



	<b>REPORT No.: 2020-38</b>
<b>MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2020</b>	<b>DATE PREPARED: AUGUST 27, 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT: FEDERAL SAFE RESTART FUNDING</b>	

### **RECOMMENDATION**

For information only.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with an overview of the Federal Safe Restart Funding, a shared commitment by the Ontario and Federal governments to ensure a safe, sufficient and adequate supply of child care is available to support the gradual return to work of parents as the economy reopens.

### **BACKGROUND**

On August 14, 2020, TBDSSAB received a memo from the Ministry of Education announcing the Federal Safe Restart Funding (SRF) initiative. With contributions from the federal and provincial governments, the SRF will provide \$234.6M in new funding in Ontario and will complement existing provincial investments to help parents, families and communities so that parents can return to work with confidence.

The SRF will be provided through CMSMs and DSSABs for child care and EarlyON, and the investment will consist of two components:

- Funding will be used by the Province to procure and deliver face coverings directly to operators and licensed home child care agencies across Ontario in order to comply with the Ministry's reopening operational guidance.
- In addition to face coverings, funding will be provided through CMSMs and DSSABs to operators which can be used for additional personal protective equipment (PPE), enhanced cleaning, additional staff to meet health and safety requirements, support for short term vacancies as operators transition to return to full capacity, and minor capital required in accordance with the Ministry's reopening operational guidance or local public health requirements.

**COMMENTS**

Under the SRF, TBDSSAB has been provided an allocation of \$1,800,039. This funding was allocated to CMSMs and DSSABs proportionally based on their 2020 child care and EarlyON allocations.

Administration will communicate with all child care and EarlyON operators, that Federal Safe Restart funding will be made available in early fall. A template will be developed for service providers to submit a business case for this funding, based on the criteria outlined by the Ministry of Education. Reporting requirements will be outlined to enable TBDSSAB to provide detailed information to the Ministry.

TBSSAB will be required to track and monitor expenditures as well as service data including the number of licensed child care centres and licenced spaces, the number of EarlyON Child and Family Centres and the number of licensed home child care agencies and homes supported by SRF. TBDSSAB will report back on SRF as part of the 2020 Financial Statement submissions in the Education Finance Information System (EFIS).

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Federal Safe Restart Funding initiative is a 100% federal/provincially funded program. TBDSSAB has been notified that it is eligible to receive \$1,800,039 to assist child care and EarlyON operators return to full operation.



TBDSSAB is eligible to use up to 10 per cent of the approved funding allocation for administration costs.

**CONCLUSION**

It is concluded that this report provides the Board with information relative to the Federal Safe Restart Funding and Administration’s plans for supports offered to child care and EarlyON program operators throughout the District of Thunder Bay.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED**

None

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