

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: October 19, 2020

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. The federal government had invested in Ontario to increase access for an additional 11,200 children with 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.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent re-launched the Child Care Affordability Plan effective September 1, 2020; this will be re-evaluated at the end of the year. This funding reduces the costs for families who access licensed child care for their children up to 3.8 years of age. To ensure families and operators are aware of the three month commitment, an acknowledgement letter outlining that this funding initiative will end December 31, 2020 and rates will return to the former level has been signed by all families. The parent acknowledgment letter is attached as Appendix A, and the operating funding agreement is attached as Appendix B.

Funding beyond December 31, 2020 will be dependent upon the 2021 Ministry of Education's funding to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Operators 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

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; and
- Reduce the overall vacancy rates in the 0-12 age group for operator.

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

The costs associated with the Child Care Affordability Plan are covered within the existing funding envelope.

Prepared by:

Kelly Emery
 Director, Child Care and Early Years
 Reviewed by:

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

Attachments: Appendix A: Parent Acknowledgement Letter

Appendix B: Funding Agreement: General Operating Grant

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Affordability Funding 2020.Docx

Parent Acknowledgment Letter
Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Child Care & Early Years Affordability Plan

Child Care Operator Name: _____

Child Care Site Name: _____

 I/We, acknowledge understanding that:
 PLEASE PRINT - name of parent(s)/guardian(s)

1. The funding for the Child Care & Early Years Affordability Plan is the result of contributions by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Ontario Provincial Government.
2. The funding is available for Infant, Toddler or Preschool children attending a Full Day or Half Day Session only. This does not apply to hourly rates or before and after school sessions or for Kindergarten and School Age children.
3. My child care rate will be reduced for the period of September 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 for each child enrolled in the following age groups:
 - Infant \$10.00 per full day or \$5.00 per half day
 - Toddler \$10.00 per full day or \$5.00 per half day
 - Preschool \$10.00 per full day or \$5.00 per half day

Please note, this does not apply to hourly, before or after school sessions or for children in Kindergarten or School Age programs.

4. Ongoing sustainability of this initiative is not promised and will be dependent upon the Ministry of Education's 2021 funding to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. This initiative will end December 31, 2020.
5. Child care operators will be provided with notice if this initiative will continue past December 31, 2020, at which time a new acknowledgement letter would need to be signed.

Name of Eligible Child(ren)

Last Name	First Name	Age Group <small>(Infant – Toddler – Preschool)</small>	Centre's Daily Rate	Reduced Daily Rate

By signing this letter, I/we confirm understanding of the above conditions of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Child Care & Early Years Affordability Plan.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Supervisor/Designate: _____ Date: _____

Print name of Supervisor/Designate: _____

Municipality of Chatham-Kent Child Care & Early Years Affordability Plan

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Child Care & Early Years Affordability Plan is an initiative of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, funded by the Province of Ontario, to reduce the cost of child care for families who access licensed centre based child care for children 0-3.8 years.

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

Beginning September 1, to December 31, 2020, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent will issue funding to eligible licensed centre based child care centres across the municipality to reduce the child care fees charged to families.

Families enrolled with an eligible child care centre will see a reduction in their child care daily fees. This reduction will apply to all children in the family under 3.8 years of age. It is not eligible for children in Kindergarten or School Age programs. To be eligible, child care centres must have a purchase of service contract with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Ongoing sustainability of this initiative will be dependent upon the Ministry of Education's 2021 funding to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. This initiative is for the period September 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. If this initiative is extended past December 31, 2020 child care centres will be provided notice and a new acknowledgement letter will need to be signed.

Should you have any questions with regards to the Child Care Affordability Plan you may contact the Municipality of Chatham-Kent by phone at 519-351-1228 ext 2133 or by email at ckchildcare@chatham-kent.ca.



**Funding Agreement: General Operating Grant
(GOG) - Market Rate Reduction Funding**
For the period September 1 – December 31, 2020

Operator:

The purpose of the General Operating Grant – Market Rate Reduction funding is to improve affordability for parent’s using licensed centre-based child care.

Discounts are to be applied to all full fee clients for the eligible age groups as detailed in Schedule A1 – Program Rates. Please refer to attached OCCMS Billing Rates for details.

FUNDING SUMMARY	Amount
Infant Full Day Sessions	\$10.00 per session
Infant Half Day Sessions	\$5.00 per session
Toddler Full Day Sessions	\$10.00 per session
Toddler Half Day Sessions	\$5.00 per session
Preschool Full Day Sessions	\$10.00 per session
Preschool Half Day Sessions	\$5.00 per session

Agency Authorized Signatures:	
As a signing authority for this organization, I have reviewed the above information and verify that 100% of the funding will be distributed in accordance with the requirements outlined in the attached letter and acknowledge that failure to comply with any of the funding conditions herein may result in a claim for recovery of funding provided by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.	
Signature: _____	Signature: _____
Print Name/Title: _____	Print Name/Title: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____
*I have authority to bind the corporation.	*I have authority to bind the corporation.

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Child Care and Early Years	
Signature of Chatham-Kent Signing Authority	Date

Child Care & Early Years Affordability Initiative – Operator Information

The Child Care Affordability Plan is an initiative of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, funded by the Province of Ontario, to reduce the cost of child care for families who access licensed centre based child care for children 0-3.8 years.

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

Beginning September 1, 2020, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent will issue funding to eligible licensed centre based child care centres in Chatham-Kent to reduce the child care fees charged to families.

Families enrolled with an eligible child care centre will see a reduction in their child care fees as follows:

- Infant \$10.00 for a Full Day and \$5.00 for a half day
- Toddler \$10.00 for a Full Day and \$5.00 for a half day
- Preschool \$10.00 for a Full Day and \$5.00 for a half day

This reduction will apply to all children in the family under 3.8 years of age. To be eligible child care centres must have a contract with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

This initiative is set to end on December 31, 2020. Ongoing sustainability of this initiative will be dependent upon the Ministry of Education's funding to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. Families should be aware that the reduction in child care fees will discontinue at the end of this initiative.

Operators are to change their rates in the system for all Infant, Toddler, Preschool to the new reduced rate so that parents are charged at the new reduced rate for the period of September 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Should you have any questions with regards to the Child Care Affordability Plan you may contact the Municipality of Chatham-Kent by phone at 519-351-1228 ext. 2133 or by email at chrismy@chatham-kent.ca.