



# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	June 18, 2025
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care & Before and After School Program Updates
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City-Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Jessica Chase, Director Children's and Community Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

The province of Ontario is currently in its fourth year of implementing the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan. The Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan has reduced child care fees to \$22/day for children aged 0 to 5 years, saving Hamilton families approximately \$10,640 annually per child. The Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan however does not address child care affordability for children aged 6 to 12 years.

In response to this, the City introduced a local Affordability grant pilot in September 2023, to support equitable access across the system. The Affordability grant pilot implemented a standardized rate of \$15/day for school age children, 6 to 12 years, participating in before and after school child care. In November 2024, licensed child care operators providing school age before and after child care and their families were notified that the Affordability grant pilot would end in June 2025 due to the provincial changes in the new funding model.

Over the past few months, City staff have worked closely with licensed child care operators and school boards to develop strategies that support access and affordability for families. Beginning September 2, 2025, a universal before and after school age rate of \$20/day will be introduced, replacing the prior Affordability grant pilot. This new initiative will save families in Hamilton approximately \$950 per child each school year. In addition, the city is pleased to announce that funding will be provided to child care operators who choose to increase their operating capacity for kindergarten and/or school-age children. This will help to address waitlists for before and after school programs.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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City staff recognize the importance of supporting a high quality, inclusive and sustainable child care system for all children, including before and after school programs for children 6 to 12 years. Staff will continue to engage and consult with the community as we undertake this work and implement the new universal before and after school rate over the coming months. The goal is to have a high quality, sustainable, accessible, affordable, and inclusive child care system in Hamilton.

Should you require further information on the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan or the new universal before and after school rate, please contact Jessica Chase, Director, Children's Services and Community Services Division at 905-973-4938 or via email at [Jessica.Chase@hamilton.ca](mailto:Jessica.Chase@hamilton.ca).

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