

# Child Care Operator Webinar 2025-26 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Application Process

January 16, 2025



# Webinar Reminders

- **Recording Notice:** This meeting is being recorded and will be shared on the Halton.ca website
- **Participation and Questions:** Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation. Please use the Q&A box to type in your question at any time.
- **Microphones:** Please keep your microphone on mute unless you are called upon during the question period
- **Follow-Up:** For any additional inquiries, please contact us at [childcareservices@halton.ca](mailto:childcareservices@halton.ca)

# Indigenous Land Acknowledgement



# Agenda

1. CWELCC Overview and Updates
2. Spaces for Expansion in Halton
3. Halton's Directed Growth Plan
4. CWELCC Application Process
5. CWELCC Application Review Process
6. Child Care Service Management Agreement (CCSMA) Overview
7. Available Supports and Next Steps
8. Questions and Answers

# CWELCC Overview and Updates



# CWELCC Overview and Updates

- **Program Overview:** The Federal and Provincial Governments announced the CWELCC Agreement, providing \$13.2 billion over six years to reduce child care costs to an average of \$10/day by 2025-2026.
- **Fee Reductions:** Fees capped to \$22/day as of January 1, 2025.
- **Workforce Supports:** Set a minimum wage floor of \$24.86/hour for Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECE) and \$25.86/hour for supervisors and home visitors.
- **Updates:** New cost-based funding model took effect on January 1, 2025.

# 2025 Cost-Based Funding Model for CWELCC

- Under the new Cost-Based funding model, operators in CWELCC receive a **funding allocation** that is representative of the typical costs of providing licensed childcare in Ontario.
- Funding Allocation includes:
  - **Program Costs** (Benchmark Allocations);
  - **Top Ups** if applicable (e.g., Growth Top Ups) and;
  - An allocation in lieu of **Profit Surplus**.

## Next Steps:

- To learn more about Cost-Based funding please review the linked [Webinar](#)
- For an allocation estimate please refer to the [Ministry of Education's Funding Estimator Tool](#)

# CWELCC in Halton Region

## Key Accomplishments to date:

- **88%** of Halton's licensed child care programs are enrolled
- **275** sites representing **18,867** spaces
- Child care fees have been reduced by **52.75%** from March 2022 rates. As of January 1, 2025, child care fees have been capped at **\$22/day**.
- Parental contributions for families receiving fee subsidy for child care have been reduced by **50%**



# Spaces for Expansion in Halton



# Spaces for CWELCC Expansion in Halton

- The Ministry of Education provided Halton with a directed growth plan, which outlines the number of community-based and school-based child care spaces Halton is permitted to add in CWELCC, up to 2026.

Spaces	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total spaces
School-based Spaces	88	215	194	88	264	849
Community Spaces	0	190	0	0	347	537
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>1,386</b>



# Spaces for Expansion in Halton

- **Reallocation of Spaces in 2025:** As some operators opt out of the CWELCC system, additional spaces will be available for reallocation.
- **Provincial Reallocation Process:** The Ministry of Education is overseeing a provincial reallocation of child care spaces.
  - Should Halton receive additional spaces, the existing application process will be used to determine the reallocation of spaces.



# Halton's Directed Growth Plan

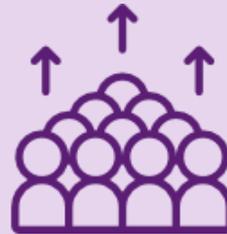


# Halton's Directed Growth Plan

- The Ministry of Education Guidelines requires that:



All Service System Managers develop a Directed Growth Plan for CWELCC expansion and set policy for CWELCC applications

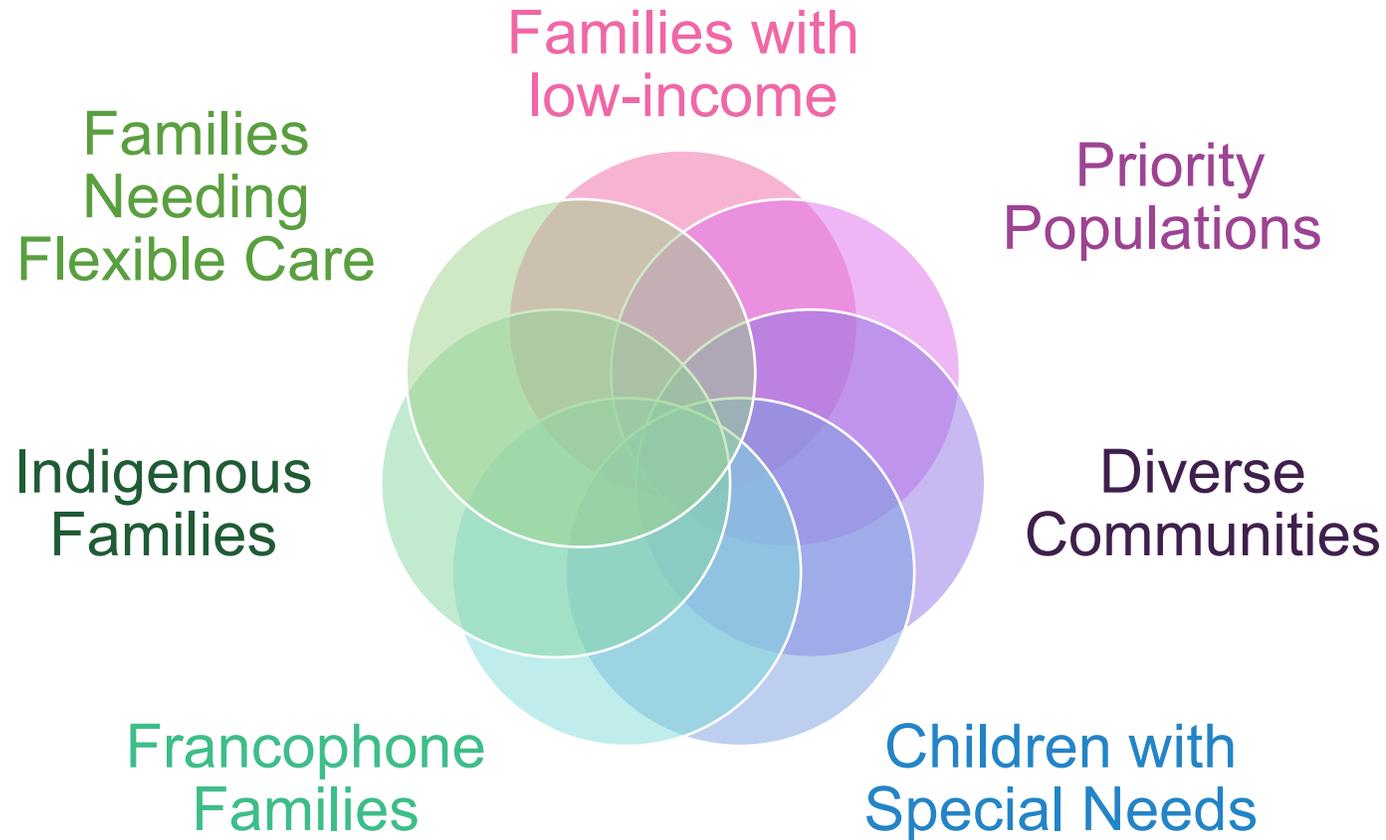


The Directed Growth Plan be a part of the Service System Manager's Early Learning and Child Care Plan



The Directed Growth Plan be guided by the Ministry of Education's Access and Inclusion Framework

# Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework



# Halton's Directed Growth Plan

To access Halton's Directed Growth Plan, visit [Halton.ca](https://www.halton.ca)



**2024 - 2026**

## Halton's Directed Growth Plan

An Appendix to the Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan



# CWELCC Application Process



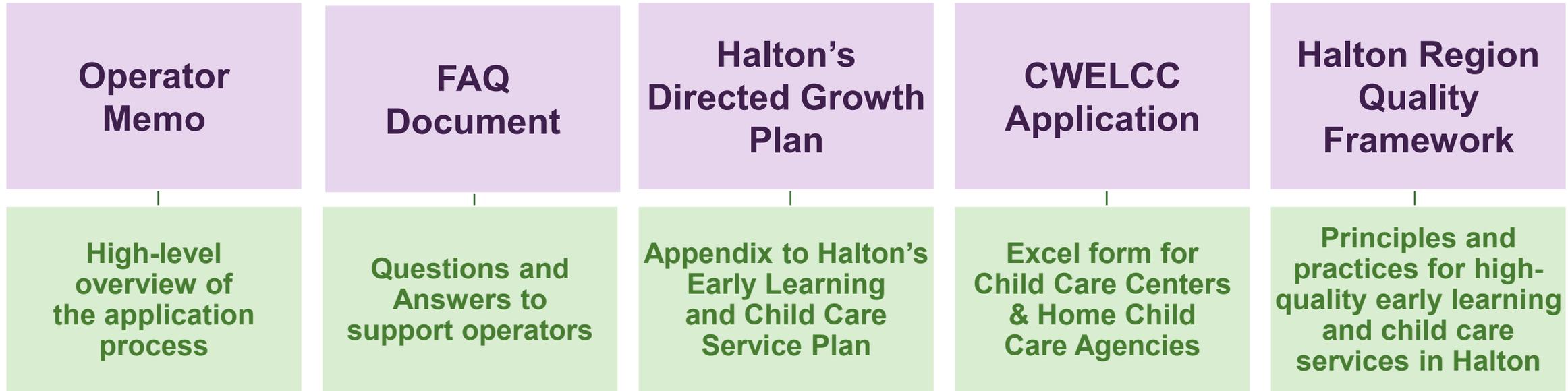
# Steps for Completing an Application

- Review Halton's Directed Growth Plan and eligibility requirements
- Complete an [Expression of Interest](#) (EOI) form by **January 17, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**
- Complete an Application by **January 31, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**
- Submit only one form per organization/head office



