



**THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NO. 2025-002 EOI

**Expansion of
Licensed
Not for Profit
Child Care
Spaces**

for

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

Expansion of Licensed Not for Profit Child Care Spaces

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from not-for-profit organizations wishing to create licensed child care spaces for the expansion of child care within the District of Thunder Bay.

Responses to this EOI received by TBDSSAB will be considered for funding opportunities through the Early Learning Child Care (ELCC) Infrastructure Funding that supports not-for-profit licensed child care centres in alignment with Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework and may complement the Start Up Grant program in 2025/26.

TBDSSAB would like to hear from respondents with ideas, concepts, or specific responses to create child care spaces in communities throughout the District of Thunder Bay.

TBDSSAB would like to hear from interested not-for-profit organizations with dedication to ensuring quality programming, design ideas that support environments that consider children first and ways to support the enhancement of the child care community with the addition of the new child care spaces throughout the District of Thunder Bay.

TBDSSAB will review all EOI's and determine the need and the general viability of proposals.

TBDSSAB reserves the right to reject all EOI's and take no further action.

Submission Requirements

Eligible projects must be one of the following:

- Affordable new construction to expand child care
- Affordable rental acquisition and, where required, rehabilitation of existing buildings to increase child care spaces
- New permanent facility or expansion of a current space or construction project in-progress to increase child care capacity.

Projects that are not eligible include:

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 clarity, infrastructure projects for licensed child care programs for kindergarten and school-aged children and before and after school programs are not eligible for ELCC Infrastructure Fund funding.

Preferences

Preference will be given to responses that incorporate energy efficiency measures, positive design, and align with Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework.

While all responses to this EOI will be considered, TBDSSAB would prefer projects which are construction ready:

- Building site is acquired
- Zoning is in place
- Financial viability has been proven
- Provided by a not-for-profit licensee
- Centre-based
- Community-based.
- Approved for enrolment in the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system
- Aligned with CMSM's/TBDSSAB's Directed Growth Plan
- Supports children aged 0 to 4 (excluding children eligible to attend junior kindergarten)
- Supportive of inclusion for underserved communities including:
 - Communities in rural and remote regions
 - Communities in high-cost urban areas
 - Communities with low-income households
 - Communities with barriers to access (for example, Black and other racialized communities; Indigenous communities; communities with newcomers; communities with parents, caregivers, and children with disabilities; official language minority communities including Francophone children)
 - Communities requiring child care during non-standard hours.

Direct Growth Plan Provincial Allocation

School-based Spaces				
	2024	2025	2026	Total
Original	0	0	0	0
Recalibration	0	78	0	78

Community-based Spaces				
	2024	2025	2026	Total
Original	53	56	30	139
Recalibration	53	18	47	118

The province has provided TBDSSAB with 62 more spaces in total between 2024-2026

TBDSSAB will also give priority to responses which commit to the following:

- Continue operating in the facility for at least 7 years after opening the new child care spaces (that is, from the first day of operation)
- Participate in the CWELCC system for at least 7 years after opening the new child care spaces (that is, from the first day of operation)

- Spend the ELCC Infrastructure Fund funding from the date of the service agreement between the licensee and CMSM/TBDSSAB is executed to December 31, 2026 (that is, the licensee must spend the funding by December 31, 2026)
- Prioritize the creation of new licensed, full-day child care spaces that support inclusion in the following underserved communities:
 - rural and remote regions
 - high-cost urban areas
 - low-income households
 - communities with barriers to access (for example, Black and other racialized communities; Indigenous communities; communities with newcomers; communities with parents, caregivers, and children with disabilities; official language minority communities including Francophone children)
 - communities requiring child care during non-standard hours
 - Support infrastructure projects for children 0 to 4 years (excluding children eligible to attend junior kindergarten), and
 - Have a purchase of service agreement with the CMSM/TBDSSAB and be eligible to receive fee subsidy payments from the CMSM/TBDSSAB.

Submission Details

What to Include in Responding to the Expression of Interest:

- The name of the respondent and the key contact information (phone number, fax number, mailing and e-mail addresses)
- The respondents experience in childcare development
- The location/address of the proposed site (if known)
- Zoning of the site (including any information as to the need for rezoning, minor variances, etc.)
- The environmental status of the land (include a copy of a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment, if completed)
- Overall vision of the proposed new spaces, including program implementation
- The number and type of space expansion offered for the program
- Proposed timing of construction start
- The proposed financial proforma including relevant revenue and expense detail
- Proposed staffing structure
- A preliminary capital budget with proponent contribution and operating budget
- Mortgage financing details (if known)
- Any relevant partnerships (other agencies, supports, other program funding).

Review Criteria

TBDSSAB will review submissions based on the following:

- Value for money
- Community need
- Readiness for development
- Financial sustainability.

TBDSSAB may, as a result of the EOI, decide to proceed directly to negotiate a contract with a respondent (though obtaining a pool of responses for future development is also a goal).

TBDSSAB reserves the right to reject all EOI's and take no further action.

Submission Deadline

Expressions of Interest are to be addressed to:

**The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
231 May Street South
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B5**

and should be received by 4:00 p.m. local time on June 13, 2025.

An Expression of Interest may be submitted by email to the contact person named below, or it may be sent to the address specified above by mail or delivered by courier, in each case prior to the closing time.

Dave Stewart
Supervisor, Purchasing & Inventory Control
david.stewart@tbdssab.ca

Questions

All questions/inquiries related to this EOI shall be directed in writing via electronic mail to Dave Stewart, Supervisor Purchasing and Inventory Control as per contact information listed above.

Any information provided by anyone other than the above-mentioned will not be considered binding, nor will it change the requirements of this EOI.

Late Expression of Interest

TBDSSAB, may in its discretion, accept, or reject and return any EOI received after the closing time.

Lack of Information

Following receipt of an EOI, TBDSSAB may, in its sole discretion and without having any duty or obligation to do so, request that the respondent provide TBDSSAB with additional information to clarify or substantiate the information provided by the respondent.

If a respondent fails to provide information required for TBDSSAB evaluation of the respondent's qualifications or fails to provide timely clarification or substantiation of the information supplied, that failure may result in no further consideration being given to the EOI.

Confidentiality

All information collected and discussed regarding the above EOI, are to be kept private and confidential between the respondent and TBDSSAB. No public disclosures to any third party, are to take place unless agreed upon by both parties.