



City of Hamilton Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care FAQs

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[Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System ADDENDUM TO Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family](#)

Participating in Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system

How do part-time or under six hours programs fit into the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system?

All licensees with programs serving children under the age of 6 (or turning 6 before June 30) in Ontario are eligible to apply to participate in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system through their Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM)/District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB).

If we opt-in, will we be required to fill to full licensed capacity?

Licensees not operating at the primary licensed capacity must report if they are using an alternate capacity. The Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM)/District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) will determine funding based on operating capacity. After funding is approved, the licensee must report any changes to operating capacity. We will determine whether this may result in a funding adjustment or recovery from the licensee.

Will the General Operating Grant (GOG) be continuing beyond 2022?

The Ontario Ministry of Education is currently developing a new process to determine yearly funding amounts and will consult with key stakeholders in the coming months. We anticipate the 2023 funding guidelines to be released later this year.

UPDATE

Can we opt-out of the application process if it becomes clear that the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system will not work for us while working with the City?

All licensees have the ability to opt-out of the CWELCC agreement following the terms of the CWELCC funding schedule.

If we close during the summer, will ongoing costs be considered?

The budget review process will review all costs to determine if they are appropriate and work with you to determine what will be considered.

UPDATE

What are the audit and reporting expectations for those who opt-in?

All child care Licensees in receipt of CWELCC funding must submit financial information as well as audited financial statements to verify that the funding provided was used for the purpose(s) intended.

For 2022, licensees opting into the CWELCC agreement without an existing funding agreement with the City of Hamilton will not be required to submit audited financial statements.

Once we opt-in, are we able to make any fee increases that were already budgeted for in the year? If they hadn't yet been communicated to families?

No, if a licensee opts-in, there can be no further fee increases unless they have been communicated prior to March 27, 2022.

Is the calculation for parent eligibility based on household income?

The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system is not based on household income. Families will be paying an average of \$12/day after licensees have opted-in to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system. The child care fee subsidy program will continue.

UPDATE

What about reserves in place for capital expenditures? (i.e. a new building or large renovation) - are those factored into the reserve calculation? Is there an allowance for them?

Licensees operating as for-profit corporations or individuals can continue to earn profit and licensees operating as not-for-profit corporations will be permitted a surplus amount to build reserves or re-invest in the organization.

Can one application be completed for a multi-site operator?

Yes, however, if your other sites are in other municipalities/regions, you must also submit an application to those respective service system managers.

What are the goals of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system?

The Ontario Ministry of Education's goals under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system are similar to the [priorities for the Early Years System in Hamilton](#) — affordability, accessibility, inclusion and quality.

UPDATE What is the deadline for opting in/opting out of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system?

All licensees must notify the City of Hamilton if they choose to opt-in/opt out by **November 1, 2022**. We will be working in phases with all licensees through September – November to opt-in to CWELCC.

If an operator decides to opt out of the program, will City funding continue such as Wage Enhancement, General Operating for wages and System Priority?

Yes, for the remainder of 2022, all current funding will be maintained. For details on existing funding, please visit www.hamilton.ca/operating-business/child-care-operators.

UPDATE What happens after November 1, 2022?

Licensees must communicate their Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system enrolment status to all parents and staff within 14 days of the licensee being notified by the City of Hamilton of the results of their application.

The City commits to processing all Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system applications as soon as possible to ensure licensees can make timely rebates to parents.

Licensees choosing to opt out of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system will continue to operate under the existing provincial licensing and regulatory framework, City funding agreements and reporting requirements, if applicable.

Licensees must update their parent handbook with their CWELCC status.

Are programs that operate 10 months of the year eligible to opt-in to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system?

Yes, licensees that operate for less than 12 months can opt-in. The funding will be pro-rated based on the number of months of operating.

I am an unlicensed home child care provider and want to participate in Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement, what are my next steps?

Unlicensed home child care providers are not eligible to participate in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system. Unlicensed providers that wish to participate in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system may want to consider applying to a home child care agency to become part of the licensed system. For more information, please visit www.hamilton.ca/operating-business/child-care-operators.

Accountability

Is the 25% reduction on current fees with the Market Rate Reduction and the 50% reduction is on the full fees without the Market Rate Reduction?

