



	REPORT No.: 2019-17
MEETING DATE: MARCH 21, 2019	DATE PREPARED: FEBRUARY 26, 2019
SUBJECT: CHILD CARE EXPANSION FUNDING FINAL UPDATE	

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2019-17 (Client Services Division), we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, approve the final report of the Expansion Funding, and the Canada Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Funding as presented.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with a final update relative to the 2018 Expansion Funding, and the Canada Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Funding Work Plan.

BACKGROUND

In June 2017, the Ministry of Education introduced additional funding (Expansion Funding) to service system managers to expand child care opportunities in their communities for children from birth to 4 years of age. The additional funding must be allocated for one or more of the following priorities:

- To support additional fee subsidy; and/or,
- To increase access to child care spaces; or,
- If these two priorities cannot be met due to local circumstance, broadly reducing licensed child care fees, and increasing affordability.

TBDSSAB was eligible for a Provincial allocation of \$1,254,752, related to this Expansion Funding.

In addition to the Provincial commitment, TBDSSAB was eligible for an allocation of \$784,179 from the Government of Canada (through Ontario). This Federal funding, the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement funding, can be used for children, from birth to 12 years of age, to further support additional fee subsidies and increased access to licensed child care.

For children, from birth to 6 years of age, this funding can also be used to create, and support, new not-for-profit community-based capital projects, excluding capital projects

for child care programs which run during school hours for kindergarten and school-aged children.

At its July 2017 meeting, the Board approved Report No. 2017-52 (Child Care Expansion Plan Priorities and Before and After School Recreation Program Support), which approved the allocated funding, with a further report required to identify details related to the utilization of the Expansion Funding.

At its October 2017 meeting, the Board approved Report No. 2017-72 (Child Care Expansion Work Plan), with the details for the utilization of the year 2017 Expansion Funding.

At its April 2018 meeting, the Board approved Report No. 2018-26 (Child Care Expansion Work Plan - Update), which highlighted the Expression of Interest issued in February 2018 to all current child care operators to identify any opportunities to expand within existing licensed capacity.

At its August 2018 meeting, the Board approved Report No. 2018-57 (Child Care Expansion Update), which highlighted the Expression of Interest issued in July 2018 to the community partners.

Due to the timing of the receipt of funding and the strategic allocation of funds to maximize these funding opportunities, \$1,516,144 of the Expansion Funding (Provincial and Federal) was carried forward into 2018; and an additional \$3,480,727 Expansion Funding (Provincial and Federal) was allocated to TBDSSAB for 2018, for a total of \$4,996,871.

COMMENTS

To ensure maximum exposure and opportunity to expand the Child Care system throughout the District of Thunder Bay, Administration worked through three phases:

Phase I

Administration worked with expansion plans already in progress due to TBDSSAB's strategies to enhance occupancy. As a result, during 2018, the child care service system expanded by:

Age Group	Spaces
Infants	9
Preschoolers	13
School Age	18
Total New Spaces	40

Phase II

Administration engaged with all Child Care Operators to discuss expansion funding and options. Once this had taken place, an official Expression of Interest (EOI) was sent to all current Child Care Operators. As a result, six proposals were received, which were presented to the Board at the April 2018 meeting.

The six proposals received had the potential to expand the child care system by the following:

Age Group	Spaces
Infant	27
Toddler	50
Preschool	40

Of these six proposals, two could not move forward because they would have required B6 Capital funding from the Ministry of Education that was not available. One could not move forward because the timeline for expending the funding could not be met. One withdrew their expression of interest because of the lack of available qualified staff. One withdrew because they could not secure contractors to do work.

Phase III

In July 2018, an Expression of Interest (EOI) for child care expansion was broadened to include community partners.

Similar to Phase II, The EOI requested the following information:

- Program description and details, with a focus on expansion for the age group “from birth to 4 years old”;
- Relevant financial information to demonstrate sustainability;
- Resources required, if any, to start up; and
- Any other risk management information.

In response to this request, Administration received one submission for possible expansion:

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, 2040 Walsh Street East, Thunder Bay

Expand the Hyde Park School Central location to meet the needs of Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation members living in Thunder Bay, who have identified the need for child care programs and services in Thunder Bay which focus on the Anishinaabe language and traditional practices. The proposed increase in capacity is:

Age Group	Spaces
Infants	6
Toddlers	10
Preschoolers	16
Total New Spaces	32

Administration has engaged with Lac des Mille Lac and has moved forward with this expansion.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A total of \$4,996,871 is available to TBDSSAB for child care expansion plans (\$1,516,144 of Provincial and Federal funding carryover from 2017, and \$3,480,727 in new 2018 funding).

The total of \$214,400 was utilized for the child care expansion in 2018, as well as a 10% (\$104,557) carry over from the ELCC into 2019. All other funding was recovered by the Ministry of Education.

The actual level of utilization of the Expansion Funding will be based on the final negotiations relative to the submissions. All amounts will be allocated to maximize the funding opportunities for TBDSSAB.

As these allocations are 100% Federally/Provincially funded, there is no net cost to TBDSSAB related to this Expansion Funding.

CONCLUSION



It is concluded that Administration, worked extensively to enhance access to licensed child care spaces, however with the lack of qualified educators to work within the child care system, the system could only manage a minimal expansion. Administration will be including recruitment and retention of Early Childhood Educators as one of the priorities for the 5-year Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan.

The Final increase in child care capacity is:

Age Group	Spaces
Infants	15
Toddlers	10
Preschoolers	29
School Age	18
Total New Spaces	72

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

None.

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