



Committee Report

To: Chair and
Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Christine MacDonald
Director of Human Services

Date: December 1, 2022

Re: Q3 2022 Licensed Child Care and Early Years Report

Staff Recommendation:

The Q3 2022 Licensed Child Care and Early Years Report is for information.

Background:

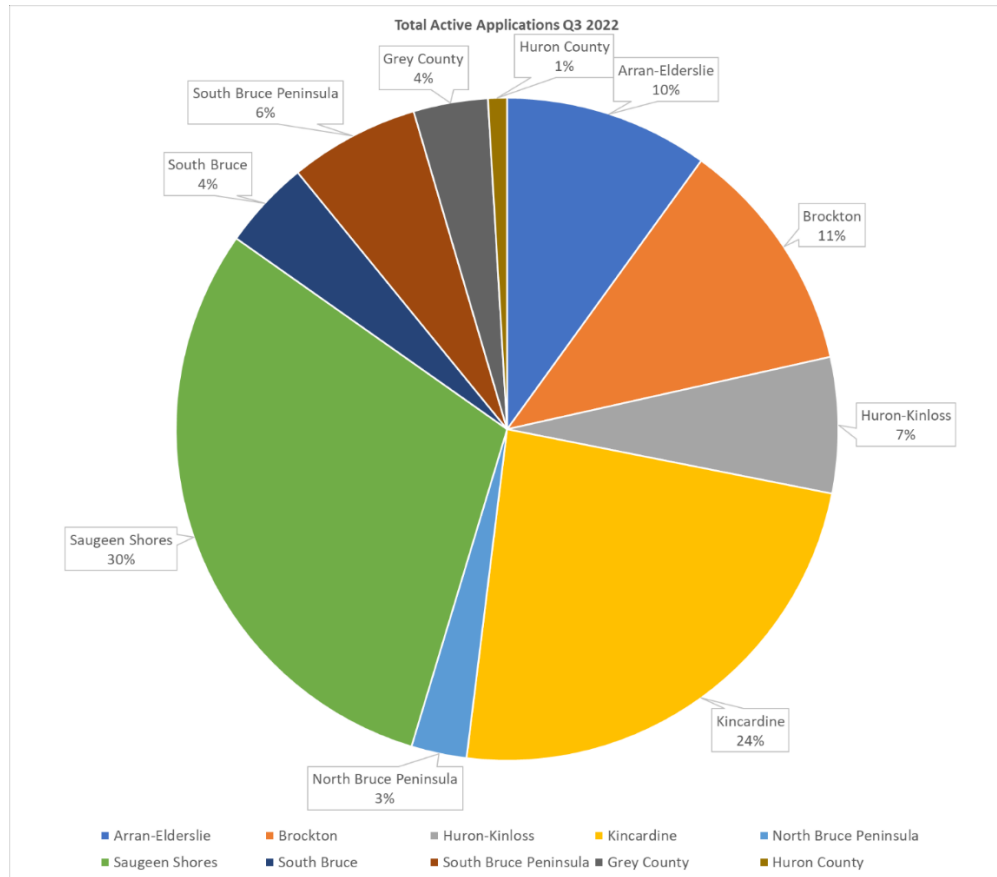
The priority of Bruce County Children’s Services, a division of the Human Services department, is to ensure the local delivery of licensed child care and early years services is accessible, affordable, inclusive, and high-quality. The following performance indicators provide an overview of community trends and service delivery statistics for Q3 of 2022.

Licensed Child Care Applications:

In an effort to better track, monitor, and respond to local system pressures, Bruce County uses OneList, an online child care registration system, to help families locate and apply for licensed child care. In turn, the system’s data provides County staff with a snapshot of information, quantifying child care needs by demographic area. Beginning in Q2 2021, OneList has provided details about the number of applications where the child has a placement (but another program is requested) as compared to those with no placement.

Applicant's Municipality	Children Placed On Waitlist For Another Program Q3 2021	Number of Active Child Applications Q3 2021 Not Placed	Total Active Applications Q3 2022	Children Placed On Waitlist For Another Program Q3 2022	Number of Active Child Applications Q3 2021 Not Placed
Arran-Elderslie	20	131	140	25	115
Brockton	31	114	162	30	132
Huron-Kinloss	20	67	93	19	74
Kincardine	77	235	335	86	249
North Bruce Peninsula	1	23	38	1	37
Saugeen Shores	79	180	423	87	336
South Bruce	1	36	61	6	55
South Bruce Peninsula	7	47	89	17	72

Grey County	2	45	51	0	51
Huron County	2	12	13	3	10
Wellington County	0	0	1	0	1
Other	5	14	22	0	22
Total	245	904	1428	274	1154



The total number of active child applications in Q3 2022 has increased as compared to Q3 in 2021 by 279. Detailed information regarding the number of applications by municipality can be found on the previous table.

A new authorized recreation program operated by the Municipality of South Bruce opened in September 2022 in Teeswater, that provides before and after school care to approximately 30 children. As such, it is expected that waitlist numbers for this area may be reduced.

