

Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System (CWELCC): Frequently Asked Questions for Child Care Operators

Contents

ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLMENT	2
ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENSES	5
FUNDING POLICIES AND PRACTICES.....	8
PARENT/CAREGIVER FEES AND REDUCTIONS.....	11
WAGE COMPENSATION	13
FEE SUBSIDY	15
LICENSED HOME CHILD CARE.....	15
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.....	16
APPENDIX	17

ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLMENT

Q: What is the eligibility criteria for the CWELCC System?

A: All licensed child care operators, including licensed home child care agencies, that serve children aged 0-5 or turning six before June 30th are eligible and encouraged to apply to participate in the CWELCC System.

This includes both not for profit and for profit/commercial child care operators regardless of whether they have an existing purchase of service agreement with Halton Region.

Licensed child care programs serving children age 6-12 years are not eligible; however, the Province has allocated funding to support workforce compensation for registered early childhood educators working in school age programs.

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 CWELCC.

Q: When do operators need to apply to Halton Region to participate in the CWELCC System?

A: Operators need to apply to the Region to opt-in to the CWELCC System by September 1, 2022.

Q: How do operators submit an application to enroll in the CWELCC System? What documentation must be included?

A: The Region is currently developing an application process. More information will be provided to operators about the application process and documentation required when the details have been finalized.

Q: Are audited financial statements required as part of the application process?

A: The Region recognizes that not all operators have annual audited financial statements prepared. An audited financial statement will not be a requirement to apply. The Region may request additional documentation from operators without audited financial statements, and will consider each operators' unique circumstances.

Audited financial statements will be a requirement for ongoing participation in the CWELCC System.

Q: Do operators need to have an existing purchase of service agreement with Halton Region to be able to participate in the CWELCC System?

A: No, operators do not need to have an existing purchase of service agreement with Halton Region to enroll in the CWELCC System. A new CWELCC purchase of service agreement will be required for operators who enroll in the System. There is no waiting period, but operators must apply by September 1, 2022 to be part of the CWELCC System in 2022.

Q: Will operators that already have a purchase of service agreement with the Region need to apply to enroll in CWELCC System? Will they need a new agreement?

A: All operators must apply to enroll in the CWELCC System, including those that have an existing service agreement (i.e., Child Care Service Management Agreement, Wage Enhancement Grant Agreement).

All operators that are enrolled in the CWELCC System will be required to enter into a CWELCC agreement with the Region. This includes operators who already have existing agreements.

Q: Can operators apply to enroll in the CWELCC System if they have been operating for less than one year?

A: Yes, all eligible child care operators are encouraged to apply, including new operators. Halton Region may request additional documentation from new operators to support a determination about financial viability.

Q: If operators are closed for the summer months, are they still eligible to participate in the CWELCC System?

A: Operators that do not operate in the summer will be eligible to participate in the CWELCC System. Funding will be adjusted to account for closures over the summer period when care is not being provided.

Q: Are half-day programs (e.g. preschool programs) eligible to participate in the CWELCC System?

A: Operators that offer half day licensed programs for children aged 0-5¹ will be eligible to participate in the CWELCC System. Funding will be adjusted to account for the hours where care is being provided.

Q: Do operators with multiple locations need to apply for each site/location or as one organization?

A: Operators with multiple sites within Halton under one organization/head office should expect to submit one application for all sites/locations. Further details about the application process will be shared later as the process is finalized.

Q: What are the requirements to enroll in the CWELCC System?

A: To participate in the CWELCC System, operators must meet the following criteria:

- Be a licensed child care operator serving children aged 0-5;
- Maintain their license in good standing in accordance with the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA);
- Enter into a new purchase of service agreement with Halton Region;
- Demonstrate financial viability;

¹ All references to children aged 0-5 in this document include children who turn six before June 30 in that calendar year.

- Maintain current parent/caregiver costs unless a fee increase was communicated to parents/caregivers prior to the announcement of the CWELCC System; and
- Maintain existing licensed spaces for children aged 0-5.

The Ministry of Education also requires that operators complete and submit the annual Licensed Child Care Survey.

