

CHILD CARE MUNICIPAL RATE INCREASE PROCESS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. How do I apply for a Municipal Rate Increase?

To request a Municipal Rate Increase, you must complete the <u>Municipal Rate</u> <u>Increase Request Form</u>, attach all the required documents and submit to <u>earlyyearssystemdivision@peelregion.ca</u>. See question 7 for the list of required documents.

Your form must be submitted at least 60 calendar days before the date the rate increase will take effect.

2. What is the process for requesting a Municipal Rate Increase?

The Early Years and Child Care Services Division (EYCCSD) has made the following changes to the Municipal Rate Increase process.

- **Two application periods**: When you submit your Municipal Rate Increase application for 2023, you can request that the rate increase be effective on either January 1st or September 1st. This date will become your rate increase date
- Two options for requesting a Municipal Rate Increase:
 - 1. Requesting the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation OR
 - 2. Requesting more than the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation

3. Why is the Region moving towards two application periods?

The two application periods will allow:

- Predictable budget planning for service providers and EYCCSD
- Timely approvals of rate increases

4. Why is the Region moving towards two options?

The two Municipal Rate Increase options were created to:

- Be more transparent with how the Municipal Rate Increase amounts are approved by publishing the annual EYCCSD Rate of Inflation.
- Reduce administrative burden on service providers by requiring less information to be submitted when the rate increase request is in line with the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation.

5. How will CWELCC affect the Municipal Rate Increase process?

For providers serving children 0-5 years old:

 If you are a part of the CWELCC program, you do not need to apply for a rate increase through the regular Municipal Rate Increase process. Inflationary pressures will be supported through the CWELCC Transition Grant.

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- If you are not part of the CWELCC program, you are NOT ELIGIBLE to apply for a Municipal Rate Increase for your programs serving children 0-5 years of age.
- In January 2023, service providers who are part of the CWELCC program and have a Child Care Subsidy Agreement with the Region, will be paid the market rate for children in receipt of subsidy (i.e., the municipal rate will be the same as the market rate).

For providers serving children 6-12 years old:

 You may apply for a Municipal Rate Increase for your programs serving children 6-12 years of age through the regular Municipal Rate Increase process.

6. What are the two options for requesting a Municipal Rate Increase?

When you are requesting a rate increase you must **CHOOSE ONE** of the rate increase options below:

Option 1: Requesting the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation

Is intended to offset inflationary costs at the rate of inflation as determined by EYCCSD.

- This option requires less information from you.
- The EYCCSD Rate of Inflation for the year will be communicated to you.

Option 2: Requesting more than the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation

Is intended to offset any exceptional costs incurred by the provider such as increases to staff wages and benefits above the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation.

- This option requires more information from you to verify that the rate increase is supporting EYCCS priorities.
- This option should only be requested if there have been significant exceptional costs incurred by the Provider.

7. What documents do I need to include with my Municipal Rate Increase Request form?

The documents that you must submit with your Municipal Rate Increase Request form depends on the option you choose.

Request Type	Required Documents
OPTION 1: Requesting the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation	This option requires less information from you. - Current Market Rate Fee Schedule* - Market Rate Fee Schedule* that will be in effect at the time of the Municipal Rate Increase

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OPTION 2:

Requesting more than the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation This option requires more information from you to verify that the rate increase is supporting EYCCS system priorities.

- Current Market Rate Fee Schedule*
- Market Rate Fee Schedule* that will be in effect at the time of the Municipal Rate Increase
- New municipal rates requested
- Detailed budget for the current fiscal year, including projected revenue from all sources (including ROP) and all projected expenses
- Supporting documentation to verify extraordinary expenses

8. When will the Municipal Rate Increase take effect?

The Municipal Rate Increase will take effect on either January 1st or September 1st. When you submitted a rate increase form for 2022, (January or September) will determine your new rate increase date going forward.

9. If I select a rate increase application period now, can I change it in the future?

A rate increase can only take effect once in a 12-month period from when your last rate increase took effect. If you would like to change your rate increase period, you will need to wait 18 months for your next rate increase to take effect.

