

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

May 16, 2022

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:

- **Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system updates:**
 - a. **Current status**
 - b. **Information session**
 - c. **CWELCC implementation phases**

Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system updates

Status

Thank you for your continued patience as we build the CWELCC processes to support a smooth transition.

The Children's Services Division (CSD) is nearing completion of the application tool and obtaining Regional Council approval to proceed. The opt-in application will require licensees to provide organization and site data as well as additional financial details. This will be used to assess eligibility, estimate allocations and determine initial base fees.

The opt-in application will open once the application tool is complete. CSD will work with licensees to determine initial base fees as we work to process operator applications.

Information and applications will be shared and processed via the child care operator portal for those operators with an active funding agreement, and via head office email for those operators with no active agreement.

Child care operators are encouraged to communicate regularly with parents to manage expectations about timelines for fee refunds and rebates. Funds to operators will be provided for approved CWELCC applications. CWELCC applications must be submitted, approved and service agreements must be signed before operators will receive any payments.

Information session

CSD continues to work with the Ministry of Education to clarify funding details, while

building and testing the application for enrolment and allocation calculation tools.

The Ministry of Education has shared the [CWELCC Addendum Guidelines](#) with licensees. Now that you have had an opportunity to review those guidelines, we understand that you may have questions. We have scheduled an information session for licensees on Wednesday May 18 at 10 a.m. to discuss CWELCC details and answer questions. A Microsoft Teams invitation to this event was sent directly to the head office email address we have on file for your organization. Please reach out to childcareoperators@durham.ca if you have not received this email invitation.

All CWELCC information, updates, and application details will be posted to the child care operator portal. If you require any support in accessing or navigating the child care operator portal, please contact Darlene Burns for assistance at (905) 668-7711 x 2644 or darlene.burns@durham.ca.

CWELCC implementation phases

As a reminder, all licensees with programs serving children under the age of six (or turning six before June 30) in Ontario are eligible to apply to participate in the CWELCC system.

Participation in the CWELCC system is optional; however, licensees are encouraged to participate so that families can benefit from fee reductions. Licensees will be able to choose between opting in or opting out of participation in the CWELCC system.

Opting out:

Licensees who opt-out of the CWELCC system are ineligible for any CWELCC funding including both parent refunds and workforce wage funding. Other funding agreements including wage enhancement are not impacted by opting out of CWELCC.

Opt-out forms will be processed and letters confirming opt out status will be sent in the coming weeks, and as forms are received.

Opting in

The application to opt-in will open in the coming weeks. The information required includes but is not limited to the application sample provided in the [CWELCC Addendum Guidelines](#).

Licensees without a current Purchase of Service agreement for fee subsidy (fee sub POS)

Licensees without a current fee sub POS are eligible to apply to enrol in the CWELCC system. Along with the online application, non-fee sub POS operators will be required to submit detailed financial information to determine eligibility, allocations, and base fees. The type of financial information required includes a detailed budget, audited financial statements, and a current rate schedule. More information including templates will be

provided.

Licensees without a current fee sub POS will be ineligible for a fee subsidy agreement until there is sufficient community need for additional fee subsidy spaces.

Licensees who hold a current Purchase of Service agreement for fee subsidy

Licensees who hold a current Purchase of Service for fee subsidy are required to submit financial information annually as part of their service agreement. We will use 2022 budgets and financial statements submitted by operators to determine CWELCC eligibility. Any significant financial details not reflected in the submitted budget can be communicated during the application process.

Should your organization hold a current fee sub POS you must be up to date with all financial submissions for your CWELCC application to be deemed complete.

CWELCC implementation phases:

Phase 1 applications open: Licensees will complete the online application and submit any additional required documentation via the operator portal. **Applications will be deemed complete only after the financial information is submitted.**

Phase 2 applications processed: CSD will review applications for eligibility into the CWELCC system. If eligible, letters of approval will be sent to licensees via the operator portal. If we determine your organization is ineligible, we will reach out to discuss options and next steps.

Phase 3 agreements signed, transitional allocations calculated, and rates refunded/reduced: Following approval letters, licensees will receive their CWELCC Purchase of Service agreement via the operator portal. Once CWELCC agreements are signed by both the licensee and the Region, payments will be processed. Payments will be based on calculations made using the details provided within the application and include funds for refunds and rebates to families, and provide wage increases to eligible educators.

Within 31 days of notification of acceptance into the CWELCC system, licensees will be required to reduce current rates by 25%. Within 60 days of notification of acceptance into the CWELCC system licensees will be required to provide refunds to families backdated to April 1, 2022.

Phase 4 base fees calculated: As 2022 is a transitional year, our team will work with licensees to determine base fees during the weeks following CWELCC application approval and adjust as required.

Additional details outlining base fee calculations and timelines for implementation will be provided once they are confirmed.