Q: What criteria will the Region use to decline enrolment in the CWELCC System?

A: Halton Region may only decline an operator's enrollment if:

- The operator is not financially viable or will not be operating in a manner that will be financially viable; or
- The operator will use the funding for improper purposes.

Q: How will the Region determine financial viability?

A: The Region's approach to determining financial viability will be fair and consider the impacts of COVID-19 on child care. The Region will conduct a review of an operator's budget and financial statements to support a determination on financial viability. For operators that do not currently have a funding agreement with Halton Region, the Region may request additional documentation to support its determination.

Further guidance on the financial viability determination will be outlined in Regional CWELCC Guidelines, which are under development.

Q: If my application to participate in the CWELCC System is declined, can I appeal the decision?

A: Yes, the appeal process will be detailed in the Regional CWELCC Guidelines.

Q: Will the CWELCC agreement have to be signed each year?

A: Terms and conditions of the agreement have not yet been finalized. Further details about the agreement will be shared later.

Q: Can an operator enroll in the CWELCC System later?

A: All licensed child care operators are encouraged to apply to enroll in the CWELCC System. To receive CWELCC funding for 2022, child care operators must submit an application by September 1, 2022.

Operators may have an opportunity to apply to enroll in future years; however, participation is not guaranteed and will be subject to provincial and local priorities, and availability of funds.

Q: Can an operator opt in for 2022 and opt-out in future years?

A: If an operator that is enrolled in the CWELCC System in 2022 chooses to withdraw participation in future years, the operator must submit a notice to the Region to terminate the CWELCC agreement. Specific details regarding terminating an agreement will be outlined in the Regional CWELCC Guidelines and agreement.

Q: If an operator determines they do not want to participate in the CWELCC System at this time, what are the next steps?

A: Operators that do not want to participate in the CWELCC System must complete the 'Operator Opt Out Form' provided by the Ministry of Education on March 28, 2022. Operators must submit this form to Halton Region by September 1, 2022. The completed Opt Out Form should be sent by e-mail to childcareservices@halton.ca.

Operators must also advise the Ministry of Education of their decision to opt out of the CWELCC System by uploading the Opt-Out Form to the Child Care Licensing System (CCLS). Please contact your Ministry of Education Program Advisor for further details on this process.

Operators that opt-out must notify parents/caregivers of this decision. Parents/caregivers have the option to leave their child care operator if the operator is not participating in the CWELCC System. Parents/caregivers may do so without penalty, providing 30 days' notice to their child care operator.

Q: If an operator opts out of the CWELCC System, will they still receive General Operating Grant and Wage Enhancement Grant funding?

A: Yes, operators that opt-out will maintain their existing General Operating and Wage Enhancement Grant, and Pay Equity funding with Halton Region.

Q: What options are available to parents/caregivers if their child care provider opts out of the CWELCC System or are not approved to participate in the CWELCC System?

A: Operators are required to advise parents/caregivers whether they intend to enroll in the CWELCC System by September 1, 2022. If an operator does not participate in the CWELCC System, parents/caregivers of children eligible for fee reductions can withdraw their children from a child care operator without penalty, providing 30 days' notice.

Q: If the operator opts in, can parents/caregivers opt out? Some parents/caregivers are asking if they can opt out, as the taxable benefit they receive from the tax receipt would be greater than their reduction of fees.

A: Operators are responsible for opting in and out of the CWELCC System. Parents/caregivers cannot opt-in or out of the CWELCC System.

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Q: What operating costs will be eligible for CWELCC funding?

A: The Ministry of Education [Addendum to Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres Service Management and Funding Guideline \(2022\)](#) includes a detailed list of eligible and ineligible expenses for CWELCC funding. All operators are encouraged to review the eligible and ineligible expenses in detail.

Eligible expenses include expenses such as staffing costs, child care management salaries and benefits, accommodation costs, administration and financial reserves.

Q: What operating costs will be ineligible for CWELCC funding?

A: The Ministry of Education [Addendum to Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres Service Management and Funding Guideline \(2022\)](#) includes a detailed list of eligible and ineligible expenses for CWELCC funding. All operators are encouraged to review the eligible and ineligible expenses in detail.

Ineligible expenses are costs that do not directly support the CWELCC System goals and initiatives, and that are not related to the provision of child care for eligible children and mandated compensation increases for eligible staff.

Ineligible expenses include the following:

- Child care management compensation (outside of regular salaries and benefits received in a calendar year) including but not limited to transportation, meals, management bonuses, retirement packages, deferred compensation;
- Reimbursement for transportation such as mileage is an eligible expenditure if reasonable, as determined by Halton Region;
- Debt costs including principal and interest payments related to capital loans, mortgage financing, and operating loans;
- Professional organization fees paid on behalf of staff for membership in professional organizations;
- Bonuses (including retiring bonuses), gifts and honoraria paid to staff are ineligible expenses except in the case that they are provided as a retroactive wage increase that will be maintained in the following year;
- Donations to charitable institutions or organizations;
- Fundraising expenses;
- Property taxes;
- Personal expenses (i.e., vehicles, assets or services for personal use only);
- Expenditures arising from transactions not conducted at arms-length, unless conducted at fair market value; and
- Any expenditure that is not used to support the provision of child care services (at the discretion of Halton Region).

Q: How can operators fund expenses that are deemed ineligible under CWELCC Guidelines? Can they be funded through non-base fees or fundraising initiatives?

A: Expenditures not supported with provincial and/or CWELCC funding may be supported with the portion of child care fees charged to parents by the operator (e.g. the 75% after a 25% rebate is provided) or other sources of funding.

The requirements for non-base fees are set out in regulation. Non-base fees include fees charged for optional items or services (e.g. transportation or field trips) or any fees charged pursuant to an agreement between the parent and the operator in respect of circumstances where the parent fails to meet the terms of the agreement (e.g. fees for picking up a child late, fees to obtain items that the parent agreed to provide for their

child but failed to provide). Operators cannot raise their non-base fees and base fees higher than the amount charged on March 27, 2022, unless a specific fee increase had already been communicated to parents/caregivers on or before that day. For operators who opt-in to the CWELCC System, future fee increases will be assessed for reasonableness.

Q: Will administration funding be available to support operators to meet Provincial and Regional requirements?

A: Operators are able to use up to 10% of their CWELCC funding allocation for administrative expenses (e.g., administrative staff costs and costs for audited financial statements). Administration costs will be reviewed for reasonableness as part of the Region's review process.

Q: Can operators write off interest or capital loans?

A: Interest expenses incurred on capital or operating loans, are ineligible expenses.

Q. Will franchise or royalty fees for operators be considered an eligible operating expense supported with CWELCC funding?

A. Halton Region will review operator expenses to determine reasonableness, including royalty fees required to be paid by operators who are franchisees.

Q: How will compensation be reviewed and considered for directors and managers who oversee multiple sites?

A: As part of the budget submission process, management salaries will be reviewed for eligibility and reasonableness. Operators must demonstrate that management salary expenditures are attributed to eligible licensed child care programs and not ineligible areas of business (e.g. in the case of multi-service agencies).

FUNDING POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Q: In assessing operators' budgets, what measures will the Region use to determine reasonableness of eligible expenses?

A: The Region will assess the reasonableness of expenses. This includes researching relevant comparables and alignment with fair market value. More details on the process will be available through the Regional CWELCC Guidelines.

Q: Will the Region require operators to maintain the CWELCC funding in a separate bank account? Will operators be required to show CWELCC funding in a separate section of their annual audit?

A: Operators will be required to report CWELCC funding separately. The Region is developing Regional CWELCC Guidelines that will provide more information about financial management and reporting requirements.

Q: What is the maximum allowable profit amount for operators each year?

A: The Region has not yet determined the threshold for allowable profit for for-profit/commercial operators. The Region is conducting research and engaging with other municipalities to determine an allowable profit threshold.

Q: Will operators receive funding in advance of their monthly invoice/billing cycle?

A: The Region recognizes that timely payment of CWELCC funding is required to support operators and their ongoing expenses. While the frequency of payments is still to be determined (e.g., monthly, bi-monthly), the Region will provide regular payments to support operators' cash flow.

Q: What happens if an operator has high staffing costs but low enrollment? If funding is allocated based on filled spaces, how does that account for the impact of the pandemic on enrollment?

A: As part of the ongoing administration for the CWELCC System, Halton Region will monitor staffing expenses and eligible child care enrollment. Where long-term vacancies are identified and not mitigated, funding may be adjusted. The Region recognizes enrollment may have been impacted by the pandemic and will consider each operators' unique circumstances.

Q: Operating costs increase over time with inflation. These costs are typically reflected in increased parent/caregiver fees. How will the Region support operator expenses with the decrease in revenue from parent/caregiver fees?

A: Funding provided to operators through the CWELCC will be based on annual operating expenses and will support the gap between the operator's actual eligible costs

and the reduction in base fees, net of other Regional/provincial funding and fee generated revenues. Funding will only be provided to support the costs associated with the operator's child care business for eligible children.

The Region will review each operator's budget to assess the reasonableness of eligible costs to determine their funding allocations.

Q: How will significant or unplanned expenditures be supported through CWELCC funding such as repairs and maintenance costs, renovations, and broken appliances?

A: Operators are permitted to maintain three months of reserve funding which can be used to cover unplanned expenditures such as repairs and maintenance and renovations.

Q: Will operators need to submit requests for purchases to Halton Region throughout the year, in advance of purchases being made (e.g. for play-based materials)?

A: The Region will review operator budgets at a line cost item level for reasonableness. Operators will not be required to submit requests for funding approval throughout the year. Operators are encouraged to become familiar with the list of eligible and ineligible expenses outlined in the CWELCC Guidelines. Operators are expected to manage their funding within their budget allocation, in accordance with the guidelines.

Q: What rate (market rate or municipal rate) will the Region use to fund operators enrolled in the CWELCC System?

A: Funding provided to operators through the CWELCC will be based on annual operating expenses and will support the gap between the operator's actual eligible costs and the reduction in base fees, net of other Regional/provincial funding and fee generated revenues). The Region will review operators' budgets to determine reasonableness and fair market value of expenses associated with the base fee.

Q: Can operators continue to access other funding sources (e.g. Federal Government Summer Student Program where funds are reimbursed for student salaries)? How would other funding impact CWELCC funding?

A: Yes, operators may still access other funding sources. Operators will be required to report other revenues to determine funding allocations to support the actual costs incurred in the portion of the operator's child care business for eligible children.

Further direction on revenue reporting requirements will be provided to operators in the Regional CWELCC Guidelines.

Q: Will CWELCC funding support operators to increase capacity (e.g. start-up costs, loan costs, interest on loans, maintenance and repair costs)?

A: The Province is phasing in the implementation of the CWELCC System.

The first phase focuses on improving affordability through reducing child care fees to \$10 a day by September 2025 and improving the quality of the workforce, including a wage floor to increase compensation for registered early childhood educators.

Phase two will include increasing access to child care through additional spaces, supporting inclusion, improving data, and reporting. The Province has committed to working with service system managers to inform phase two.

The Province is expected to provide start-up grants for a targeted number of spaces in identified high need areas. No further information about expansion and eligible start-up costs is available at this time.

Q: If operators close due to snowstorms or other forced or unexpected events, will CWELCC funding cover those days?

A: Regional CWELCC Guidelines are currently in development. Further direction on the regarding unexpected closures will be provided to operators in Regional CWELCC Guidelines.

Q: Will the Region require operators to reconcile CWELCC funding separately from other funding (e.g. Wage Enhancement Grant)?

A: Yes, CWELCC funding will need to be reconciled separately in 2022. The Region will look for opportunities to streamline financial reconciliation and reporting requirements to reduce burden for child care operators, where possible.

Q: If an operator does not currently receive General Operating Grant funding, can they apply now?

A: Yes, operators may apply for General Operating Grant funding. Operators must have a Child Care Service Management Agreement, which includes fee subsidy, to be eligible for General Operating Grant funding. General Operating Grant funding is allocated based on available funding and an operator's ability to meet the terms and conditions of the service agreement.

Q: How will CWELCC funding apply to before and after school care in a child care setting for 0-5 year olds?

A: Before and after school care in a licensed child care setting for eligible children aged 0-5 may be supported with CWELCC funding. Children who turn six before June 30 are eligible for fee reductions. Halton Region will work with operators as part of the application process to collect data on the types of programs offered for eligible children to support the development of funding allocations.

PARENT/CAREGIVER FEES AND REDUCTIONS

Q: Will all families with children in licensed child care receive a rebate for child care fees retroactive to April 1, 2022?

A: All Ontario families with children under the age of six, as well as children who turn six before June 30, including those receiving fee subsidies, in participating licensed child care will see a fee reduction of up to 25% (to a minimum of \$12 per day), retroactive to April 1, 2022, with a further reduction of up to 50% by the end of 2022.

Q: How much of a rebate will parents/caregivers receive?

A: Parents/caregivers with children under the age of six, as well as children who turn six before June 30, participating licensed child care will see a fee reduction of up to 25% (to a minimum of \$12 per day), retroactive to April 1, 2022.

Parents/caregivers can expect a further reduction by the end of December 2022 up to 50% on average. More information on this further reduction will be provided later.

Q: If an operator opts-in to the CWELCC System, when will parents/caregivers be reimbursed?

A: Operators must have a CWELCC agreement with the Region to receive funding. The Region is committed to working with operators to process agreements as quickly as possible, but this will take some time. It is anticipated that parents/caregivers will receive rebates in fall 2022. In accordance with regulation, operators must refund parents/caregivers within 60 days of enrollment in the CWELCC System.

Q: How long do operators need to freeze parent fees?

A: For licenses that were issued on or before March 27, 2022, operators must ensure that parents/caregivers of an eligible child are not charged a fee higher than the amount charged on March 27, 2022, unless the fee increase had already been communicated to parents/caregivers.

All licensed programs serving eligible children are subject to the fee freeze until one of two conditions is met:

- The operator notifies Halton Region, staff and the parents/caregivers of eligible children in writing that they are not participating in the CWELCC System this year and will not be subject to terms and conditions of the System; or,
- The operator participates in the CWELCC System and is subject to the regulatory rules for parent fees in participating programs (pursuant to O. Reg. 137/15 (s.77.4) made under the CCEYA).

Q: How are base fees defined?

A: Base fee means any fee or part of a fee that is charged in respect of a child for child care, including anything a licensee is required to provide under the CCEYA, or anything

the operator requires the parent to purchase from the operator, but does not include a non-base fee. For example, a base fee could include the daily rate the parent is required to pay for care, but would not include fees that are optional such as field trips or transportation (non-base fees).

Base fee information should be the fees as of March 27, 2022 and should be calculated on a daily basis (e.g. not on a partial day or hourly basis).

Q: What is a non-base fee?

A: A non-base fee is defined as any fees charged for optional items or optional services. Examples of expenses that are considered non-base fees include transportation or field trips, or any fees charged pursuant to an agreement between the parent and the operator in respect of circumstances where the parent fails to meet the terms of the agreement (e.g. fees for picking up a child late, fees to obtain items that the parent agreed to provide for their child but failed to provide), as defined in the CCEYA.

Q: Will Halton Region place controls on non-base fees and require operators to report on them?

A: The Region will require operators to report on non-base fees and will review the non-base fee for reasonability, which must be specific to 2022. Expense items included as part of non-base fees will be omitted when determining an operator's CWELCC allocation.

Q: Will parents/caregivers still be able to access the Ontario Child Care Tax Credit?

A: The Ontario Child Care Tax Credit (CARE tax credit) will continue to be available to support eligible parents/caregivers.

Q: Is there any communication available for parents/caregivers from the Region in regards to this process and when rebates and fee reduction milestones can be expected?

A: The Region has provided messaging for operators that can be shared with parents/caregivers to support understanding regarding timelines for implementation of the CWELCC in Halton. The Region will also provide updates to parents/caregivers and operators on [Halton.ca](https://www.halton.ca).

