

To:	Warden Halliday and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 22, 2018
Subject / Report No:	SSR-CW-03-18
Title:	Community-Based Early Years and Child Care Capital Program (CBCP) Funding Submission
Prepared by:	Barbara Arbuckle, Manager of Children's Services
Reviewed by:	Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	County wide initiative
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW63-18; Endorsed by County Council March 8, 2018 per Resolution CC30-18;

Recommendation

1. That **SSR-CW-03-18 regarding the community based early years and child care capital program funding submission be received for information.**

Executive Summary

On November 16, 2017, the Ministry of Education released a memorandum outlining a Request for Community-Based Early Years and Child Care Capital Program (CBCP) Funding Submissions. This funding opportunity is intended to support greater access to licensed child care, and support the government's efforts to create 100 new child and family program locations.

As the local Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for both licensed child care, and child and family programs (now branded as EarlyON centres), Grey County may leverage the opportunity to apply for capital project funding through the CBCP program. Specific to EarlyON, the program supports renovations, retrofits, and additions to create new space for EarlyON initiatives. Specific to child care, the CBCP program supports new construction, renovations, retrofits and additions in order to create new licensed child care spaces. It should be noted that all projects proposed under this stream of provincial funding are required to open no later than December 31, 2020.

On January 19, 2018, the County of Grey as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) submitted the initial requirements to the Ministry of Education CBCP request.

Considerable efforts were taken by the County leading up to the January 19, 2018 deadline to inform local EarlyON and Child Care Centre licensees regarding the CBCP capital opportunity as well as to discuss a range of potential project scenarios. Meetings were held with all interested Grey County licensees in December 2017 and January 2018. For the final submission to the Ministry of Education, the County of Grey CMSM:

1. Utilized project proposals from local licensees,
2. Conducted data analysis including demographic, child care availability, and current service allocation across the County; and
3. Made decisions regarding the final ranking of proposed projects.

It is anticipated that the County of Grey CMSM submission will be considered carefully by the Ministry of Education and it is hoped that the CBCP Capital Funding request will result in approved projects which increase the number of child care spaces locally in Grey County.

Background and Discussion

Grey County Children's Services is the designated child care service system manager responsible for planning and managing licensed child care services throughout the County. This is accomplished through a local service planning process that reflects current child care legislation, regulations, policies, provincial guidelines, and engagement with local licensees. In addition to managing child care services, Grey County Children's Services will also be responsible for the local management of all ministry-funded child and family programs as of January 1, 2018. This responsibility is part of the Ontario government's plan to integrate existing child and family programs into a cohesive system of services and supports known as EarlyON Child and Family Centres.

On June 12, 2017, the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement was announced in order to support parents, families and communities across Canada in their efforts to ensure the best possible future for their children. Ontario's Action Plan under the ELCC provides a shared commitment by the Ontario and Federal governments to provide investments in early learning and child care to increase quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and inclusivity, with prioritization for children aged 0-6 years old. ELCC funding supports access to licensed child care for approximately 11,200 children, aligns with Ontario's recent commitment to create access to licensed child care for 100,000 more children aged 0-4 years old, and aligns with the expanded duty for District School Boards to provide before-and-after school programs.

The ELCC Agreement includes Community Based Capital Program (CBCP) Funding to support new non-profit community-based capital projects, excluding capital projects for child care programs that run during school hours for kindergarten and school-age children. Capital funds may be used for retrofits, renovations or expansion projects, but cannot be used to purchase land or buildings. Similar to other initiatives within the new provincial framework, CMSMs and DSSABs have the freedom to prioritize local projects within the scope of their overall EarlyON and licensed child care system. To do this CMSMs and DSSABs must consider a range of factors in the selection of new or current community based projects. These factors include local child care plans, accommodation pressures/service gaps and demand, cost effectiveness, location, available operating funding, capacity of program to access funds through other means, child care licensing history, current licensed and operational capacity, age groups, long term viability, and investment in quality programming.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

The Ministry of Education provides funding to Grey County Social Services under the legislative authority of the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.

Financial and Resource Implications

Financial implications for the CBCP capital program will not include any increases to the municipal levy and will not have any additional impacts beyond what was approved in the 2018 Children's Services budget. It should be noted that the proposed CBCP capital opportunity may have overlap with other community projects whereby partnerships and cost sharing could take place. Regardless, no additional costs will be incurred to Grey County.

County staff resources will be required for the CBCP Capital program. This may include but is not limited to activities for accounting, project management, and administration in order to coordinate capital funding from the province and oversee selected projects which are implemented and constructed by existing EarlyON and Child Care licensees.

Relevant Consultation

Internal

- Grey County Finance Department
- Grey County Planning Department (Planning Data Analysis Coordinator)

External

- Licensed child care centres in Grey County
- EarlyON Centres in Grey County

Appendices and Attachments

[Memorandum - Community Based Early Years and Child Care Capital Program November 2017](#)

Respectfully submitted by,

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Barbara Arbuckle,
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