



Child Care and Early Years Update

TBDSSAB Board Meeting
October 16, 2025

Presented by:

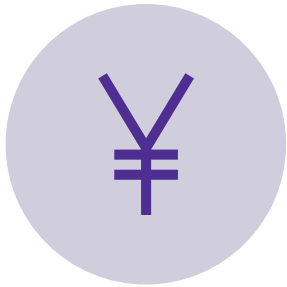
Dawnette Hoard, Manager, Child Care and Early Years Programs

Michelle Wojciechowski, Manager, Intake and Eligibility



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

Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Update



January 1, 2025 - CWELCC was updated with a new Cost-Based Funding formula by the Ministry with new guidelines for eligibility and a shift from a revenue-based funding to a cost-based funding approach



March 31, 2025 – TBDSSAB was provided with newly recalibrated Direct Growth Targets for 2025 and 2026



Early Learning Child Care Infrastructure Funding, new funding to support the expansion and growth of the CWELCC spaces was provided by the Ministry



Capacity Building Process began in September 2023 and is continuing into this year as a measure to support programs by ensuring high quality standards



Service System Profile

Program	2025
Licensed Child Care Centres	24 service providers 50 locations
EarlyON Child and Family Centres	12 service providers 22 locations
Special Needs Resourcing	1 service provider
Licensed Home Child Care	1 agency 7 licensed homes



Direct Growth Plan Update



196 New Licensed Child Care Spaces by December 2026 or sooner



New partnerships to be announced once service agreements are signed as well as expansion from programs with current service agreements



New funding provided through the Ministry through Start Up Grants, Capital Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Funding and Innovation Funding Proposals



Professional Learning Plans



In May, a Saturday event was held in partnership with the Confederation College ECE faculty, the Children and Family Centre, and Dr. Edward Rawana from Lakehead University NOSM



A full day professional learning session is planned for October 24 for the District of Thunder Bay Child Care and EarlyON sector



Currently in discussion to provide an online speaker series to be available to all educators in partnership with some regional DSSABs



An evening session for all families within the licensed child care programs will be held in early November