Q: Are full day and summer programs offered for Kindergarten age children subject to fee reductions?

A: The Region is seeking clarity from the Ministry of Education regarding eligibility for kindergarten age children in full day and summer programs.

Q: What if families have moved and operators cannot reach them to provide reimbursement? (e.g. if a family moves overseas).

A: Operators will be expected to make reasonable efforts to locate families to provide rebates. Regional Guidelines will address expectations for operators if rebates cannot be provided due to extenuating circumstances.

Q: What will be done to reduce school-age parent fees?

A: The Ministry of Education has indicated they will continue to monitor the impact of the CWELCC System on children aged 6-12.

Although the CWELCC investments for fee reductions are for children aged 0-5 years, the new workforce compensation through the CWELCC will support registered early childhood educators and supervisors in licensed programs serving children from birth to age 12 years.

WAGE COMPENSATION

Q: Which staff will be eligible for wage compensation funding?

A: Registered early childhood educator (RECE) program staff, RECE child care supervisors and RECE home child care visitors will be eligible for workforce compensation funding to bring them up to the wage floor, if their employer participates in the CWELCC System.

Non-Registered early childhood educators are not eligible for CWELCC workforce compensation. This includes staff that have Director Approval from the Province to meet the legislative requirement to have a RECE in the classroom. Halton Region recognizes the challenge this creates for child care operators and has shared concerns with the Ministry of Education.

Q: Why are Director Approved qualified staff or non-RECEs not included for CWELCC funding?

A: The Ministry of Education has defined eligible staff to receive workforce compensation funding. Halton Region continues to raise concerns regarding eligibility for wage compensation, the level of the wage floor, and the wage cap to the Ministry of Education.

Q: When will operators receive the wage floor funding for staff?

A: Halton Region will process operator applications as soon as possible to ensure operators can receive funding in a timely manner, but this will take some time. It is anticipated that operators enrolled in the CWELCC System will begin receiving funding in Fall 2022. The workforce compensation funding will be backdated for eligible staff to April 1, 2022

Q: How should CWELCC workforce compensation be reflected in staff's pay cheque? Will the Region require that staff receive a separate pay cheque or identify CWELCC workforce compensation on a separate line on the pay stub?

A: Operators must include CWELCC workforce compensation payments in each pay cheque or payment made. Workforce compensation may not be paid at the end of the year as a lump sum payment.

Halton Region will develop local procedures for the transparent distribution of CWELCC funds by operators. Further details will be outlined in the Regional CWELCC Guidelines.

Q. Are staff benefits included in the base fee?

A. Workforce compensation funding will include up to 17.5% in benefits to support operators in meeting their statutory benefit requirement. Once all statutory benefit requirements are met, including up to two weeks of vacation and nine statutory days, any remaining funding within 17.5 per cent can be used to fund other benefit expenses paid by the employer on behalf of the employee.

Q: Are there early childhood educator qualification upgrade programs available for staff who are not registered early childhood educators (e.g. Montessori Teachers)?

A: Staff who are not currently RECEs and wish to upgrade may consider the RECE qualification upgrade programs and grants supported by the Province. Further information can be found here: <https://ecegrants.on.ca/qualifications-upgrade/>.

Q: What other initiatives are underway to support the recruitment and retention of registered early childhood educators in Halton?

A: Last Fall, the Ministry of Education announced a one-time Federal investment as part of the Canada-Ontario Early Childhood Workforce Agreement to support the retention and recruitment of a high quality, child care and early years workforce. Key objectives of this funding are to:

- **Sustain** the existing child care and early years workforce to ensure a more stable and high-quality early years and child care system.
- **Enhance** access to opportunities for the workforce that promote retention and recruitment, including professional development, training, and qualification upgrade programs.
- **Grow** the number of qualified staff in the early years and child care workforce to increase access to high quality licensed child care for families.
- **Attract** and support the development of an increasingly diverse workforce to more effectively reflect the children and families accessing early years and child care programs.

Halton Region, in collaboration with community partners, is working towards achieving these important outcomes for our early years and child care sector through a number of initiatives.

