



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System Funding Amendment

From: Tina Metcalfe, Director Human Services

Date: July 4, 2024

Report Number: HS-2024-015

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

This report summarizes the additional revenue of \$1,383,098.00 in Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System Funding received from the Ministry of Education as of March 28, 2024.

Background:

On March 28, 2024, the Ministry of Education provided an update to the Ontario Child Care Workforce Strategy and the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) System. For Bruce County, this update came with additional revenue of \$1,383,098.00.

The table below provides a breakdown of the additional revenue in each of the CWELCC funding categories:

CWELCC Allocation Summary	Initial Allocation	Revised Allocation	Additional Revenue
Workforce Compensation	\$ 8,427,055.00	\$ 8,601,681.00	\$ 174,626.00
Emerging Issues Funding	\$ 289,135.00	\$ 378,000.00	\$ 88,865.00
Start-up Grant	\$ 1,164,000.00	\$ 2,210,700.00	\$ 1,046,700.00
Workforce Strategy - Professional Learning	\$ -	\$ 72,907.00	\$ 72,907.00
Administration	\$ 191,287.00	\$ 191,287.00	\$ -
Total	\$ 10,071,477.00	\$ 11,454,575.00	\$ 1,383,098.00

Funding Details

Workforce Compensation Funding supports the recruitment and retention of the child care workforce through improved compensation for lower-wage earners.

The additional revenue of \$174,626.00 supports the new wage floor and wage eligibility ceiling that came into effect in 2024 for both eligible Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) program staff and eligible RECE supervisors and home child care visitors.

Position	2024 Wage Floor	2024 Wage Ceiling
RECE Program Staff	\$ 23.86	\$ 26.00
RECE Child Care Supervisor or Home Child Care Visitor	\$ 24.86	\$ 29.00

Incremental wage floor funding is provided to eligible staff whose enhanced wage does not meet the 2024 wage floor.

The wage ceiling is the maximum wage that can be reached using Workforce Compensation Funding. Child care operators can choose to increase eligible wages above the wage ceiling using other sources of funding such as General Operating Funding.

Emerging Issues Funding supports operators in addressing non-discretionary cost pressures that are beyond the licensee’s control. The additional revenue of \$88,865.00 supports the funding pressures identified from January to March 2024.

Start-up Grant Funding supports directed growth by enabling space creation in neighborhoods that have historically lowers rates of space availability. The March 28, 2024, revision provides more flexibility to service system managers by removing the square foot funding cap and by lowering the number of child care spaces for the grant of up to \$350,000 in funding for every 50 to every 20 child care spaces created.

Workforce Strategy - Professional Learning Funding was added in the amount of \$72,907.00 to build capacity of the early years and child care sector to support the provision of high-quality programs and to improve the recruitment and retention of RECE’s. Bruce County will use this funding to offer a full day professional learning event on September 27, 2024, for all child care and early years educators in Bruce County.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no municipal cost sharing requirements, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this investment.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Budget amendments have been made in consultation with Finance staff.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

- Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community
- Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships
- Growth and Innovation - Promote responsible growth

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

The coordinated management of Bruce County Child Care and Early Years programs and supports is in alignment with the [Child Care & Early Years' Service System Plan: 2019-2024](#).

Report Author:

Angela Hopkins, Children's Services Manager

Departmental Approval:

Tina Metcalfe, Director Human Services

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer