Grey County Logo Committee Report

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| **To**: | Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council |
| **Committee Date**: | March 11, 2021 |
| **Subject / Report No**: | SSR-CW-04-21 |
| **Title**: | Provincial Child Care and Early Years Funding Re-Investment |
| **Prepared by**: | Tara Cockerill, Acting Children’s Services Manager |
| **Reviewed by**: | Barb Fedy, Director |
| **Lower Tier(s) Affected**: | County of Grey |
| **Status**: | Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW56-21; Endorsed by Council CC29-21 |

# Recommendation

1. **That Report SSR-CW-04-21 regarding the use of Provincial Child Care and Early Years Funding Re-Investment be received;**
2. **That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to execute any documentation required to issue the Provincial Child Care and Early Years Funding Re-Investment to eligible licensed childcare and EarlyON programs within the County of Grey.**

## Executive Summary

As a result of the 2020 reconciliation process, the Ministry of Education identified underspending of provincial funding related to childcare and early years services. A portion of this underspent funding is being reinvested into the provincial childcare and early years sector.

On February 2, 2021 The Ministry of Education provided CMSMs with details regarding the reinvestment of $66M. The reinvestment is intended to support increased costs of operating licensed childcare and EarlyON child and family centres during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

## Background and Discussion

In a manner similar to the Federal Safe Restart Funding (SRF), CMSMs have been granted the flexibility to determine how best to allocate this funding locally.

Programs eligible for this funding are:

* Licensed Child Care Centres with an existing Purchase of Service Agreement for General Operating Grant and/or Child Care Fee Subsidy with the CMSM.
* Licensed Home Child Care Agencies with an existing Purchase of Service Agreement for General Operating Grant and/or Child Care Fee Subsidy with the CMSM.
* EarlyON Child and Family Centres

Grey County has:

41 licensed childcare centres in 12 communities

1 licensed home childcare agency

9 EarlyON Child and Family Centres located in 6 communities.

Currently Grey County Children’s Services works closely with licensed child care operators to support 1566 licensed spaces throughout the county. Grey County works closely with the operators to support them with legislative requirements, professional development and address challenges they may face.

The provincial reinvestment funding can be used by eligible operators to:

* Support staff training on increased screening and cleaning requirements
* Purchasing of Personal Protective Equipment
* Enhanced Cleaning Costs
* Additional staff to meet health and safety requirements
* Support for operators with vacancies due to lower enrolment in programs
* Support for operators to cover child absenteeism related to COVID-19 isolation requirements
* Support where there may be short term vacancies locally as childcare centres adjust to the health and safety requirements
* Support for childcare staff absenteeism where staff need to stay home because they or their children are sick or need to self-isolate
* Minor capital required (less than $5000) in accordance with the ministry’s reopening operational guidance or local public health requirements

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

Children’s Services consulted with Finance staff regarding the Provincial Child Care and Early Years Funding Re-Investment memo and the provision of these funds to eligible services providers. As per provincial direction, the funding must be flowed to operators by March 31, 2021.

Any required agreements necessary to flow these funds will be completed and signed through the current approvals process.

## Financial and Resource Implications

There are no anticipated cost sharing requirements in relation to the use of the Provincial Child Care and Early Years Funding Re-Investment as this is 100% provincial funding.

The allocation for Grey County is $358,375.00. Children’s Services staff have developed a local allocation plan in consultation with the Finance department. Children’s Services will work with the Ministry of Education and the County’s Finance Department to distribute funds in accordance with funding guidelines.

There is no administration allocation associated with this funding.

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| Program | Funding Allocation | Total Funding |
| EarlyON | 10% | $35,837.50 |
| Licensed Child Care | 90% | $322,537.50 |
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| Total Allocation: | | $358,375.00 |

The Children’s Services and the Finance department will administer, monitor and reconcile the expenditure of these funds and will report back on the Provincial Child Care and Early Years Funding Re-Investment as part of the 2021 Financial Statement submissions in the Education Finance Information System (EFIS) as required.

# Relevant Consultation

Internal: Children’s Services Department, Finance Department, and Clerk’s Department.

External: Ministry of Education, Early Years and Child Care Division

### Appendices and Attachments

Provincial Child Care and Early Years Funding Re-Investment January – March 2021









