



December 13, 2021

Social & Community Services  
Department  
Children's Services  
690 Dorval Drive 5th Floor  
Oakville ON L6K 3X9

**Re: Funding Update: December 2021**

Dear Service Provider,

Halton Region recognizes the financial challenges that many early years and child care service providers are facing as a result of COVID-19. I am writing to provide you with a reminder of funding available to address COVID-19 related costs.

**COVID-19 SUPPORT FUNDING**

In 2021, The Region provided COVID-19 Support Funding to offset COVID-19 eligible expenses. On October 29, 2021, in the memo *Update on Child Care COVID-19 Support Funding*, I shared information regarding additional COVID-19 Support Funding available this fall. Regional staff are finalizing the review of funding applications and licensed based allocations. Additional information regarding allocations to service providers will be sent in the near future. As a reminder, this funding is the result of a reallocation of existing funding. The Province has not allocated new funding to support COVID-19 related costs. Halton Region continues to advocate to the Ministry of Education for additional funding and support for the early years and child care sector.

**GENERAL OPERATING GRANT (GOG)**

As noted in the 2021 GOG User Guide, the priority of GOG is to improve staff wages and benefits. Recognizing the many contributions of our early childhood educators is important. Service providers are responsible for the calculation and distribution of GOG to staff. GOG must be issued to all eligible staff, based on hours worked and cannot be used for bonuses/gifts/honoraria. The GOG distribution must be transparent and equitable, consistent with the service provider's GOG policy. Please refer to the GOG User Guide, 2021, for further detail regarding the funding guidelines.

On April 12, 2021, in the memo *2020 Reconciliation Update*, I share that the Region approved time-limited flexibility in the GOG funding guidelines to support the early years and child care sector. In 2021, service providers can use up to 30% of their GOG allocation to support eligible operating costs. The objective of this flexibility is to allow unused GOG funds to be applied towards operating costs, which have increased as a result of COVID-19. This flexibility remains in effect until December 31, 2021. If after applying this flexibility, service providers continue to have unspent GOG, service providers may consider recalculating the GOG distribution to eligible staff for 2021. All GOG allocations to staff must be in accordance with the funding guidelines.

**Regional Municipality of Halton**

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No decisions regarding ongoing flexibility in the GOG funding guidelines for 2022 have been made at this time. The Region will review child care service providers' 2021 GOG reconciliation submissions and make a decision regarding continuing the time limited GOG flexibility. The 2021 GOG reconciliation material will be distributed in early 2022.

Please contact Swati Garrett, Senior Program Analyst, at [Swati.Garrett@halton.ca](mailto:Swati.Garrett@halton.ca), with questions regarding the information above.

Thank you for your continued commitment to children and families in Halton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Palinski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandy Palinski  
Director, Children's Services

cc: Samantha Jackson, Manager, Systems Planning and Evaluation  
Donette Phillips, Manager, Direct Child Care Services  
Catherine Wills, Manager, Children's Developmental Services