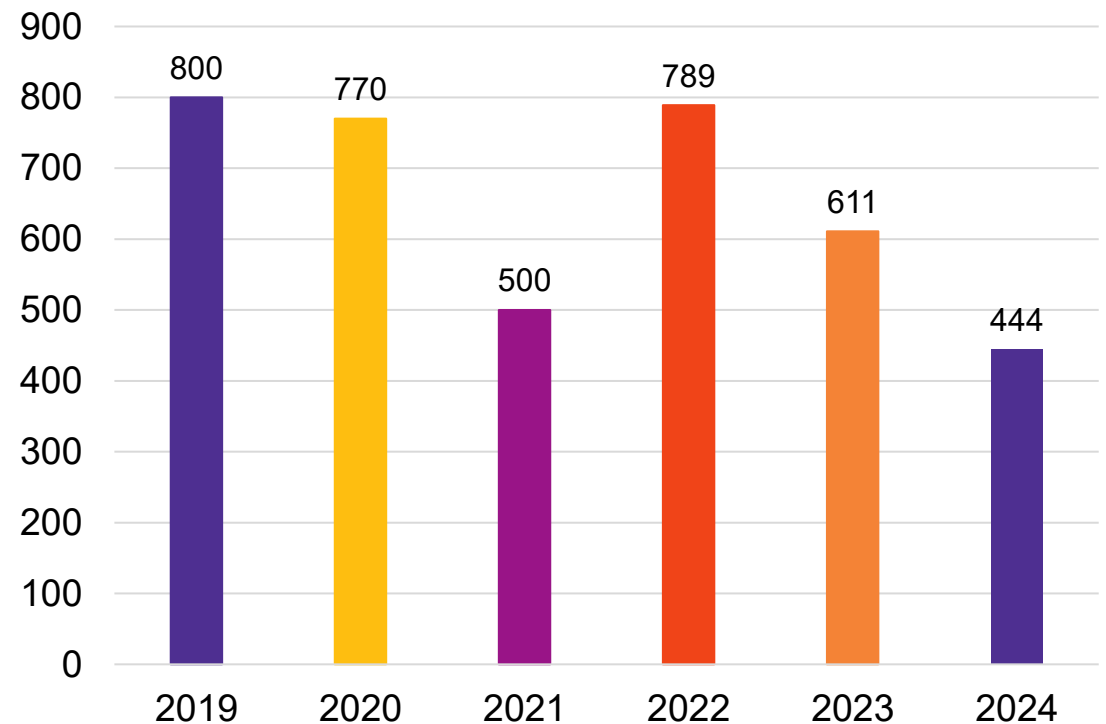


Child Care Fee Subsidy

TBDSSAB Child Care Workers are responsible for:

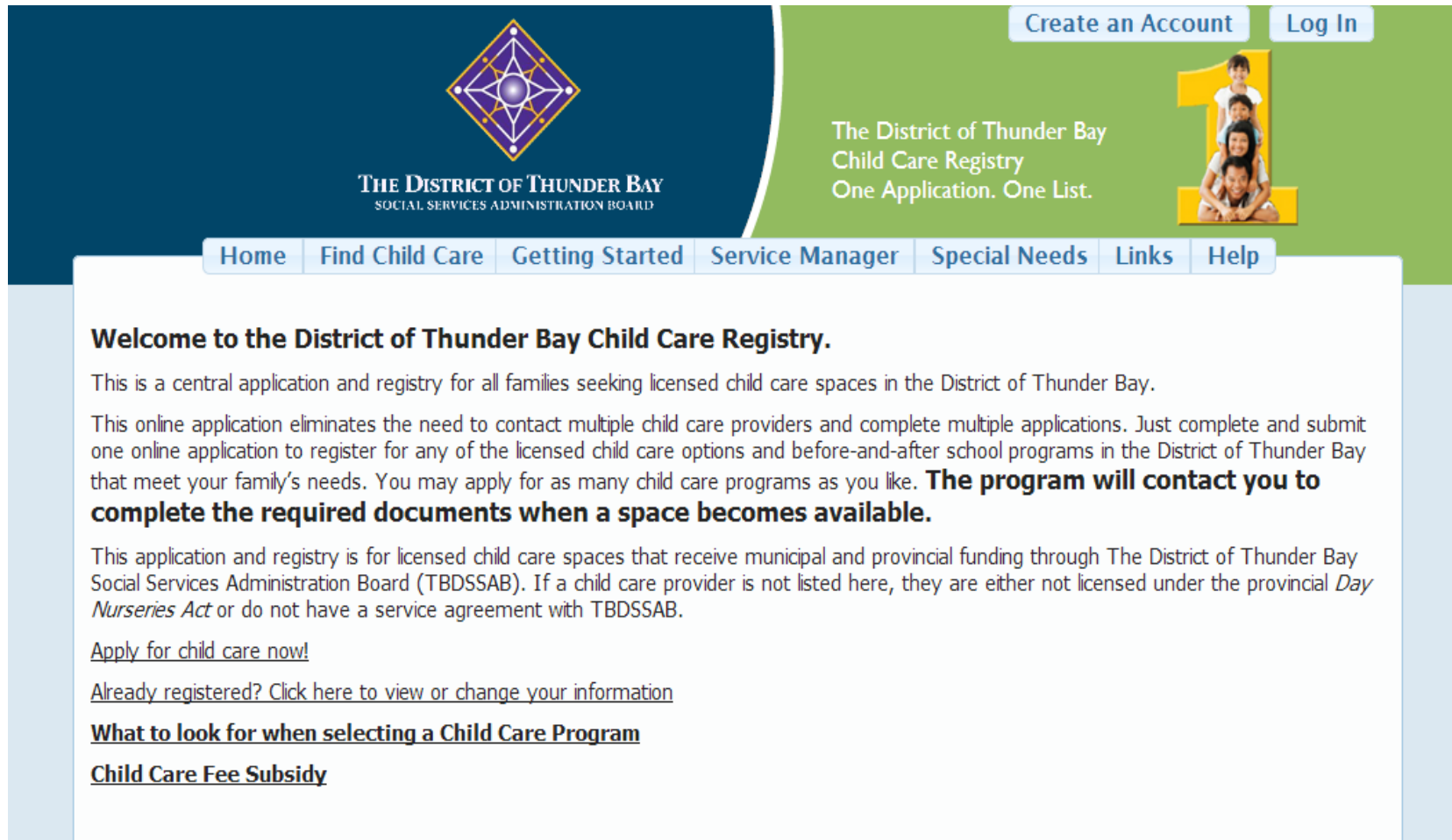
- assessing and determining financial eligibility for child care fee subsidy
- monitoring attendance for fee subsidy children
- conducting annual site visits to review/audit attendance for care code rates in OCCMS for accuracy
- attending TBDSSAB hubs for fee subsidy appointments and door knocking to promote children's services