As previously communicated, the Market Rate Reduction ends on December 31, 2022. It will be applied after the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system 25% reduction is calculated. The approval process will include the calculation for the 25% reduction.

UPDATE For 2022, will centres receive full compensation for rebated amounts or will it be on the base fee calculation?

Funding for the family rebates will be calculated using a revenue replacement model.

If a licensee does not currently have a funding or service agreement in place and chooses to opt-out of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system, will there be an opportunity to sign a new funding service agreement?

All funding is currently allocated for 2022. New guidelines will be in place for 2023 funding and beyond. Currently, we are not aware of what will be available for 2023.

Does the base fee rate include before and after care?

Yes, base rates will be reviewed for before and after school care for children up to the age of 6.

How will licensees that operate in more than one municipality/region be managed under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system?

Divisional staff are working with a number of neighbouring municipalities/regions to share information and establish consistency wherever possible.

What will the fee caps be for the City of Hamilton?

The fee caps for the City of Hamilton can be found under the [Child Care and Early Years Act](#), Section 77.1.

Child Care Centre Daily Fees for Full-day Programs

Service Area	Licensed infant group	Licensed toddler group	Licensed preschool group	Licensed kindergarten group	Licensed school age group	Licensed family age group
City of Hamilton	\$73.96	\$58.36	\$53.25	\$48.50	\$48.50	\$58.36

Child Care Centre Daily Fees for Before and After School Programs

Service Area	Kindergarten	School Age
City of Hamilton	\$25.35	\$21.93

Home Child Care Daily Fees for Full-day Programs

Service Area	Younger than 2 years	2-3 years	4-6 years
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City of Hamilton	\$52.77	\$45.62	\$47.69
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Home Child Care Daily Fees for Before and After School Programs

Service Area	4-5 years	6-12 years
City of Hamilton	\$34.83	\$35.94

When will we know the 2023 funding amounts?

The Ontario Ministry of Education is currently developing a new process to determine yearly funding amounts and will consult with key stakeholders in the coming months. We anticipate the 2023 funding guidelines to be released later this year.

Will the City be entering into full funding agreements outside of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system with licensees?

There will be a measured and phased approach for full funding agreements. The City will be in contact with licensees that have requested funding prior to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system with next steps, as appropriate. Additional licensees will be considered once funding is available.

Can licensees charge fees above the base fee? (i.e. cameras, registration, field trips, etc.)

“**Base fees**” are defined as any fee that is charged with respect to a child for child care, including anything a licensee is required to provide under the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA) or anything a licensee requires the parent to purchase from the licensee but does not include a non-base fee.

“**Non-base fee**” is defined as any fee charged for optional items or optional services, such as transportation or field trips, or any fees charged pursuant to an agreement between the parent and the licensee in respect of circumstances where the parent fails to meet the terms of the agreement (e.g. fees for picking up a child late, fees to obtain items that the parent agreed to provide for their child), as defined in the [Child Care and Early Years Act](#).

Fee Reduction

UPDATE Can a credit be issued to a family’s child care account rather than a cheque reimbursing the family for the fee reduction, if applicable (said family is still enrolled and attending the child care program)?

Yes.

Will families who no longer have a child enrolled in child care between April 1, 2022 and enrolment into Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system be eligible to receive a rebate?

Yes, efforts must be made to reach all families to ensure they receive their respective rebates. It is recommended that licensees who are considering opting-in to encourage families who are exiting the program to keep their contact information up to date.

How will the base fee be determined if a child care centre charges a different daily fee for full-time enrollment and part-time enrollment?

In this situation, there will be only one base fee. The rates would be calculated on the base fee and actual costs to parents and will be reviewed as part of the application process.

UPDATE **Is the 25% fee funding a lump sum payment? If so, is it based on licensed capacity?**

A revenue replacement model will be used to determine funding amounts.

UPDATE **What are the timelines for providing licensees with the funding to reimburse parents? Will licensees receive funding to administer the rebates to families?**

After receiving funding under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system, licensees are required to rebate parents within 20 days.

Fee Subsidy

How does Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system work with families who receive the Fee Subsidy?

The fee subsidy program will continue to be an option for families who require financial assistance. The parental contribution that fee subsidy families pay will be reduced by 25% effective April 1, 2022.

Will the new Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system rate be the subsidy rate? Or will the existing subsidy rate remain in place - if so for how long?

