

For Information

DATE: April 12, 2013

REPORT TITLE: **DISTRIBUTION OF 2012 PROVINCIAL MINOR CAPITAL, CAPACITY BUILDING AND HEALTH & SAFETY FUNDING FOR THE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SYSTEM IN PEEL**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide an update on the 2012 distribution of minor capital, capacity building and health and safety funding received through the Ministry of Education (MEDU) to support Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) agencies in Peel.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2012, the Province provided Peel Region a total of \$1,302,713 in funding to assist child care agencies retrofit and transition existing spaces to care for the children 0 – 3.8 years of age in non-profit agencies and provide health and safety funding for all licensed child care agencies in Peel.
- The Service Manager put in place a process to invite proposals.
- 218 community and school based applications were received with requests totalling \$4.2 million.
- 119 applications from 71 agencies were approved and all funding paid.
- The Region collaborated with the school boards and maximized funding by referring all non-profit school based child care applications for consideration under the Schools First Child Care Capital Retrofit allocation, and providing only capacity and health and safety service system funding to these centres under the service system allocation.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

In September 2009, the Province of Ontario announced a five year plan to implement Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) for children aged four and five years. The first phase of implementation commenced in September 2010 and with full implementation in 2014, all four and five year olds will have access to a FDK program. As child care agencies adapt to the impact of FDK, the Province allocated \$242 million dollars over three years commencing in 2012-2013 to stabilize and transform the existing system for ELCC in Ontario.

In 2012, MEDU provided Peel Region a total of \$1,302,713 in funding to assist child care agencies to retrofit and transition existing spaces to care for the children 0 – 3.8 years of

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age in Peel. The funding was intended to support non-profit child care agencies with minor capital retrofits and transformation costs to serve younger ages, and to satisfy health and safety requirements for both non-profit and for-profit child care providers.

2. Funding Distribution

In July 2012, funding applications, containing both MEDU and local criteria, were sent out, by the service manager, inviting applications from child care agencies for both community and school based sites. The funding streams were broken down into the following:

- Child Care Transition Minor Capital to support non-profit child care agencies in making retrofits and minor renovations to serve younger children
- Capacity Funding to Support Transformation to support non-profit child care agencies with specific costs related to merging, relocating, and/or retrofitting for younger age groups
- Health and Safety to support non-profit and for-profit child care agencies that are/may be at risk of not being in compliance with current licensing requirements

With \$4.2 million in requests from 218 centres/agencies (\$2.6 million from the community and \$1.6 million from school based centres) the demand was larger than available funding. When the Schools First Child Care Capital Retrofit funding became available, only non-eligible capacity and health and safety requests from school based centres were considered under the service system manager allocation. By the end of 2012, \$1,302,713 was approved for 119 applications from 71 ELCC agencies as outlined below:

Table I: 2012 Region of Peel Capital & Capacity Funding Distribution

Funding Type	Amount Approved	Site Location (Schools, Community)	Number of Agencies	Number of Sites	Typical Projects Requested & Funded
Transition Minor Capital (non-profit)	\$457,158	Community	10	14	Playground, Classroom & Washroom conversion for younger age group
Capacity Funding to support Transformation (non-profit)	\$326,478	Community & School	16	48	Business Planning, IT Upgrades, Toys & Equipment
Health & Safety (non-profit & for-profit)	\$519,077	Community & School	45	57	Playgrounds, Washrooms, Kitchen, Floors, Security
Total	\$1,302,713				

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Of the agencies funded for transition minor capital, 10 of the 14 sites will be completed by the March 31, 2013 deadline, for a combined total of 99 estimated conversion spaces for the younger age group. However, some of the playground retrofits will enable future conversions to younger age groups.

3. Retrofit / Transformation (Capacity) Planning in 2013

Staff worked closely with school boards to coordinate and maximize available funding for minor capital retrofits despite challenges coordinating the Service Manager and Schools First Retrofit application processes (e.g. short time-lines, uncertainty and timing differences in the two allocations, variations in funding criteria). MEDU required that both service managers and school boards approve Schools First Retrofit plans. By February, 2013, three Peel plans were jointly approved and submitted to MEDU as follows:

- Conseil scolaire du district catholique-Centre Sud (15 toddler spaces at one site)
- Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board (15 toddler, 16 preschool spaces at one site)
- Peel District School Board (120 toddler spaces at eight sites)

The \$1.3 million of Service System Management funds have been distributed to eligible school based centres for health and safety and transition funding not eligible under the Schools First allocation. Staff will continue to collaborate with the School Boards to develop and implement retrofit plans for school based child care.

In December 2012, MEDU announced a new funding formula and framework that resulted in a \$28.5 million increase in ELCC funding for Peel, and included targeted funding for minor capital, transformation, and repairs and maintenance. In total, \$2.5 million will be available for capital and transition support in 2013 (an increase of 92 per cent over 2012 allocation). Service managers also have the flexibility to add to this allocation from other funding components if required.

Staff are currently analyzing the results of the third annual survey of child care providers regarding the impact of FDK on their services. This information will help inform board workshops and customized consultations with non-profit child care providers to support retrofit planning for younger age groups and preparation of applications for the 2013 capital and transformation funding applications that will be released at that time. The intent is to support centres to retrofit for younger age groups in time to adapt to the impact of year four of FDK implementation in September.

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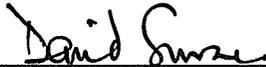
CONCLUSION

Transforming the ELCC system to care for the younger aged children results in increased financial pressure on child care agencies to make capital retrofits and transformation changes to serve the younger 0 – 3.8 age group. This funding shows a continued commitment by the Province to provide support to sustain the ELCC system for the younger age group. As the Service System Manager, the Region is committed to working with the school boards and other stakeholders to support the transformation of ELCC in Peel and in making decisions that are consistent with the priorities of the ELCC Task Force.



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Commissioner of Human Services

Approved for Submission:



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