

Child Care and Early Learning e-Newsletter

June 24, 2020

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's Child Care and Early Learning updates e-newsletter. This edition is to update child care operators on health-related recommendations and information related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Early Learning Updates – Funding Updates

We recognize the need for information with respect to both the closure period reconciliation process and the reopening phase to support your reopening plans. We appreciate your patience as we develop our funding approach.

I can provide high level details as we continue to refine our process and will update you as this is finalized.

Closure Period Reconciliation Process

Current Purchase of Service operators are being contacted by the Children's Services Division to gather fixed cost information to support the reconciliation process.

- Fee Subsidy funding is a fee for services payment and will be reconciled for services rendered
- General Operating Funding is funding to support operating costs within the provincial funding guidelines and the Regional General Operating Program policy
- Wage Enhancement funding is funding to be paid to staff for hours worked according to provincial funding guidelines and therefore will be fully recovered for the closure period.

Operators who continued to keep staff on payroll during the closure period are expected to apply to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy as per the [Ministry of Education Funding Guidance Document](#).

We will finalize the closure period reconciliation funding process as organizations reopen. We will contact you if we require further information and you will receive a notification of the final reconciliation amount for your organization.

We will not collect repayment of any over payment, but rather correct cashflow amounts over the remainder of the year.

Reopening Funding

We are developing a process that aims to minimize administrative burden while balancing the cost of the reopening phase for child care. The goal is to support Purchase of Service Operators to meet your **basic operational costs** while operating with reduced revenues from fees related to the mandated lower ratios / cohorts.

For the duration of the reopening phase operators will be expected to regularly complete and submit:

- Updated operational cost and revenue details
- A signed attestation in relation to the application and reports
- Reporting on reopening capacity and enrollment data
- Proof of revenues and expenses must be provided as requested

Operators will be expected to access:

- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for 75% of salaries and

- The Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program (CECRA) if eligible

Basic Operational Costs and Revenues:

- Reduced revenues from parent fees and fee subsidy will be proportionately balanced to consider CEWS, CECRA and any other grants or payments.
- Basic Operational costs will include adjusted operational costs for the reopening period

For example:

- A portion of salaries not covered by CEWS will be considered in the operational costs
- Support for PPE and enhanced cleaning will be included

At this time the closure reconciliation funding process and the re-opening funding processes have been developed to support the system until September 2020. The funding processes are funded within the 2020 provincial funding allocation that was communicated in November 2019 and Municipal contributions. Available funding is consistently reviewed and updates to the funding processes will be made as required in future.

Previous EL Updates and communications are located on our web site under the heading [Children's Services COVID-19 early learning updates](#).

Please continue to send your questions to Julie Gaskin at Julie.Gaskin@durham.ca. Due to the high volume of emails, questions will be gathered to provide information and clarification in the form of email updates to all operators. As we work with our Ministry of Education advisors to build the sustainability plan for Durham, we will continue to provide clarification and communication as quickly as possible. Thank you all for your cooperation and commitment to maintaining early learning and child care in Durham Region.