# CWELCC Application Package

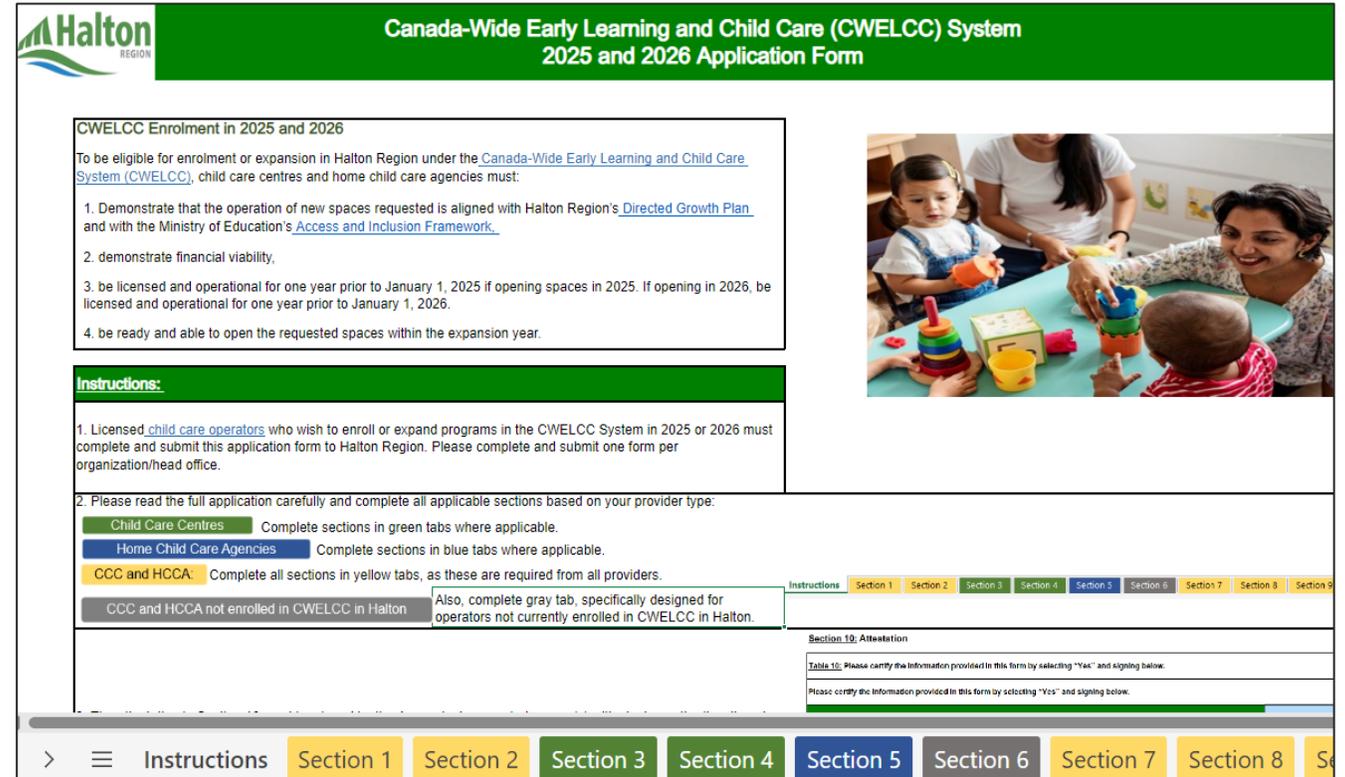
The CWELCC Application Package includes:



Please visit [Halton.ca](https://www.halton.ca) to complete an EOI.

# CWELCC Application Form

- Review Instructions and Glossary tabs.
- All relevant tabs must be completed for the application to be accepted.
- For any questions or to send a complete application e-mail [childcareservices@halton.ca](mailto:childcareservices@halton.ca)



**Halton REGION** Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) System  
2025 and 2026 Application Form

**CWELCC Enrolment in 2025 and 2026**

To be eligible for enrolment or expansion in Halton Region under the [Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System \(CWELCC\)](#), child care centres and home child care agencies must:

1. Demonstrate that the operation of new spaces requested is aligned with Halton Region's [Directed Growth Plan](#) and with the Ministry of Education's [Access and Inclusion Framework](#).
2. demonstrate financial viability.
3. be licensed and operational for one year prior to January 1, 2025 if opening spaces in 2025. If opening in 2026, be licensed and operational for one year prior to January 1, 2026.
4. be ready and able to open the requested spaces within the expansion year.

**Instructions:**

1. Licensed [child care operators](#) who wish to enroll or expand programs in the CWELCC System in 2025 or 2026 must complete and submit this application form to Halton Region. Please complete and submit one form per organization/head office.
2. Please read the full application carefully and complete all applicable sections based on your provider type:
  - Child Care Centres** Complete sections in green tabs where applicable.
  - Home Child Care Agencies** Complete sections in blue tabs where applicable.
  - CCC and HCCA** Complete all sections in yellow tabs, as these are required from all providers.
  - CCC and HCCA not enrolled in CWELCC in Halton** Also, complete gray tab, specifically designed for operators not currently enrolled in CWELCC in Halton.