Unique Children Served in Receipt of Fee Subsidy in Licensed Child Care



How to Apply for Child Care

If parents are interested in applying for childcare, they must apply online at www.thunderbaychildcare.ca



The screenshot shows the homepage of the District of Thunder Bay Child Care Registry. The header features the organization's logo on the left and navigation links for 'Create an Account' and 'Log In' on the right. Below the header is a horizontal menu with links: Home, Find Child Care, Getting Started, Service Manager, Special Needs, Links, and Help. The main content area welcomes users to the registry and provides information about the application process, including a link to apply now and a link for already registered users to view or change their information. It also lists links for selecting a child care program and a child care fee subsidy.

THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Create an Account Log In

The District of Thunder Bay
Child Care Registry
One Application. One List.

Home Find Child Care Getting Started Service Manager Special Needs Links Help

Welcome to the District of Thunder Bay Child Care Registry.

This is a central application and registry for all families seeking licensed child care spaces in the District of Thunder Bay.

This online application eliminates the need to contact multiple child care providers and complete multiple applications. Just complete and submit one online application to register for any of the licensed child care options and before-and-after school programs in the District of Thunder Bay that meet your family's needs. You may apply for as many child care programs as you like. **The program will contact you to complete the required documents when a space becomes available.**

This application and registry is for licensed child care spaces that receive municipal and provincial funding through The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB). If a child care provider is not listed here, they are either not licensed under the provincial *Day Nurseries Act* or do not have a service agreement with TBDSSAB.

[Apply for child care now!](#)

[Already registered? Click here to view or change your information](#)

[What to look for when selecting a Child Care Program](#)

[Child Care Fee Subsidy](#)

In what situations are subsidies approved?

Child Care Fee Subsidy is available to families who are:

Engaged in employment activities (i.e. employed, self-employed) OR

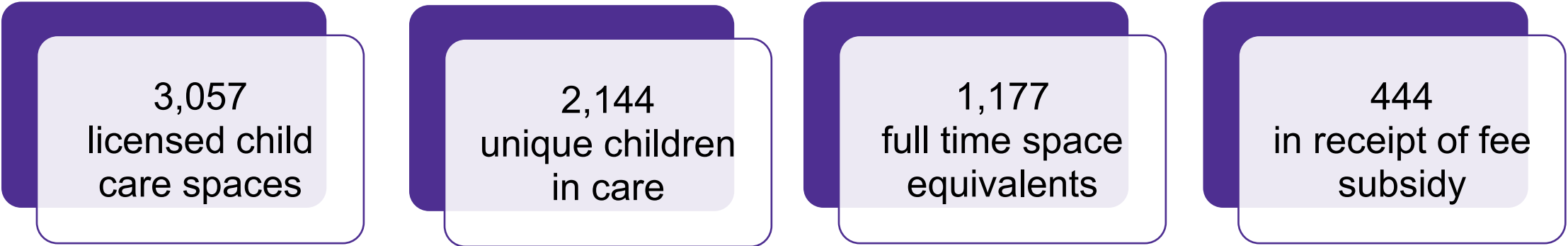
Attending school or job specific training OR

