

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

July 30, 2026

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 enrolment and expansion update: Summer 2026
- Fee Subsidy placements: September 2026
- Emergency Funding
- Professional Learning Funding reminder

Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system enrolment and expansion update: Summer 2026

All remaining directed growth spaces for Durham Region have now been allocated. Programs approved for CWELCC expansion and/or enrolment have been notified directly based on previously submitted requests for directed growth spaces and alignment with the Directed Growth Plan.

The Region continues to work closely with the Ministry of Education by sharing updates about the local child care system. Should more directed growth spaces become available, additional approvals will be communicated.

Please monitor our [Early Learning Updates](#) and the Child Care and Early Years [webpage](#) for updates.

To determine if an existing child care program has been enrolled in CWELCC, please visit the [Child Care Directory](#) or [Program Locator](#).

Fee Subsidy placements: September 2026

All child care sites are encouraged to regularly review the Fee Subsidy Placements tab in the Child Care Operator Portal to ensure approvals and care codes are accurate for September.

Please verify that:

- The care code entered in the Child Care Operator Portal accurately reflects the child's expected attendance schedule for September, including kindergarten and school age codes where applicable.
- The parent rate is correct.
- The start and end date is noted and aligns with your records.

If you are expecting a child to attend in September but do not see an approval in the Child Care Operator Portal, this indicates that the Fee Subsidy team has not yet received all required documentation from the family to continue or restart Fee Subsidy eligibility.

As families submit the outstanding information, approvals will be reviewed and updated in the Child Care Operator Portal. We encourage operators to monitor the Child Care Operator Portal regularly for changes.

Please note that parent rates may have increased for children who are no longer eligible for CWELCC.

If you have changes to report, please connect with your caseworker. Thank you for your continued attention to maintaining accurate placement information and supporting a smooth transition into the September program year.

Emergency Funding

A limited amount of Emergency Funding is available to support licensed child care centres and home child care agencies who are enrolled in CWELCC, in meeting the requirements of the Ministry of Education (licensing) and the Department of Health. This support is designed to help service providers come into or maintain compliance and is designed to help cover essential, one-time, unexpected costs that go beyond regular program allocations.

To promote fairness and transparency, an application process has been established to assess eligibility for Emergency Funding. As part of the [application](#), service providers must clearly outline how the program is currently at risk of non-compliance and provide relevant documentation that supports their statement. Service providers must exclude any recoverable HST from their project costs when completing an Emergency Funding application. The information submitted in the application is critical in demonstrating the necessity of funding to maintain a safe, compliant operation that does not fit into the centre's CWELCC allocation. Service providers will be responsible for reconciling received funding.

The deadline for submitting applications for Emergency Funding is October 30, 2026. The [application](#) will be available August 4, 2026.

Professional Learning Funding reminder

This is a reminder that Professional Learning Funding is available. To access Professional Learning Funding, child care operators must submit an [application](#) outlining the details of the proposed professional learning opportunity. All professional learning activities must be completed between January 1 and December 31, 2026, and will be subject to year-end reconciliation with required supporting documentation.

The deadline for professional learning applications is September 30, 2026. If you have questions about Professional Learning Funding, please contact Stacee.Stevenson@Durham.ca.