**Section 19: Attestation**

**Table 10:** Please certify the information provided in this form by selecting "Yes" and signing below.

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Instructions Section 1 Section 2 Section 3 Section 4 Section 5 Section 6 Section 7 Section 8 Section 9

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# CWELCC Application Review Process



# Application Review Process Overview

## Two-Stage Review Process



### Stage One - Determine prequalified applicants

- Review Operator Eligibility according to EDU Guidelines
- Review Financial and Operational Viability
- Review Operator Readiness to create spaces
- Willingness to enter into a Child Care Service Management Agreement for CWELCC with the Region

### Stage Two - Score prequalified applicants

- Location in or near a Priority Neighbourhood
- Alignment with Access and Inclusion Framework
- Provision of services that meet priority age groups for Halton: Infant, Toddler, Preschool, Family Age, Kindergarten Before and After Care
- Alignment with principles and practices of Halton's Quality System Framework
- Auspice will be considered to ensure compliance with EDU's mandated targets

# Application Review Process Criteria

Criteria	Explanation
<b>Financial Viability</b>	Demonstrate absence of financial viability risks.
<b>Operational Readiness</b>	Demonstrate preparedness to open spaces in the 2025 or 2026 expansion year.
<b>Access and Inclusion Framework</b>	Demonstrate alignment of organizational policies and practices with the Framework after completing a series of Access and Inclusion application questions.
<b>Priority Neighbourhoods</b>	Prequalified operators will be prioritized if the spaces created are within or near a priority neighbourhood.
<b>Child Care Age Groups</b>	Based on current enrolment and child care demand projections, there is high need for licensed child care for 0-4 age groups and before and after kindergarten spaces.
<b>Quality System Framework</b>	Alignment with principles and practices of Halton's Quality System Framework will also be reviewed through application questions.
<b>Auspice</b>	Spaces that support the Region maintaining or increasing its auspice target of not-for-profit to for-profit spaces will be prioritized.

# Child Care Service Management Agreement (CCSMA) - Overview



# Child Care Service Management Agreement (CCSMA) - Overview

Entering a CCSMA is required for licensees seeking to enroll or expand spaces in CWELCC.

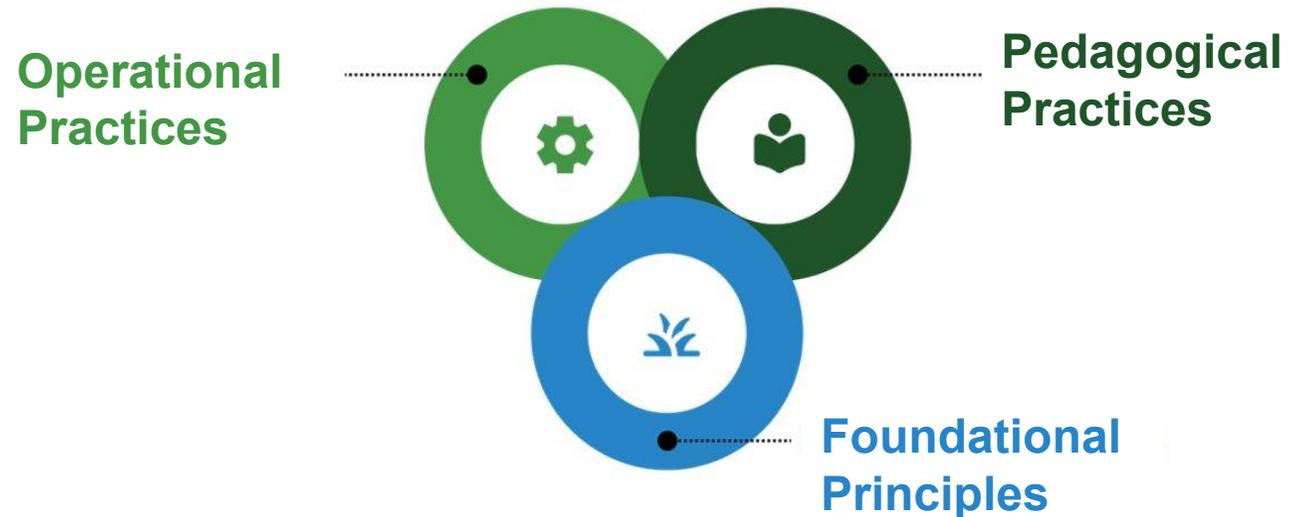
Entering a CCSMA with the Region includes:

- Participating in the Region's fee subsidy program;
- Participating in Regional quality initiatives; and
- Entering a Memorandum of Understanding for inclusion services to support children with special needs.