Referred through an agency for special, social, or medical needs AND

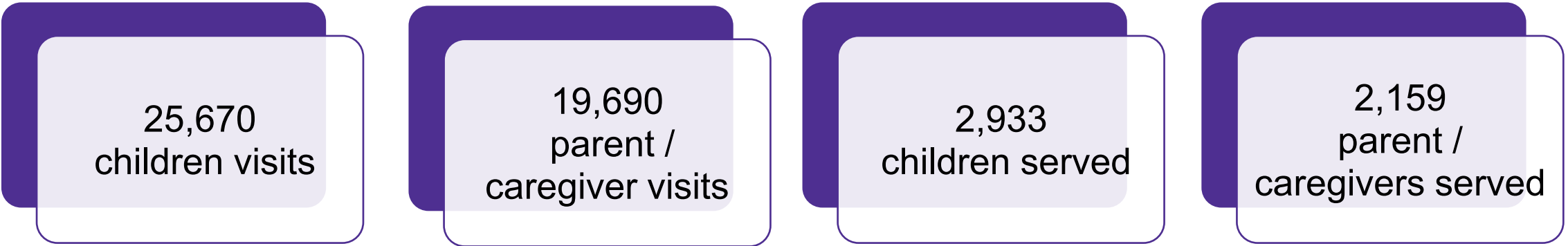
Qualify under the income test (all families on OW and ODSP automatically meet the eligibility of income testing)



