

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

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Kelly Emery,
Director, Child Care and Early Years

Date: February 26, 2021

Subject: Activities, Leisure, and Learning (A.L.L) for Kids Program Changes

This report is for the information of Council.

Background

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on a new delivery model that will reduce administrative burden, improve wait times for applicants, and continue to provide opportunities to children with lower incomes to participate in recreation activities.

The A.L.L. for Kids (AFK) Program helps with the cost of registering Chatham-Kent children into recreational activities. The program began in 2001 and has grown in popularity by vendors over time, becoming increasingly administratively heavy. This has caused a less than desirable wait time for participants and a strain on staff.

The previous model eligibility was as follows:

- Family must reside in Chatham-Kent
- Family's household income must fall within the provincial "Low Income Measure"
- Activity must be recreational/non-travel
- Child must be between the 0-15 years of age with some limited funding available for ages 16 and 17
- No criteria for acceptable vendors

The previous model administration was as follows:

- Jumpstart funding is administrated by Child Care and Early Years staff
- All invoices are processed by the AFK Coordinator and paid through the Municipal finance department
- Funded through Employment and Social Services and delivered by Child Care and Early Years staff

The new model eligibility is as follows:

- Family must reside in Chatham-Kent
- Family's household income must fall within the provincial "Low Income Measure"
- Child must be between 0-18 years of age

The new model Jumpstart administration is as follows:

- Jumpstart funding is accessed directly through the Jumpstart program <https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/individual-child-grants>

The new model municipal administration is as follows:

- Community Navigators are available to assist with the completion of Jumpstart applications
- Clients will receive funding through the Employment and Social Services Division and receipts will be required
- Funded and delivered by Employment and Social Services staff, during the course of their regular duties, in partnership with Child Care and Early Years and Chatham-Kent Recreation staff

Comments

This new model will:

- Lessen administrative workload
- Support families to access recreational activities quicker
- Reduce questionable activities requests

Consultation

The Director, Employment and Social Services, was consulted on the intake and system changes for the A.L.L for Kids program.

Surrounding municipally-administered Jumpstart and recreation activity programs have been consulted to gather ideas and to determine the best direction for streamlining the program.

Jumpstart administration was also consulted.

Financial Implications

The AFK coordinator's position was eliminated in the 2020-2021 Employment and Social Services budget.

There are no financial implications to this information report.

Prepared by:

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Reviewed by:

April Rietdyk, RN, BScN, MHS, PHD PUBH
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Community Human Services

Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

Polly Smith
Director, Employment and Social Services

Attachment: None

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