We are currently reviewing how fee subsidy per diem rates are being calculated and will communicate once this has been determined.

Workforce Compensation

Will the General Operating Grant (GOG) wage subsidy still be available for operators that opt-in to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system?

All current funding will be maintained for the remainder of 2022.

If minimum wage increases, do you know if the wage floor would be adjusted year by year?

We will share updated information as it becomes available. At this time, only the wage floor of \$25/hr in the [Addendum to Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres Service Management and Funding Guideline \(2022\)](#) has been shared.

How does the annual \$1 increase work for staff who are over the floor but under \$25?

Workforce compensation funding must be used to fund the incremental amount required to bring the eligible staff wages to the wage floor. If the staff exceeds the wage floor currently, they would not be eligible for Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system funding in 2022.

To be eligible for an annual wage \$1 per hour increase beginning in 2023, staff must be receiving wage enhancement funding, and their hourly wage including wage enhancement funding must be below the wage cap of \$25 per hour on January 1 of each eligible year (i.e., base wage plus wage enhancement funding plus annual increase must be below \$25 per hour).

Are Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) supply staff eligible to receive wage funding? If so, how will funding be allocated as hours vary and are not guaranteed?

Yes, supply staff are eligible to receive the funding. Funding will be allocated based on the application process and reconciled after year-end. Any surplus funding will be recovered. This will be a similar

process that we are using for the [Provincial Wage Enhancement Grant](#). More information will be provided as this component is implemented.

What positions are eligible for workforce compensation?

Licensees must opt-in to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system and receive the wage enhancement funding to be eligible for its workforce compensation. Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) program staff, supervisors and home child care visitor staff are eligible if they are currently below the wage floor identified by the Ontario Ministry of Education chart below.

When determining the wage floor is the General Operating Grant included in the wage rate?

Yes, on page 42 of the [Addendum to Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres Service Management and Funding Guideline \(2022\)](#), the Ontario Ministry of Education provides a chart with the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement Hourly Wage Floor for 2022 – 2026.

Hourly Wage Floor 2022 to 2026*

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
RECE Program Staff	\$18	\$19	\$20	\$21	\$22
RECE Child Care Supervisors or RECE Home Child Care Visitors	\$20	\$21	\$22	\$23	\$24

*In addition to the hourly wage, staff are required to receive benefits.

Both the wage enhancement funding and the general operating funding for wages are included before applying Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system funding to the wage floor.

Some licensees are already paying employees good wages, can we continue to pay employees at the rate they are currently being paid? Is there a wage ceiling?

Yes. We recognize that many employers are paying above the wage floor and everyone should continue to do so. Workforce compensation funding must be used to fund the incremental amount required to bring the staff wages to the wage floor.

For example:

In 2022, a Registered Early Childhood Educator with a base wage of \$15 per hour and wage enhancement funding of \$2 per hour, and \$0 in general operating for wages funding, would receive workforce compensation funding of \$1 per hour.

To be eligible for the \$1 per hour annual increase between 2023-2026, the staff's wage must be equal to or greater than the wage floor and less than \$25 per hour. Staff earning at or above \$25 per hour are not eligible for the annual \$1 per hour increase.

UPDATE What happens if our current benefits paid to employees exceed 17.5%?

Workforce compensation funding includes up to 17.5% in benefits to support licensees in meeting their statutory benefit requirements.

Workforce compensation encompasses statutory as well as additional benefits that are provided by the Licensee (e.g., additional vacation or personal days). Statutory benefits are benefits Licensees are required to provide their staff as determined by the law (e.g., vacation days, statutory holidays, Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance).

Once all statutory benefit requirements are met (including up to 2 weeks of vacation and 9 statutory days), any remaining funding within 17.5 per cent can be used to fund other benefit expenses paid by the employer on behalf of the employee.

Child Care Expansion

What are the City's plans for childcare expansion?

In 2022, the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system prioritizes reducing fees for families and improving workforce compensation for staff. Phase two of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement includes further details for childcare expansion.

Can licensees increase or reduce licensed child care spaces?

Licensees participating in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system must maintain existing licensed spaces for children ages 0-5 (e.g., a licensed infant space must remain an infant space). Any revisions or use of alternate capacity must be reported to the City of Hamilton to determine whether this will impact funding.