For example, if you receive a rate increase for January 1, 2023, and wish to change your rate increase from January to September, you will need to wait until September 2024 for your next rate increase.

10. When should I apply for a rate increase?

You must submit your <u>Municipal Rate Increase Request Form</u> at least 60 calendar days before the date the rate increase will take effect.

This means that:

- The January 1st rate increase form must be submitted by November 1st
- The September 1st increase form must be submitted by July 1st

Note:

If your Municipal Rate Increase request form is received after the due date, your rate increase will be moved to the next period. For example, if a January 1st rate increase form is received after November 1st, it will be considered for a September 1st rate increase. This also means that your next rate increase cannot occur for another 12-month period.

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^{*} Market Rate Fee Schedules will only be accepted if on letterhead with the effective date



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11. How does the EYCCSD determine the Municipal Rate Increase amount?

The Municipal Rate Increase amounts are determined based on the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation, the EYCCSD municipal child care rate caps, staff wages, market and municipal rate comparison, historical rate increases, the proportion of fee subsidy children, financial analysis, and other Regional funding sources allocated to the provider.

12. Why is the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation different than Statistics Canada?

The EYCCSD Rate of Inflation is based on the EYCCSD budget process and balancing the priorities of the system within the existing budget. The annual budget from the province does not include an inflationary increase. Each year, the EYCCSD must plan and prioritize its budget to ensure all priorities for the early years sector can be managed within the existing budget.

13. Will the amount I request for the Municipal Rate Increase be approved?

The Region reserves the right to fully, partially, or not approve any rate increase requests received. We will not approve a municipal daily rate that exceeds:

- The EYCCSD municipal child care rate cap
- The rate charged to full fee families

14. My municipal rate is well below the rate cap. Can I request an increase to reach the rate cap?

No, rate increases are determined based on the criteria mentioned in Question #10. If you are requesting an increase that is more than the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation you must provide documents to verify that you have exceptional costs. Having rates below the rate cap would not meet the requirements to be able to request an increase that is more than the EYCCSD Rate of Inflation.

15. If I did not request a rate increase last year, can I ask for one to make up for last year and this year?

No, the Region does not approve requests accumulated over multiple years. To lessen the impact of rate increases for families, you are encouraged to request a rate increase annually to account for inflationary increases to operational expenses.

16. Why is my municipal rate lower than my market rate? (two-tier question)

Municipal Rate Increase amounts are determined based on many factors. As annual inflationary increases are currently not provided by the Province, the Region as a system service manager must work within the budget to support all priorities of the

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early years and child care sector. This includes support for wages to ensure high quality child care and additional funding programs which support provider viability and access to services for children.

We recognize that market rates may increase at a faster rate than municipal rates, however, we encourage Service Providers to ensure their market increases align with the Municipal Rate increase. The Region will only approve municipal rates in accordance with its rate Increase methodology and not exceed the municipal caps that have been determined. This may result in two-tier rates for your organization. However, as explained in question 5, in January 2023, service providers who are part of the CWELCC program and have a Child Care Subsidy Agreement with the Region, will be paid the market rate for children in receipt of subsidy (i.e., the municipal rate will be the same as the market rate).

17. How many Municipal part-time care codes can I have?

Effective 2021, part-time care codes are limited to one part-time care code per age group, rather than having separate part-time care codes based on the number of days of care per week. This decision was made to reduce the number of care codes and administrative errors due to care codes. Changes to the part-time care codes are outlined below:

Age Group	Old Care Codes	New Care Code
Infant	1005 – 0-18 months - Part Time - 3 days 1017 – 0-18 months - Part Time	1017 – 0-18 months - Part Time
Toddler	2036 – 19-30 months - Part Time - 3 days 2037 – 19-30 months - Part Time - 2 days 2132 – 19-30 months - Part Time	2132 – 19-30 months - Part Time
Preschool	3070 – 2.5-4 years - Part Time - 3 days 3071 – 2.5-4 years - Part Time - 4 days 3207 – 2.5-4 years - Part Time 3385 – 2.5-4 years - Part Time - 2 days	3207 – 2.5-4 years - Part Time

Please email <u>earlyyearssystemdivision@peelregion.ca</u> if you have any other questions.

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