

To:	Warden Halliday and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	January 25, 2018
Subject / Report No:	SSR-CW-02-18
Title:	Approval of 2018 Child Care Service Agreement
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 CW44-18; Endorsed by County Council February 8, 2018 per Resolution CC24-18;

Recommendation

1. That **SSR-CW-02-18 regarding approval of the 2018 child care services agreement be received; and**
2. That a **By-law be prepared authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the 2018 Child Care Service Agreement with the Ministry of Education.**

Executive Summary

Grey County Council's approval of the 2018 Child Care Service Agreement will result in the following benefits:

- \$ 72,802 Fee Stabilization Support funding for the period January 01 to March 31, 2018 to increase wages in licensed centres for staff earning less than \$14 per hour as of December 31, 2017. It is anticipated that additional funding will be made available for the remainder of 2018;
- Fee Stabilization Support funding is 100% provincially funded. No municipal levy is required.

Background and Discussion

The Ministry of Education provides funding for Grey County Children's Services through the following two separate Ontario Transfer Payment Agreements:

1. Child Care Service Agreement
2. Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Agreement

Grey County Council approved the original 2018 - 2019 Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres transfer payment agreement on October 12, 2017. A report to council will be provided by March 2018 detailing new funds added to the original 2018 - 2019 Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres transfer payment agreement.

In response to the 2018 Ontario increase to the minimum wage, the Ministry of Education has provided \$72,802 in Fee Stabilization Support for Grey County Children's Services 2018 budget.

The Fee Stabilization Support funding will increase wages in licensed child care centres and licensed home child care for staff earning less than \$14 per hour (excluding wage enhancement), as of December 31, 2017. Funding may not be used to support wages above \$14 per hour in 2018.

Through Grey County Council's approval of the 2018 Child Care Service agreement, this will support improving wages for the licensed child care workforce, affordability for families and to address potential fee increases.

The Fee Stabilization Support funding allocation is included in the 2018 Child Care Service Transfer Payment Agreement.

Working in partnership with applicable agencies, Children's Services staff has begun collecting the necessary information required to disperse the funds. Upon council approval, these funds will be dispersed as per Ministry directives.

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

The 2018 Child Care Service Agreement contains \$8,118,389 in provincial funding. Wage Enhancement, Fee Stabilization, Expansion Plan, ELCC are 100% provincially funded programs and include a \$708,221 funding increase over 2017. For the remaining regular Child Care programs, the 2018 Provincial 80% Core Funding has decreased by \$58,246 which will result in a \$14,562 decrease in the 2018 required municipal contribution; reducing Grey County's annual contribution to \$960,972. The 2018 Provincial 100% Core Funding has decreased by \$37,456.

Relevant Consultation

Internal

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

External

- Licensed child care centres in Grey County

Appendices and Attachments

[Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement \(2018 Child Care Funding\)](#)

Respectfully submitted by,

Barb Fedy,
Director of Social Services

Barbara Arbuckle,
Children's Services Manager