

Expression of Interest – CWELCC Child Care Space Expansion

On March 27, 2022, Ontario reached a \$13.2 billion agreement with the federal government for a Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system. The new system will lower child care costs and improve access, quality and inclusion across Ontario's child care and early years sector.

Child Care is foundational to supporting early childhood development, learning, well-being, and student success. It is also a key enabler of workforce participation, particularly for women, both as parents and providers.

Ontario's Action Plan for implementing CWELCC includes developing a framework for targeted space creation and providing funding to support the creation of new, affordable child care spaces for eligible children in targeted locations and for populations most in need. Under the CWELCC Agreement, Ontario will support the creation of approximately 86,000 new licensed child care spaces by December 2026.

To support the CWELCC vision, the Ministry of Education has provided funding to the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) to create 129 new affordable licensed child care spaces in neighborhoods with populations who need them most. To date the DSSAB has created 99 new child care spaces as per our Directed Growth Plan. The DSSAB has an allocation of 30 new child care spaces to be created in 2026.

The new licensed child care spaces include a mix of not-for-profit and for-profit centre and home-based settings to provide families with choice and flexibility. Under the agreement, Ontario has committed to maintaining or improving the proportion of not-for-profit licensed child care spaces for children aged 0 to 5 at 70% or higher by 2026. In the District of Parry Sound, 92% of licensed child care spaces for children in this age group are currently operated on a not-for-profit basis.

The province has created two funding programs to support the creation of new CWELCC child care spaces as approved by the DSSAB in alignment with their Directed Growth Plan. Eligible Operators may apply for funding under these programs;

1. Start- Up Grant Funding

Start-up grants support the creation of new licensed full day spaces for children under age six in targeted neighborhoods for underserved communities and populations.



Eligible centre-based applicants can receive a grant of up to \$350,000 for every 20 child care spaces created. Eligible home child care licensees can receive grants of up to \$1,200 per CWELCC space created, to a maximum of \$7,200 per provider.

Licensed child care programs for kindergarten and school-aged children and before and after school programs are not eligible for start-up grants funding.

2. Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Funding

The ELCC Infrastructure Fund supports the creation of new full day spaces for children 0 to 4 years of age for not-for-profit licensed child care centres enrolled in CWELCC. This funding aligns with Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework and complements the Start-up Grant program.

Eligible centre-based applicants can receive up to \$1,500,000 for the creation of new full day child care spaces serving children 0 to 4 years of age.

Licensed home child care agencies and licensees operating for-profit child care centres, as well as licensees operating school-based child care centres, are not eligible to receive ELCC Infrastructure Fund funding.

For further details on Start-up Grants and ELCC Infrastructure Funding, please refer to Chapter 5, Part 1 of the Guidelines and the DSSAB Policy for Start-Up Grant Funding.

https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Child%20Care/Guidelines/Ch.EN/Chapter5_EN.pdf

Application Process

The DSSAB has developed an Expression of Interest (EOI) application to ensure a transparent and equitable approval process. The EOI aims to identify licensed child care service providers — either currently operating or proposing to operate — within the District of Parry Sound who are interested in creating new CWELCC-funded, community-based licensed child care spaces by December 31, 2026, with a focus on priority neighborhoods and priority populations.

The DSSAB is inviting applications from applicants interested in creating up to 30 child care spaces in the district under the CWELCC System. This expansion could be achieved by adding additional spacing into an existing child care space or by opening a new location. Funding is available to support the new spaces up to maximum amounts for



eligible applicants. Applicants who are approved to move on to the next stage will be eligible to apply for funding to support the creation of the new spaces.

This EOI invites applicants to complete an application for proposed new licensed child care spaces. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the assessment criteria found in Appendix A. Carefully review the instructions below before completing the application. Applicants approved to move to the next stage will engage in discussions with the DSSAB and will be required to provide operational and capital budget information to the DSSAB. Projects must demonstrate financial viability. Funding to support the operation of eligible spaces is available through the application of the cost-based funding formula as per Ministry guidelines.

Interested service providers must submit a completed EOI to the DSSAB Children's Services Manager at ccsm@psdssab.org for review and assessment of funding eligibility. Receipt of the EOI will be confirmed by email.

Instructions

1. Complete all questions in the CWELCC Space Expansion Application template.
2. All sections of the form must be completed for the Application to be considered for funding. **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**
3. The proposal must be signed by the person with financial signing authority according to the By-Laws of the incorporated body, otherwise it will be deemed incomplete.
4. Applications will be reviewed, and applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of their application. All assessment criteria as outlined in Appendix A will be assessed in accordance with the parameters for the child care centres and the identified needs of the priority neighborhood. All decisions regarding funding are final.
5. If you are a successful applicant, you will be notified and invited to move to the next step in the approval process. This may include applying for Start-Up Grant Funding and/or ELCC Infrastructure Funding.
6. Participation in the CWELCC System and entering into a Purchase of Service agreement with the DSSAB for the provision of Fee Subsidy and CWELCC funding is required. Agreements will be established exclusively with licensed child care service providers.

Expression of Interest – CWELCC Child Care Space Expansion Application Form

Section 1: Child Care Licensee Basic Information *insert required information in blue cells*

Application Date:	License Number:
Licensee Legal Name:	
Child Care Centre or Home Child Care Agency Name (if different from above):	
Licensee Street Address:	City/Postal Code:
Type of Licensee <i>(please check one)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Individual	Auspice: <i>(Please check one)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit <input type="checkbox"/> For-profit
Contact Name: <i>(First, Last)</i>	Position Title:
Business Telephone Number:	Business Email:
Type of Program <i>(if applicable):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous <i>(off-reserve)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Francophone	Existing Service Agreement with DSSAB: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Licensee enrolled in CWELCC System: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Section 2: Proposed Child Care Expansion Information

Type of service: <i>(Please check one)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Centre-Based <input type="checkbox"/> Home-Based	
Do you have a Location: <i>If yes please provide address in the blue field below</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Address:	
Site Information <i>(if applicable):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Expansion of physical space at existing site <input type="checkbox"/> New Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> New Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown (not sure yet) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>please specify</i> _____	



Indicate the funding you will need to support the project? (if applicable):	
<input type="checkbox"/> ELCC Infrastructure Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Start-Up Grant Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Operational Funding	
Licensed Capacity:	Operating Capacity:
For Centres Number of New Rooms:	For Home Child Care Number of New Homes:
Anticipated Date of completion <i>(date spaces will be open and operational must be before December 31, 2026)</i>	

Section 3: Anticipated New Spaces *Must accommodate a maximum group size for each age group – Infant 10, Toddler 15, Preschool 24*

Age Group	Number of Spaces
Infant (Younger than 18 months)	
Toddler (18 months or older but younger than 30 months)	
Preschool (30 months or older but younger than 6 years)	
Kindergarten (44 months or older but younger than 7 years)	
Family Age Grouping (Centre Based)	
Family Age Grouping Home child care (maximum 6 children)	
TOTAL	

Section 4: Priority Populations for Anticipated New Spaces

<p>The proposed new spaces will serve one or more of the following priority populations <i>(check all that apply)</i></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Children living in low-income <input type="checkbox"/> Children with exceptional or differing needs <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous children <input type="checkbox"/> Black or other racialized children <input type="checkbox"/> Francophone children <input type="checkbox"/> Children of newcomers to Canada <input type="checkbox"/> Families needing non-standard hours of care (weekends, evenings, overnight) </p>
<p>Please provide a brief description of how this expansion project will create new full day child care spaces for one or more of the priority populations indicated above:</p>

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Section 5: Additional Information

Please describe the level of readiness of the proposed child care program
Provide any additional information related to your application.

I hereby certify that all information provided in this submission is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate in all respects.

Authorized Signing Officer:	Signature:	Date: yyyy-mm-dd
Name: First, last		

Thank you for taking the time to complete the EOI Application for CWELCC Space Expansion and Start-Up funding.

Notice of the Collection of Personal Information

The District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board collects personal information under the legal authority of the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, S.O. 2014, Chapter 11, Schedule 1, s 71 (1). The information is used to determine eligibility for CWELCC , ELCC Infrastructure Funding, Start-Up Grants and other child care funding opportunities where applicable (i.e. General Operating Grant, Fee Subsidy)

Appendix A: Assessment Criteria

Assessment of the Proposal

The following criteria will be assessed using the indicators outlined in this chart to assign an individual score for each category area. The total scores in each category are then weighted to equal 100 points, as follows:

Item	Points
Complete Application (must be a complete application to be considered)	0
A) Access = 25 points	/25
Item	Points
Enrolled in CWELCC System	/5
Demonstrated ability to fill child care spaces	/5
Commitment to provide non-standard hours of care (early morning, evenings, weekends, overnight)	/10
Proposed Spaces Age Group: Spaces maximize age grouping for children under 5 years	/5
B) Operational Preparedness= 40 points	/40
Item	Points
Demonstrated good governance and strong organizational leadership	/10
Demonstrated administrative strength	/10
Demonstrated knowledge and experience of applicant	/10
Readiness – commitment to be operational prior to December 31, 2026 will be given greater weighting	/10
C) Inclusion = 35 points	/35
Item	Points
Ability to support priority populations – weighting will be based on the number of priority populations targeted	/25
Type of Provider/Licensee: The DSSAB is required to maintain the auspice ratio as determined by the province.	/10
TOTAL SCORE (A + B + C)	/100