Priorities for this funding include the development of a professional learning strategy that includes two professional learning days for eligible staff (provincial requirement), mentorship opportunities, and recruitment and retention strategies. Key actions already underway include the planning of two professional learning days for all staff in licensed centres, licensed home child care and EarlyON, modernization of Halton Region's early years and child care quality framework, and increasing the number of ECE graduates.

FEE SUBSIDY

Q: How will families in receipt of fee subsidy be impacted by the CWELCC System?

A: Fee subsidy continues to be an important part of making child care affordable for families in Halton and will be maintained in the CWELCC System. Eligibility will continue to be determined using the income test set out by the Ministry of Education.

Families in receipt of fee subsidy with children under the age of six are eligible for a 25% reduction of their parental contribution. This reduction will only apply to those families that attend an operator that has opted in and enrolled in the CWELCC System. Families will not see a reduction if their operator does not participate in the CWELCC System. Where a family is attending a centre that has not enrolled in the CWELCC System, they will remain a fee subsidy recipient.

Q: Will the Region be aligning the fee subsidy rate with the market rate?

A: No decision has been made at this time regarding adjusting the fee subsidy rate in 2022. The Region recognizes the challenge for operators in having a fee subsidy rate that is different from the market rate. Through the CWELCC Guidelines, the Province has introduced a limit on the Region's fee subsidy spending this year, which poses an additional challenge for adjusting fee subsidy rates. We are committed to looking at options to address these challenges. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Q: If an operator does not currently have a fee subsidy agreement with Halton Region, can they apply now?

A: An operator can request to enter into a new purchase of service agreement for fee subsidy. Approval to participate will be subject to the ability of the operator to meet the terms and conditions of the agreement, and the availability of funding.

LICENSED HOME CHILD CARE

Q: Parent fees charged by licensed home child care operators can be different for privately placed children and those placed by the agency. Which rate will be compensated?

A: Halton Region will be developing Regional CWELCC Guidelines, which will detail requirements for rebates for privately placed children. Licensed home child care agencies will be engaged to inform Regional CWELCC Guidelines for licensed home child care.

Q: How does CWELCC funding support base funding? For example, will licensed home child care agencies be funded directly for all of their costs and therefore not need to charge an administrative rate to operators?

A: CWELCC funding will be in addition to any licensed home child care base funding. The Region will review operating costs and revenues for licensed home child care agency applicants to the CWELCC System to determine reasonableness of administrative expenses.

Q: CWELCC funding is based on licensed capacity and not current capacity. How can licensed home child care agencies access this funding to be able to recruit additional licensed home providers?

A: CWELCC funding is to support actual operating costs associated with current capacity levels. Halton Region will monitor and make funding adjustments, as needed.

Q: How can licensed home child care agencies guarantee/maintain licensed spaces when providers are free to leave the agency causing a reduction of the number of spaces?

A: Operators will be required to report on capacity on a monthly basis so adjustments can be made to account for changes such as when a provider leaves an agency.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Child Care Operator Webinar Recording Link:

[CWELCC Operator Webinar Recording](#)

Halton Region Child Care Services Inbox for additional questions:

childcareservices@halton.ca

APPENDIX

Base fees for Halton Region as defined under [O. Reg. 137/15](#) are summarized below:

Child Care Centre Daily Fees for Full-Day Programs

Service Area	Licensed infant group	Licensed toddler group	Licensed preschool group	Licensed kindergarten group	Licensed school age group	Licensed family age group
Regional Municipality of Halton	\$81.48	\$64.96	\$61.46	\$65.57	\$65.57	\$64.96

Child Care Centre Daily Fees for Before and After School Programs

Service Area	Kindergarten	School Age
Regional Municipality of Halton	\$28.06	\$25.86

Home Child Care Daily Fees for Full-Day Programs

Service Area	Younger than 2 years	2-3 years	4-6 years
Regional Municipality of Halton	\$49.84	\$47.69	\$47.20

Home Child Care Daily Fees for Before and After School Programs

Service Area	4-5 years	6-12 years
Regional Municipality of Halton	\$33.86	\$36.48