

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent
Community Human Services
Child Care and Early Years
Information Report

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Kelly Emery
Director, Child Care and Early Years

Date: January 3, 2019

Subject: Child Care Affordability Plan

This report is for the information of Council.

Background

The purpose of this update is to provide Council with information on the extension of the Child Care Affordability Plan to make licensed child care more affordable for families through fee reduction.

The Province continues its multi-year reform of the Child Care and Early Years systems in Ontario. In 2017, the Province of Ontario made a five-year commitment to support access to licensed child care for an additional 100,000 children up to four years of age. Also, the Federal government has invested in Ontario to increase access for an additional 11,200 children over the next three years under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (ELCC). As a result of these commitments, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has received increased funding to support child care expansion and increased access to licensed child care in Chatham-Kent.

In 2017, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent received \$1.46 million in Provincial Child Care Expansion and Federal ELCC funding to increase access to licensed child care for children up to 12 years of age. These investments were used to negate child care fee increases and support the creation of new licensed child care spaces for children up to 12 years of age in Chatham-Kent.

In 2018, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent received \$2.29 million in Child Care Expansion and ELCC funding. This funding was used to support spaces created in 2017 and 2018, support the retention and attraction of early childhood educators (ECE) to the community, and to increase access to child care fee subsidies. In addition to these

expansion activities, this funding was used to increase the affordability of licensed child care in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent launched the Child Care Affordability Plan effective July 1, 2018; with re-evaluation planned at the end of the year. This funding reduced the costs for families who access licensed child care for their children up to 3.8 years of age. Although exact funding allocations have not yet been announced by the Ministry of Education, funding for the first quarter of 2019 is expected to remain the same, therefore this initiative is being extended for the first quarter only and will be re-evaluated for the second quarter. To ensure families and operators are aware of the three month commitment, an acknowledgement letter outlining that this funding initiative will end March 31, 2019 and rates will return to the former level has been signed by all families.

Parents with children attending a licensed child care centre operating infant, toddler, preschool, kindergarten, and school age programs serving children up to 12 years of age who have a funding agreement with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent will see a reduction in their fees from January 1, 2019 to March 31, 2019. Child care operators will notify parents that the reduction is a result of a funding grant provided by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, and funded through the Provincial Child Care Expansion Plan. Funding beyond March 2019 will be dependent upon the 2019 Ministry of Education's funding to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

This funding will be directed to the eligible child care operators who have a funding agreement with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and provide care to children 0 to 12 years of age. Operators in turn will reduce their rates for parents by the amount indicated in the table below.

Type of Space	Age of Children Served	Operating Spaces	Rate Reduced By
Infant	Up to 18 months	109	\$10.00 per day
Toddler	18 months up to 30 months	255	\$10.00 per day
Preschool	30 months to 3.8 years	784	\$10.00 per day
Kindergarten	3.8 years to 6 years	200	\$ 5.00 per day
School Age	6 years to 12 years	378	\$ 5.00 per day
Total		1726	

Comments

The Child Care Affordability Plan is intended to:

- Support families to access quality child care in Chatham-Kent
- Make licensed child care more affordable to families
- Reduce the overall vacancy rates in the 0-12 age group for operators

Consultation

Surrounding Consolidated Municipal Service Managers have been consulted to gather ideas and to determine the best direction for this initiative for the community.

Child Care and Early Years staff will continue to engage families and child care operators to measure the impact of this initiative and to ensure the intended outcomes are met.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Prepared by:

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Reviewed by:

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Attachment: None

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