



# Committee Report

**To:** Councillor Mark Goetz, Chair and  
Members of the Human Services Committee

**From:** Christine MacDonald  
Director of Human Services

**Date:** March 2, 2023

**Re:** Q4 2022 Licensed Child Care and Early Years Report

---

## Staff Recommendation:

The Q4 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 Q4 2022.

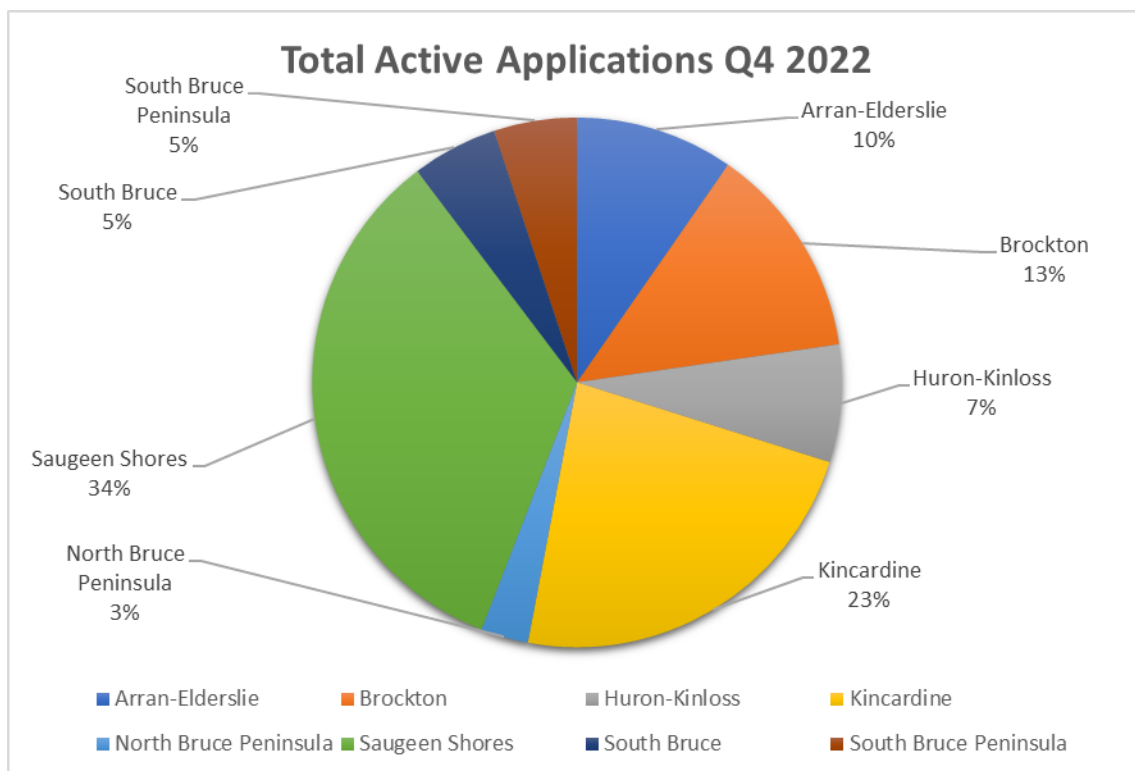
## Licensed Child Care Applications:

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	Total Active Applications Q4 2021	Total Active Applications Q4 2022	Children Placed but on Waitlist for Another Program Q4 2022	Children Not Placed Q4 2022
Arran-Elderslie	98	120	17	103
Brockton	147	162	30	132
Huron-Kinloss	86	89	15	74
Kincardine	277	287	78	209
North Bruce Peninsula	26	36	2	34
Saugeen Shores	294	420	72	348
South Bruce	39	58	3	55

South Bruce Peninsula	55	65	8	57
Grey County	49	61	0	61
Huron County	20	10	2	8
Wellington County	3	1	0	1
Other	14	22	0	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>1108</b>	<b>1331</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>1104</b>



The total number of active child applications in Q4 2022 has increased as compared to Q4 in 2021 by 223. Detailed information regarding the number of applications by municipality can be found on the previous table.

Operating actuals continue to be impacted by a lack of Registered Early Childhood Educators, along with an increase in child care demand.

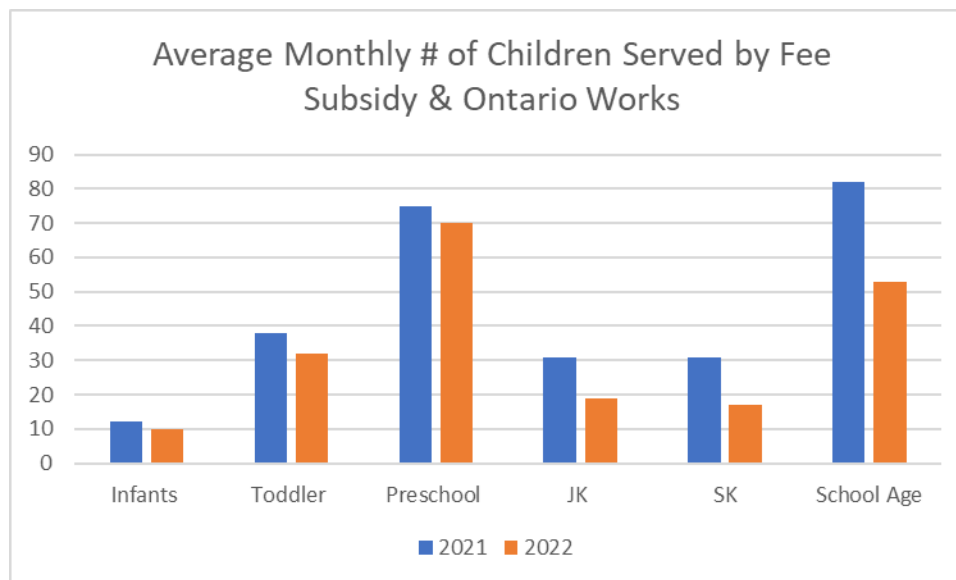
Bruce County staff is co-leading a Bruce Grey Registered Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Recruitment and Retention Working Group that includes membership and support from local colleges, boards of education, workplace engagement services and corporate communications, to develop and implement [local ECE 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	12	10
Toddler	38	32
Preschool	75	70
JK	31	19
SK	31	17
School Age	82	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>201</b>

Below is a comparison of the number of children receiving subsidy at Q4 2021, as compared to Q4 2022:



At Q4 in 2022, the average monthly number of children served in Bruce County's fee subsidy program was 201. This represents a decrease of 68 as compared to Q4 in 2021 and can be attributed to parent fee reductions (25% beginning April 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022) resulting from the implementation of the new Canada-Wide Child Care and Early Years system.

### Special Needs Resource Program:

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

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 for each quarter in 2022, as compared to 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
Q4 2021	48	60	55	163
Q1 2022	48	60	55	163
Q2 2022	48	50	69	167
Q3 2022	48	57	55	160
Q4 2022	48	35	58	141

## 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. From Q1 2022 to Q4 2022 there was an increase in in-person programming, that had previously been redirected to virtual programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

EarlyON Child and Family Programs		Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022
In-Person	Total In-Person Programs Offered	130	207	194	273
	Adult Visits	421	1120	939	1283
	Child Visits	564	1266	1243	1546
Virtual	Facebook Page Visits	2123	2734	2345	2710
	Virtual Registered Program Sessions	17	24	4	4
	Adult Participants	18	10	7	12
	Child Participants	17	14	6	8
EarlyON To Go	Number of Families Participating	56	83	N/A	93

## 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](#).

## Report Author:

Tina Metcalfe  
Children's Services Manager

## Departmental Approval:

Christine MacDonald  
Director, Human Services

## Approved for Submission:

Derrick Thomson  
Chief Administrative Officer