Child Care – Current Statistics as of August 2025



EarlyON Child and Family Statistics January to December 2024

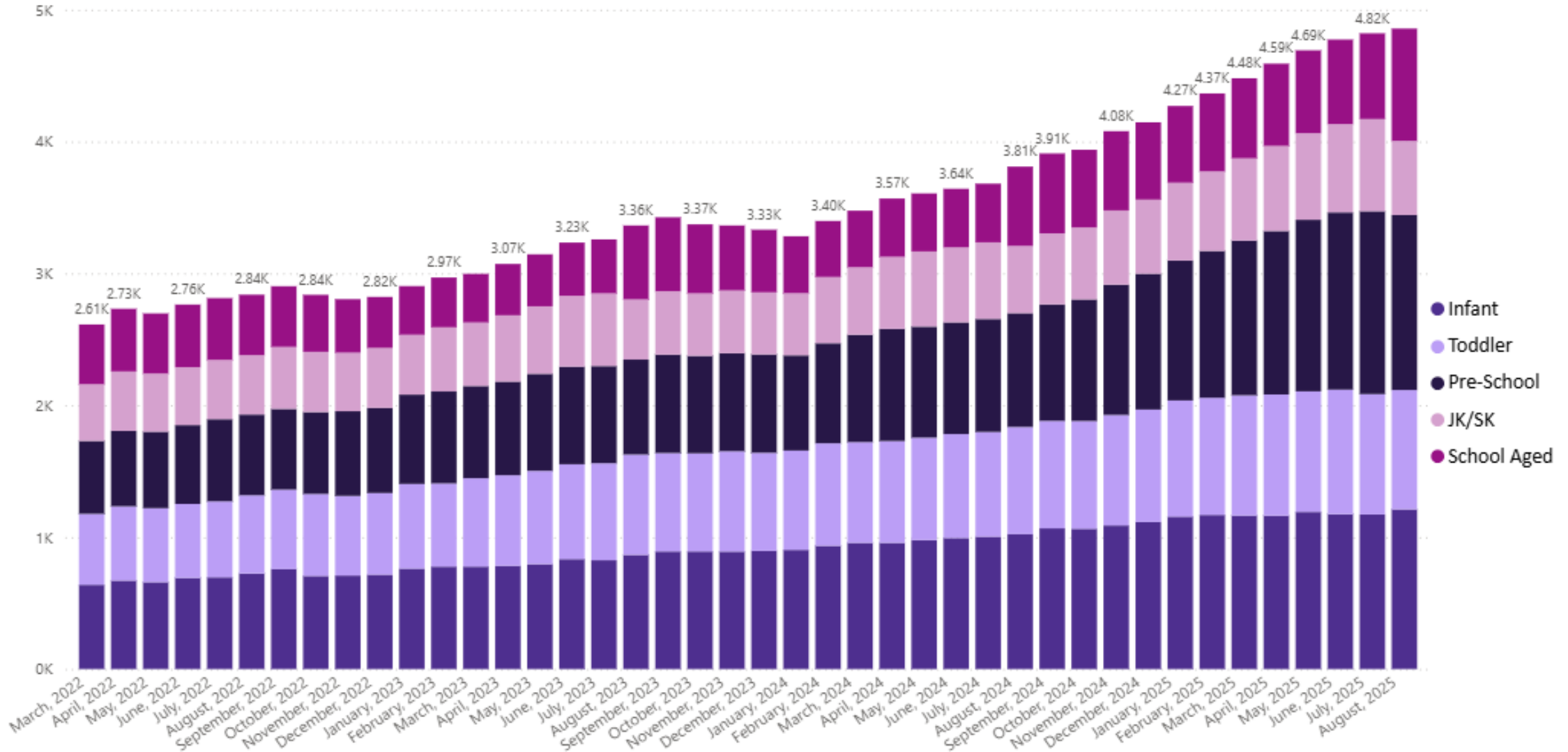


EarlyON Program Update

- Mobile units in community spaces have been very successful in meeting the needs of some of the most vulnerable populations
- There has been a substantial increase in usage of EarlyON programs over the past year
- EarlyON bridges the gap between the lack of child care spaces and access to socialization for young children
- The Ministry recognizes these programs as beneficial to all communities especially to the Northern communities that do not have access to licensed child care programs



