



Committee Report

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| To: | Warden Milne and Members of Committee of the Whole |
| Committee Date: | January 12, 2023 |
| Subject / Report No: | CSR-CW-01-23 |
| Title: | Transfer Payment Agreement Early Learning and Child Care |
| Prepared by: | Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Services |
| Reviewed by: | Kim Wingrove, CAO |
| Lower Tier(s) Affected: | |
| Status: | Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW14-23; Endorsed by County Council January 26, 2023, per Resolution CC11-23. |

Recommendation

1. That staff report CSR-CW-01-23 pertaining to the transfer payment agreement for Early Learning and Child Care be received; and
2. That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement for the 2023 Early Years and Child Care funding with the Ministry of Education; and
3. That action be taken prior to council approval as per Section 26.6 b of Procedural By-law 5134-22.

Executive Summary

Grey County has received a new five-year Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) to replace the 2018 Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres TPA. This TPA combines child care, Early ON and the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) allocations and requirements.

The child care funding formula and existing annual child care funding is largely unchanged from 2022. Grey County is receiving a total of \$18,604,193 in funding for 2023.

The transfer payment agreement was received December 13th and due back to the province as soon as possible to prevent disruption to the 2023 cashflow. Therefore, staff is requesting the agreement be signed prior to council approval as per Section 26.6 b of Procedural By-law 5134-22.

Background and Discussion

Grey County has received a new five-year Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) to replace the 2018 Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres TPA. This TPA combines child care, Early ON and the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) allocations and requirements

The child care funding formula and existing annual child care funding is largely unchanged from 2022 to provide stability and support the sector through the transformation and implementation of Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care. Funding allocations to support the implementation of CWELCC will be in addition to the existing annual funding and use similar funding processes currently in place for 2023.

The transfer payment agreement was received December 13th and due to the province as soon as possible to prevent disruption to the 2023 cashflow. Therefore, staff is requesting the agreement be signed prior to council approval as per Section 26.6 b of Procedural By-law 5134-22.

Grey County is receiving a total of \$18,604,193 in funding for 2023.

- 2023 Child Care Allocation \$8,859,816
- 2023 EarlyON Allocations \$1,196,282
- 2023 Indigenous-Led Programming Allocation \$ 72,221
- 2023 Workforce Allocation \$ 153,817
- 2023 CWELCC Allocation \$8,322,057

Child Care Funding

The 2023 Child Care allocation includes funding for child care fee subsidy, general operating, special needs resourcing and special purpose funding. There was a slight increase of \$90,399 over the 2022 budget.

EarlyON Funding

Funding to support deliver of EarlyON child and family centre programming and funding to support indigenous led child and family programs continues with this agreement.

The Ministry is providing a one-year extension to the exemption on the requirement of EarlyON Child and Family Centres to employ at least one RECE at every centre in recognition of the current RECE shortages.

The ministry is also providing funding over three years starting in 2022-23 towards mental health supports for early years and child care sector. The funding is not for direct care but to assist staff in the sector with supports, materials, and education to better assist families. Grey County received \$20,564 towards mental health initiatives.

Workforce Funding

This funding is to be used to support the retention and recruitment of high quality child care and early years workforce. While the funds cannot be used for wage enhancements, Grey County has

implemented a mentoring program and an early learning resource hub located at Sydenham School to support the current workforce and work with Georgian College to support local students in the RECE program. Staff are working with other community agencies to support ongoing recruitment and retention efforts.

CWELCC Funding

This funding will support a reduction in fees for parents using care at licensed child care programs that are participating in the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care program (CWELCC). This funding also supports an increase in compensation for Registered Early Childhood Educators, and funding to support operators cost escalation.

Allocation Holdback

New this year the Ministry is introducing a 5% holdback on 2023 Child Care and Early Years allocations, including CWELCC. The holdback will be released upon ministry review as part of the regular 2023 Financial Statements reporting and reconciliation process.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

None.

Financial and Resource Implications

\$18,604,193 in Early Learning and Child Care funding for 2023

Relevant Consultation

- Internal (list) Finance
- External (list) Ministry of Education

Appendices and Attachments

[2023 Transfer Payment Agreement Early Learning and Child Care](#)