

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

September 15, 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:

- CWELCC enrolment – Current status
- CWELCC payment processes
- Operator portal FAQs for CWELCC
- End of fee subsidy temporary absent day exception - Effective July 1, 2022
- Special purpose funding (for operators with an agreement for fee subsidy only)
- Call for proposals - Disability inclusion and accessibility in early learning and child care facilities

CWELCC enrolment - Current status

Based on the updated CWELCC guidelines and processes, we have revised our processing timelines to support timely payment to licensees to support both fee refunds and ongoing fee reductions.

Payments to operators can only be made after the Region of Durham Children's Services Division (CSD) receives the agreement signed by an individual with signing authority for the organization.

CWELCC payment processes

During the initial phase of CWELCC implementation, child care licensees will receive two types of payments:

Fee refund – a one-time payment to licensees based on the refund application submitted by the licensee. This allocation must be paid out to parents/caregivers to refund fees paid from April 1, 2022 to the date parent fees are reduced by 25%.

Fee reduction – from the date fees are reduced by 25%, the Children's Services Division will begin payments to licensees to offset the 25% fee reduction. This monthly allocation will be based on operating capacity. Licensees will be required to confirm enrollment via the operator portal, by site.

In addition to the regular fee reduction payment, licensees will receive a one-time **fee reduction advance** payment. This payment will be provided once the signed agreement is submitted and will be equivalent to 25% of one month's revenue for CWELCC eligible children, based on operating capacity as reported in the CWELCC application.

Licensees must submit their signed agreement before any CWELCC payments can be made.

All payments will be reconciled in December 2022. Reconciliation processes to be announced in the future.

Operator portal FAQs for CWELCC

Where can I find my agreement in the operator portal?

Agreements will be posted in the 'HO Action Documents' or 'Action Documents' section of the portal. Scroll to the bottom of that page (below the folders) to find the amended agreement and CWELCC schedule.

Where do I save my agreement in the portal once it is signed?

Operators must return the signed agreement by uploading it to the 'HO Action Documents' or 'Action Documents' section of the portal in the 'Service Agreements and Schedules' folder.

Where can I find a copy of the duly executed agreement once it is completed?

Once the agreement is signed by the Region of Durham, operators will find the signed and duly executed agreement saved in the 'Service Agreements Supporting Documents' & Supporting Documents – Final Copy' section along with the CWELCC Schedule L.

Operators must download a copy for their own records. Previous versions of documents will not be saved in the portal and will be removed once new versions are uploaded.

For families who receive fee subsidy, how do I know how much to refund and what the reduced parent fee will be?

Licensees will receive notification from the fee subsidy team about new parent rates, refunds and the date to reduce fees.

End of fee subsidy temporary absent day exception – Effective July 1, 2022

As a reminder effective July 1, 2022 The Children's Services Division has returned to the regular fee subsidy absent day policy, whereby fee subsidy will only cover the cost of absent days up to the allotted number. Any additional absent days over this allotted number are to be charged to the client at the full fee rate. Please see the policy below and contact your accounting clerk or caseworker if you have any questions.

The fee subsidy absent day policy states:

“Each subsidized child will be allotted thirty-six (36) absent days per calendar year, referred to as the absent allotment, for use in a licensed child care setting. The absent allotment will include any days away from the licensed program for any reason, including sickness, vacation, alternative child care arrangements made with relatives, or in an outbreak situation where the child is not permitted to attend the provider until symptom-free for a specified period. Subsidy will cover the Regional portion of the daily cost of care for absent days up to the allotted number. The client will pay their parent rate, for these absent days. The client will be responsible for paying the full daily cost of care for absent days taken beyond the absent allotment.”

Special purpose funding (for operators with an agreement for fee subsidy only)

Funding is available to child care operators who hold an agreement for fee subsidy. Special purpose funding supports toy and equipment purchases, health and safety related items, transformation activities, and capacity building activities. Please review the information available on our website under [Operating a Child Care – Special Purpose Opportunities](#).

Call for proposals - Disability inclusion and accessibility in early learning and child care facilities

On Sept. 7, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, announced a new call for proposals (CFP) under the Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) Small Projects component. Up to approximately \$64 million is available to support infrastructure improvements such as, the renovation, construction or retrofit of ramps, accessible doors, accessible washrooms, elevators and lifts, accessible communications technology, accessible playgrounds, and multi-sensory rooms and stations. Of this funding, up to \$6.5 million will support approximately 65 projects in early learning and childcare facilities. To learn more visit the [Employment and Social Development Canada news release](#).