# Child Care Service Management Agreement (CCSMA) - Quality System Framework

- Operators need to participate in the Quality Initiative as set out by the Region.
- Halton's Quality System Framework focuses on the principles and practices that organizations should prioritize to achieve and maintain high-quality early learning and child care.



# Child Care Service Management Agreement (CCSMA) - Inclusion

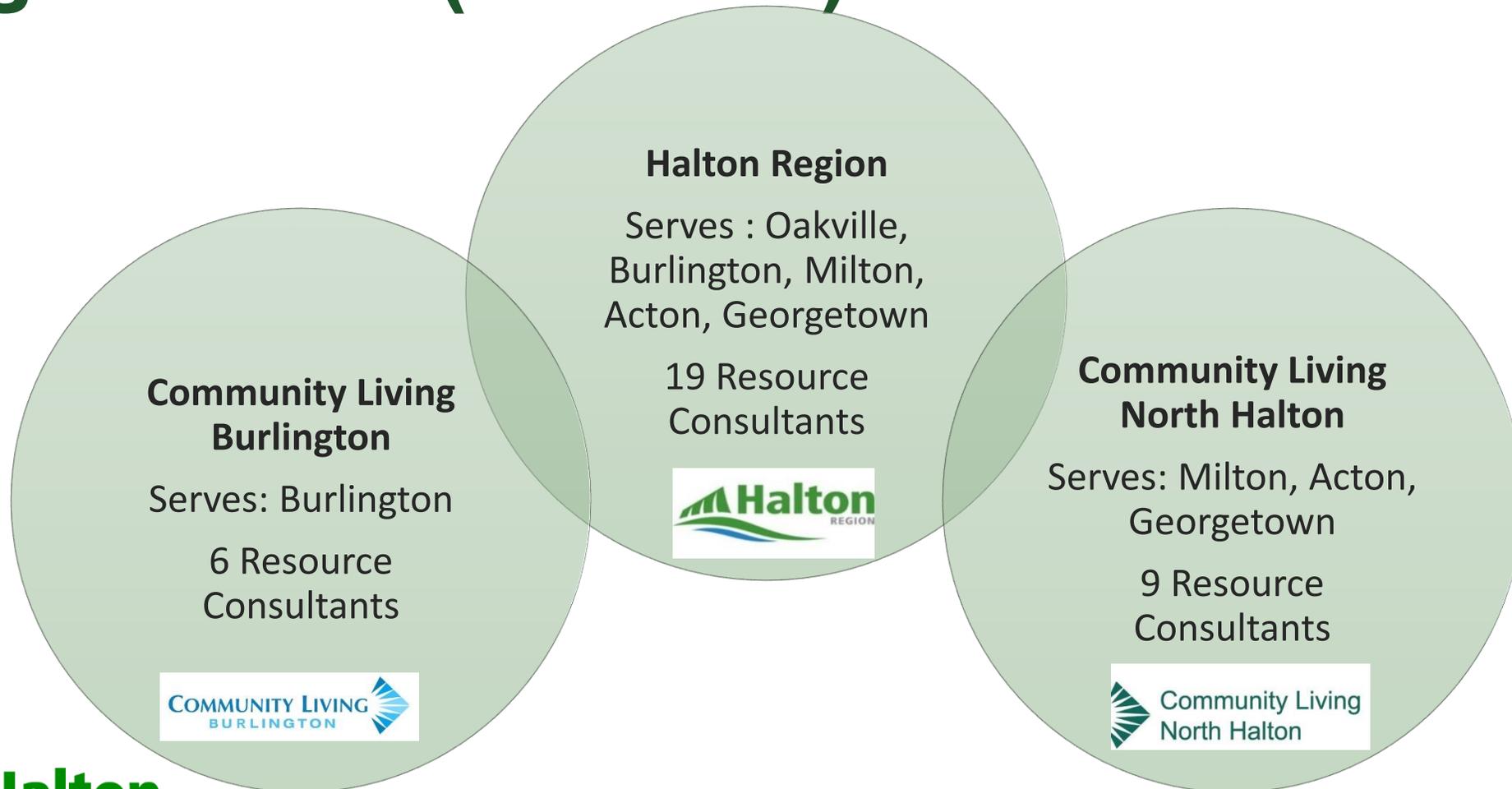
- Memorandum of Understanding with Inclusion Services supports quality inclusion of all children in licensed child care centres, licensed home child care, and before and after school programs in the Halton community through collaborative and respectful partnerships.
- The goal of this Memorandum of Understanding for Inclusion is to strengthen these collaborative relationships by identifying shared and individual responsibilities