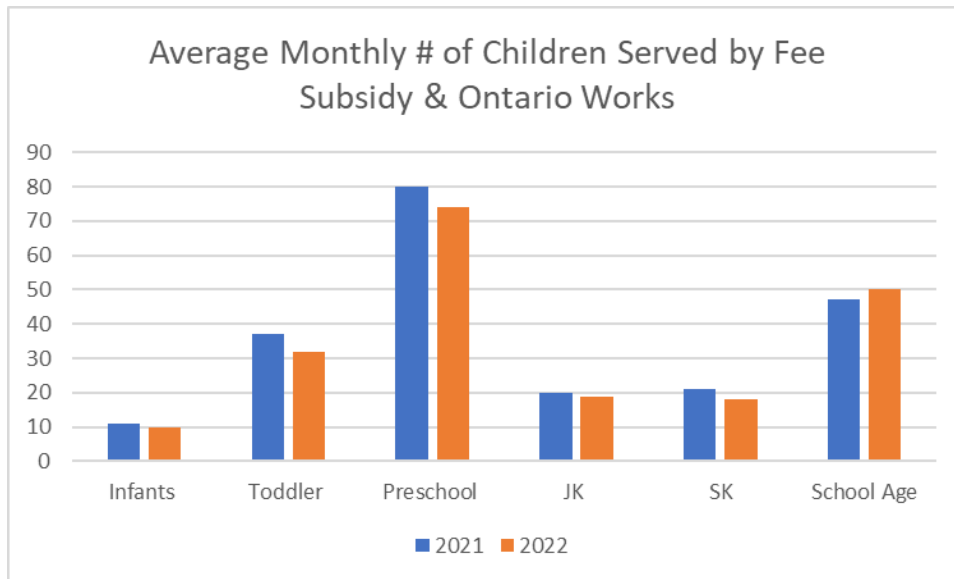
Licensed child care operating actuals continue to be impacted by a lack of qualified child care staff. Bruce County staff is co-leading a Bruce Grey Registered Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Recruitment and Retention Working Group that includes membership and support from local colleges, boards of education, workplace engagement services and corporate communications, to develop and implement local ECE recruitment and retention strategies.

Fee Subsidy:

For eligible families, child care fee subsidy support is available through Bruce County Children’s Services, with priority given to families with income levels lower than \$40,000 per annum.

Age Group	2021	2022
Infants	11	10
Toddler	37	32
Preschool	80	74
JK	20	19
SK	21	18
School Age	47	50
Total	216	203

Below is a comparison of the number of children receiving subsidy at Q3 2021, as compared to Q3 2022:



At Q3 in 2022, the average monthly number of children served in Bruce County’s fee subsidy program was 203. This represents a decrease of 13 as compared to Q3 in 2021.

Special Needs Resource Program:

The Special Needs Resource Program provides supports for the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care programs, camps, and authorized recreation programs at no additional cost to parents or guardians.

In 2021, the Special Needs Resource program streamlined and enhanced their service approach in order to be more proactive and responsive to the inclusion needs of all children across Bruce County. The provision of universal inclusion strategies was identified as an important area of focus to build capacity within system. Additionally, short term consultation services and intensive, individual support were also identified as essential whenever needed.

The three levels of services of the Special Needs Resource Program are summarized below:



The following table outlines the quarterly data for the Special Needs Resource Program in Q3 2022, as compared to Q1, Q2, and Q3 in 2021:

	Number of Sites and Classrooms Supported Level 1	Number of Children Supported Level 2	Number of Children Supported Level 3	Total (Levels 1-3)
Q1 2021	48	41	57	146
Q2 2021	48	48	51	147
Q3 2021	48	53	58	159
Q1 2022	48	60	55	163
Q2 2022	48	50	69	167
Q3 2022	48	57	55	160

EarlyON Child and Family Centres:

EarlyON Child and Family Centres provide virtual and free in-person programs to help strengthen adult/child relationships, support parent education, and foster healthy child development. All families with children from birth to six years of age are encouraged to participate.

EarlyON to Go take home bags were put on pause for Q3 in 2022. A decision was made to offer three EarlyON to Go programs annually and dates were selected based on seasonal factors to support families. The bulk of EarlyON programs are now in-person and, as such, virtual options have decreased in Q3 2022 as a result.

Programs and visits decreased in Q3 2022 which is typical for summer offerings. The decrease in Facebook visits may be linked to seasonal factors which would align with the decrease in in-person attendance.

EarlyON Child and Family Programs		Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022
In-Person	Total In-Person Programs Offered	130	207	194	
	Adult Visits	421	1120	939	
	Child Visits	564	1266	1243	
Virtual	Facebook Page Visits	2123	2734	2345	
	Virtual Registered Program Sessions	17	24	4	
	Adult Participants	18	10	7	
	Child Participants	17	14	6	
EarlyON To Go	Number of Families Participating	56	83	N/A	

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

Staff monitor subsidy and eligibility closely to ensure compliance. Expenditures are forecasted monthly to ensure participant fee allocations do not exceed the annual budget.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

There was no specific interdepartmental consultation required for this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Although there is no specific link to the Strategic Goals and Elements, the coordinated management of Bruce County Child Care and Early Years programs and supports is in keeping with our strategic values of efficient, coordinated governance, and client centric focus and is in alignment with the [Child Care & Early Years' Service System Plan: 2019-2024](#).

Authored by

Tina Metcalfe

Approved for Submission:

Derrick Thomson
Chief Administrative Officer