

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

November 27, 2025

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's child care and early learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

- Service provider rate increases: Non-Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system eligible children
- CWELCC guidelines and operator information session
- 2026 workforce compensation wage
- 2026 wage enhancement
- Year-end reconciliation
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Service provider rate increases: Non-Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system eligible children

Decisions regarding approvals for rate increases are determined by the availability of funding within the Region of Durham's Child Care and Early Years Division's (CCEYD) annual budget and review of service provider submissions.

Service providers must apply to the CCEYD for approval of any proposed rate increase. To request an increase, service providers must submit a copy of the "Fee Notice to the Public" confirming the effective date of the increase and the proposed rates to be charged.

The submission must be sent to the CCEYD at least 30 days in advance of the requested implementation date. Submissions must be uploaded to the Child Care Operator Portal and emailed to CCYEDnotifications@durham.ca.

The CCEYD will inform service providers of the status of their request within 21 days of the date of submission. Service providers are encouraged to contact the CCEYD at CCYEDnotifications@durham.ca if a notification has not been received within 21 days. It is the responsibility of the service provider to ensure approved rate increases are

accurately reflected in the Ontario Child Care Management System (OCCMS) within 60 days of the request.

Requests for rate increases are not automatically approved. Each request will be reviewed annually by the CCEYD, and approval will be provided at the sole discretion of the division. Approved increases will not be backdated when 30 days notice has not been provided, or in the event of late submission of the "Fee Notice to the Public". When the "Fee Notice to the Public" has not been received 30 days prior to the fee increase, the rate increase will be effective the first day of the month following the 30-day notice period.

Submission of all contractual documents, as outlined in the Child Care Services Agreement and corresponding regional policies, is mandatory prior to approval. Incomplete or late submissions will result in processing delays, and no retroactive adjustments will be permitted.

Rate increases will be assessed based on the availability of funding and reasonableness of the increase. Proposed daily rate increases exceeding \$1 or five per cent will require additional information, such as a review of financials and/or a business case to further assess reasonableness, and may not be approved. Items reviewed prior to approving a rate increase include, but are not limited to:

- The date and amount of the most recent approved rate increase.
- The overall reasonableness of the proposed rate increase.
- A detailed business case, if requested, outlining the rationale for the increase (e.g., where a provider has not raised rates for several years and seeks a significant adjustment, clear justification must be provided to explain why incremental increases were not pursued).
- Evidence that the program has accessed all other funding opportunities available (e.g., Professional Learning Funding)

Where a service provider has not adjusted child care fees for several consecutive years and subsequently seeks to implement a significant rate increase at once, the provider must demonstrate a clear, substantiated rationale for the proposed adjustment. This justification should include documentation of prior efforts to maintain affordability, evidence of accumulated cost pressures over time (e.g., staffing, program materials, facility expenses, inflationary impacts), and an explanation of why incremental adjustments were not pursued in previous years. The provider must also outline the measures taken to minimize the impact on families, such as phased increases or communication strategies, to ensure the proposed rate change is transparent, reasonable, and in alignment with principles of fairness and sustainability.

As the Service System Manager for child care in Durham, the CCEYD may be required to cap or deny rate increases that do not align with the goal of supporting Fee Subsidy families, maximizing the available Fee Subsidy budget, and maintaining financial accountability.

CWELCC guidelines and operator information session

The current multi-year federal-provincial CWELCC agreement has been extended to the end of 2026. To support this extension, the Province has released the [2026 Ontario Child Care and Early Years Funding Guidelines](#) for Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs). These guidelines provide information about the funding parameters and related program requirements that apply to CMSMs as the service system lead for early learning and child care in Ontario.

As the CMSM for Durham Region, the CCEYD is pleased to offer an Operator Information Session. This session will be held virtually on Wednesday, December 10 at 1:30 p.m. and will include updates on 2026 changes to the guidelines, outline the 2025 CWELCC year-end reconciliation process and will address any questions you may have. If you would like to submit questions in advance, please send them to Stacee.Stevenson@durham.ca.

2026 Workforce Compensation Wage

Effective January 1, 2026, the wage floor for eligible Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECE) will increase by \$1. For RECE program staff, the wage floor is \$25.86 and the wage ceiling is \$28. For RECE child care supervisors and RECE home child care visitors, the wage floor is \$26.86 and the wage ceiling is \$31.