Child Care Waitlist

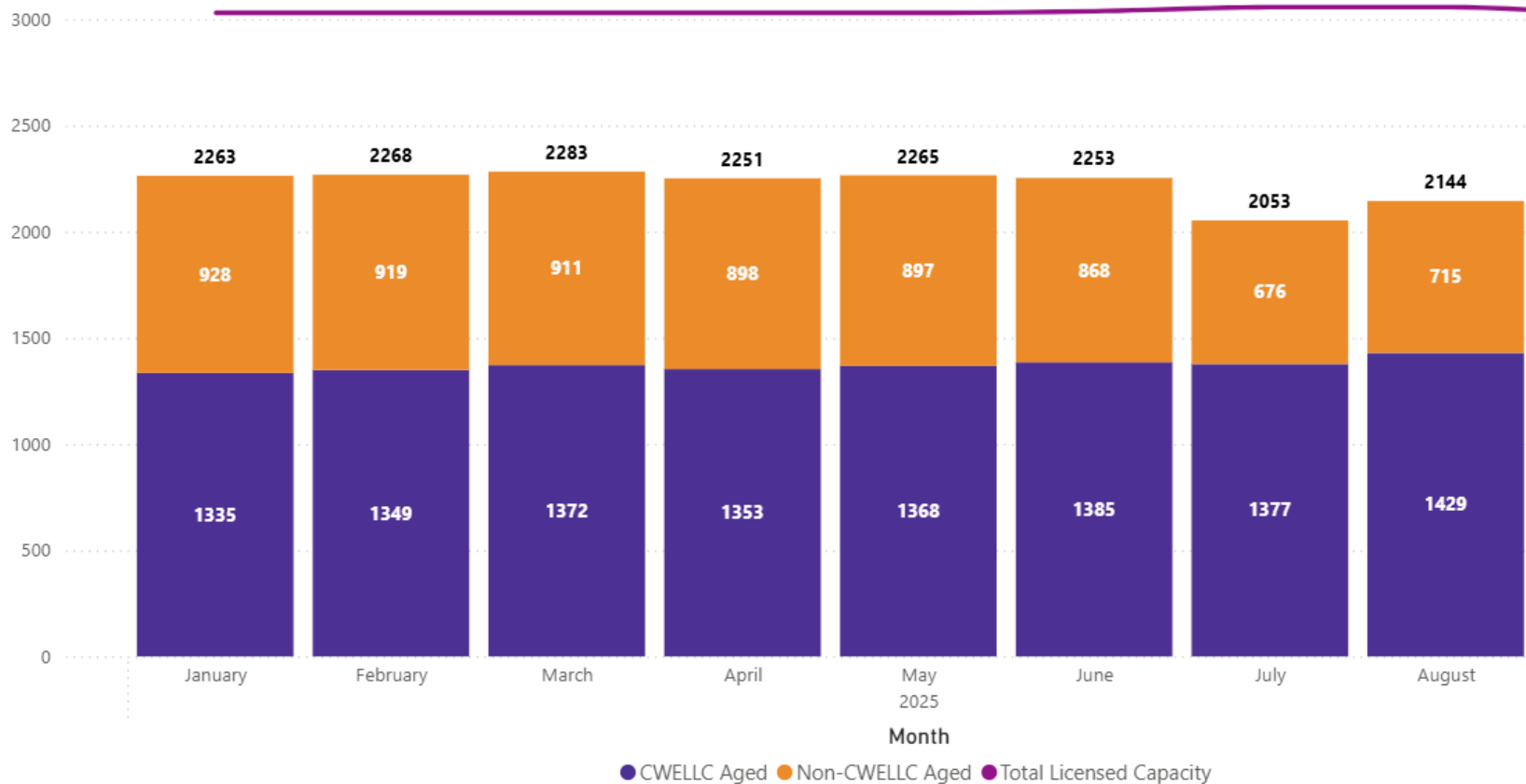


Please Note: Includes children waiting currently and for future care. Each month would have repeats of child ID, if that child remained on the waitlist each month.

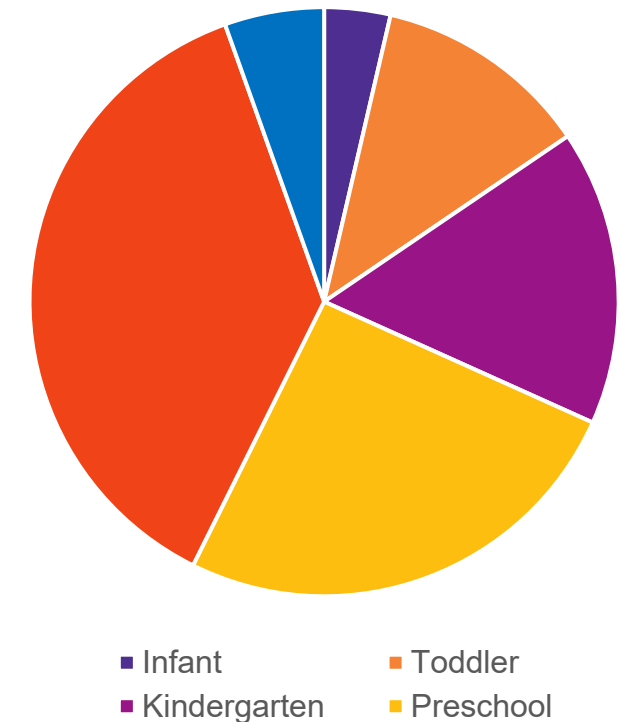


Licensed Spaces

Count of Children in Care by CWELCC-Eligibility



Licensed Capacity by Age Group



- For **Unique Children** and **Operating Capacity**: CWELCC- Aged: Includes children aged 5.99 and younger.
- Non-CWELCC: includes children aged 6 and older. This graph does *not* account for shared spaces between children.





THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Questions? Comments?

Child Care and Early Years Update

Dawnette Hoad, Manager, Child Care and Early Years Programs
Michelle Wojciechowski, Manager, Intake and Eligibility

