	<b>27,549,785</b>





**Department of Community Services**  
**Département des services communautaires**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Craig Kelley, CMO, Dipl.M.A., Dipl.M.M., Ec.D., CAO/Deputy Clerk  
Gwen Dombroski, Dipl.M.A., Dipl.M.M., Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

**CC:** Evelyn VanStarkenburg, Administrative Assistant III

**FROM:** Andrea Patrick, Director of Community Services

**DATE:** August 28, 2024

**SUBJECT:** **By-law to Adopt Revised 2024 Child Care, EarlyON and CWELCC Transfer Payment Agreement**

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**BACKGROUND**

Attached is the revised 2024 Child Care, EarlyON and CWELCC Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement that was received on August 16, 2024, from the Ministry of Education. The revised agreement reflects an increase to CWELCC administration funding for 2024 to help support costs associated with the implementation of the new cost-based funding approach for Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

An amount of \$246,213 has been added to the 2024 CWELCC administrative funding for 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the revised 2024 Child Care, EarlyON and CWELCC Transfer Payment Agreement with the Minister of Education be accepted; AND THAT By Law #96-24 be amended to approve the revised TPA.

**APPROVAL**

Recommended by:

**Margo Smith** Digitally signed by Margo Smith  
Date: 2024.09.02 11:23:40 -04'00'  
Margo Smith, Manager of Children's Services

  
Andrea Patrick, Community Services


*Gwen Dombroski*

Approved by:

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Gwen Dombroski, Dipl.M.A., Dipl.M.M.  
Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

Approved by:



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Craig Kelley, CMO, Dipl.M.A., Dipl.M.M., Ec.D.,  
CAO/Deputy Clerk

**COUNTY OF RENFREW**

**BY-LAW NUMBER 124-24 D**

**A BY-LAW AMEND BY-LAW 96-24 TO AUTHORIZE THE WARDEN AND CLERK TO EXECUTE THE  
REVISED ONTARIO TRANSFER PAYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
FOR THE 2023-2027 CHILD CARE, EARLYON  
AND CANADA WIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SERVICE AGREEMENT**

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WHEREAS Sections 8, 9 and 11 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, authorizes Council to enter into agreements;

AND WHEREAS the County of Renfrew is the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for Community Service Programs and responsible for Child Care and Early Years Services in the County of Renfrew;

AND WHEREAS the County of Renfrew wishes to enter into a revised agreement with the Ministry of Education to receive funding for the years 2023-2027 respecting the provision of child and family programs provided by County of Renfrew Child Care and Early Years Division;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew hereby enacts as follows:

1. THAT the Warden and Clerk are hereby empowered to do and execute all things, papers, and documents necessary to the execution of this By-law.
2. THAT the agreement marked as Schedule "I" attached to and made part of this By-law shall constitute an agreement between the Corporation of the County of Renfrew and the Minister of Education.
3. THAT By-law 96-24 be hereby repealed.
4. THAT this By-law shall come into force and take effect upon the passing thereof.

READ a first time this 3rd day of September, 2024.

READ a second time this 3rd day of September, 2024.

READ a third time and finally passed this 3rd day of September, 2024.

---

PETER EMON, WARDEN

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GWEN DOMBROSKI, CLERK