# Child Care Service Management Agreement (CCSMA) - Inclusion

- Special needs resourcing services (Resource Consultants, ErinoakKids Speech and Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists, Reach Out Centre for Kids mental health support) are available to every licensed child care center with a Memorandum of Understanding for Inclusion.
- Resource Consultants use a coaching, family centred approach to build on educators existing knowledge and practices, develop new skills and promote continuous self-assessment and learning.
  - To develop a joint plan that guides the work
  - To identify areas of learning
  - To reflect and problem solve to support all children in the classroom

# Child Care Service Management Agreement (CCSMA) - Inclusion



# Available Supports and Next Steps



# Available Supports

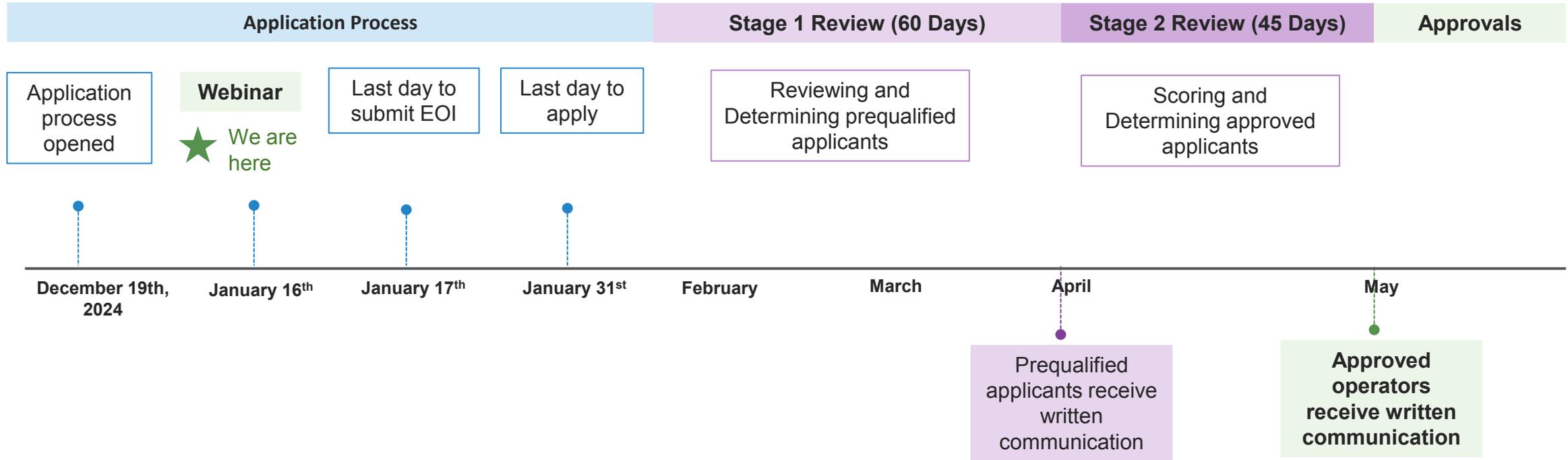
Interested operators are encouraged to review:

- Halton's Directed Growth Plan
- Past [Cost-Based Funding webinars](#) and [CWELCC Cost-Based Funding Estimator Tool](#) for Cost-Based Funding information
- Current availability of spaces for CWELCC expansion
- The Ministry's Access and Inclusion Framework
- Requirements for entering an agreement with the Region and a sample service management agreement on [Halton.ca](#)
- Halton's mapping tool to determine priority neighbourhoods
- The Region's Application FAQ

Operators can send questions to [childcareservices@halton.ca](mailto:childcareservices@halton.ca)



# Application Process Overview: Timeline



## Important Dates

Submit	Due Date
Expression of interest form	January 17, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. (EST)
Application form	January 31, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. (EST)

*\*Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered as part of this enrollment opportunity*



# Questions



# Questions

**Q: Can new operators who are not yet licensed but are willing to open spaces within 6 months apply, or is the application open only to existing operators?**

A: The operator must be licensed and operational anywhere in Ontario for one year prior to January 1, 2025, if opening spaces in 2025. If opening in 2026, be licensed and operational for one year prior to January 1, 2026.

Unlicensed child care programs, including unlicensed home child care, authorized recreational programs and school board operated extended day programs are not eligible to participate in the CWELCC System and are not eligible for pre-qualification.

# Questions

**Q: How would financial and operational viability be assessed for new operators?**

A: New operators are expected to provide any relevant information and documents required to assess financial viability, as may be determined by Halton Region at its sole discretion.

Operators must also demonstrate operational viability by responding to a series of qualitative questions.

# Questions

**Q: How do we know or find out if we are or are not a prequalified applicant?**

A: The Region will communicate in writing within 60 days from the date applications are closed, if an operator has been prequalified. Only prequalified applicants will proceed to Stage Two of the application process.

# Questions

**Q: If I am approved for spaces from de-enrolled operators, will I receive start-up funding?**

A: If your application for CWELCC is approved, you will receive additional information regarding eligibility and applications for start-up grants at the time of approval.

# Questions

**Q: Do I need to submit a CCLS request for CWELCC enrollment with my new license application/revision with the Ministry of Education?**

A: Child care operators interested in enrolling or expanding CWELCC spaces in 2025 or 2026 must go through Halton Region's CWELCC Application process first.

Operators can proceed with a revision/application with the Ministry but should be indicating they **are not applying for CWELCC** at this time.

A revision can be submitted later if the application is approved through the application process.

# Questions

**Q: Can operators enroll into the CWELCC system with a WEG-only agreement?**

A: Operators must be willing to enter into a Child Care Service Management Agreement (CCSMA) for CWELCC with Halton Region to proceed to Stage Two of the application process.

CCSMAs require operators to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Region for inclusion. This supports children with special needs, enables the provision of fee subsidy, and requires participation in Regional quality initiatives.

A CCSMA supports access to CWELCC for all families in Halton and provides additional supports to operators to support high quality, inclusive care.

# Questions

**Q: I have recently expressed interest in joining the CWELCC program, but I am not sure which priority area this address falls in.**

A: Halton has created a CWELCC Directed Growth Application Map which profiles all 30 Halton neighbourhoods with their level of priority.

Child care operators are encouraged to review the map on [Halton.ca](https://www.halton.ca) when developing their applications for CWELCC enrollment or expansion.

# Thank you!

- Thank you for attending today's webinar
- We hope the information provided will provide clarity and answer any questions you may have regarding the 2025 CWELCC Application Process in Halton Region
- Please send additional questions to [childcareservices@halton.ca](mailto:childcareservices@halton.ca)