Operators are responsible for sharing information, in writing to eligible staff, about changes to the wage floor and ceiling. Eligible RECE staff must receive workforce compensation within 32 calendar days after their new 2026 funding allocation for this purpose is received. The staff compensation calculator has been updated in the Child Care Operator Portal and is available as a resource.

Hourly Wage Floor		
Position	\$1 increase	
	2025	2026
RECE Program Staff	\$24.86	\$25.86
RECE Child Care Supervisors	\$25.86	\$26.86
RECE Home Child Care Visitors	\$25.86	\$26.86

Hourly Wage Ceiling		
Position	\$1 increase	
	2025	2026
RECE Program Staff	\$27.00	\$28.00
RECE Child Care Supervisors	\$30.00	\$31.00
RECE Home Child Care Visitors	\$30.00	\$31.00

2026 wage enhancement

Effective January 1, 2026, the wage enhancement cap will increase to \$33.81. This means that to be fully eligible for wage enhancement, an individual must have a base wage less than \$31.82. An individual who is partially eligible would receive a base wage between \$31.82 and \$33.80. The home child care wage enhancement grant has also increased with a new cap of \$338.10 per day and \$202.86 per part-day.

Year-end reconciliation

The 2025 year-end reconciliation template will be available in the Child Care Operator Portal by mid-December and must be completed by operators by February 28, 2026. Allocations for 2026 will remain at 2025 levels, with any necessary adjustments to be implemented once the year-end reconciliation is finalized. Submitting on time is critical, as the information provided will be used for reconciling the 2025 cost-based funding allocation and to initiate the 2026 CWELCC allocation using 2026 updated benchmarking metrics.

After the CWELCC allocation is finalized, a summary of allocation for 2026 will be provided. Operators will be notified of any overpayments, and any repayment of funds are payable upon notification.

Eligible children in ineligible spaces (ECIS) reporting

On November 25, the ECIS reporting form was uploaded to the Child Care Operator Portal. This optional form is to be used to report any children who were five years old and enrolled in grade one. This applies only for the period from September to December 2025. If no children in the program meet these criteria, disregard this form. Please submit this form by December 10, and confirm that the document was uploaded by emailing CCEYDnotifications@durham.ca.

Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) update

There has been a growing demand for early intervention and home visits facilitated through the Infant and Child Development (ICD) program, which has led to an increased waitlist and wait times for service. Addressing these pressures and ensuring timely and equitable access to service for families is a priority of the program.

In efforts to reduce the ICD waitlist and minimize duplication of service, ICD will no longer participate as a member of the SNR Network and will return to focus primarily on supporting children through the home visiting model. This change supports the new service model of resource consultants accessed through Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth (RFECY), which offers both group and individual consultation.

Though the partnership between ICD and the SNR Network will change, ICD will continue to support families as they transition to licensed early learning and child care by helping caregivers connect with the supervisors and/or resource consultants to share information about their child.

The early learning community will continue to work closely with Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports (CDBS), Grandview Kids, Surrey Place and RFECY to build capacity within the system to support equity and inclusion of all children in licensed child care.

For more information on [SNR](#) in Durham or [capacity building opportunities](#), please visit our website at Durham.ca.

Enhanced Staffing Funding update

The [online application form](#) for Enhanced Staffing Funding for the January to March 2026 funding period will close on Friday, November 28.

Submitted applications are currently under review. Summaries of allocation, including approved funding amounts, will be uploaded to the Child Care Operator Portal in the Head Office section once all applications have been thoroughly reviewed. Please note that approvals for January to March 2026 Enhanced Staffing Funding will prioritize the highest-need application(s), will be capped at a maximum equivalent to one part-time enhanced staff position per centre and is subject to funding availability.

Details regarding future funding opportunities will be made available in the new year.

2026 payment schedules

2026 schedules are now available in the Child Care Operator Portal, including:

- Funding deposit dates.
- Regionally recognized statutory holidays.
- Submission deadlines for the monthly Fee Subsidy Change Report.

These resources are designed to assist child care operators with planning and staying proactive with reporting requirements. The Fee Subsidy Change Report ensures the CCEYD is informed of any changes to active Fee Subsidy placements outside of annual reviews.

To access the updated schedules, please visit the Resources for Operators tab of the [Communications and Resources page](#).