

TO: Child Care Licensees

FROM: Boafoa Kwamena
Director
Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: CWELCC Update – Enrolment and Growth in 2023

Thank you for your continued partnership in implementing the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system. As we near the end of 2022, I am writing with additional information on next year's enrolment process.

The ministry's focus for 2022 was enrolling existing licensees; however, this focus will shift in 2023 to a more directed approach for growth. Ontario's Action Plan commits to creating 86,000 new child care spaces before December 2026 (relative to 2019 spaces).

A targeted growth approach will ensure that funding is available to support new spaces in communities most in need of access to high quality, affordable child care.

In 2023, licensees interested in participating in the CWELCC system must demonstrate that their program aligns with local space expansion plans (e.g., is in a priority neighbourhood).

Please see the attached Ministry of Education memo to service system managers for more information on this targeted growth approach and how priority neighbourhoods will be identified.

To further support directed growth, the ministry has made changes to the licence application and revision process. These changes will come into effect on January 1, 2023 and will impact all applications, including those that were submitted prior to this date that continue to be in the process of applying for a licence as of January 1, 2023.

Effective January 1, 2023, every application for a licence to operate a child care centre or a home child care agency must include:

- Evidence that the service system manager has indicated that the application is eligible to receive funding under the CWELCC system; or

- Evidence that the applicant has notified the service system manager that they will not be applying for enrolment in the CWELCC system.

Similar documentation will be required from licensees applying for a revised licence to increase existing licensed capacity.

Additionally, as of January 1, 2023, applications for a licence to operate a child care centre must include proof that the premises is zoned appropriately at the time of application.

The ministry is in the process of updating CCLS to reflect these changes. Until the system is updated, ministry program advisors will communicate an interim process to all applicants.

If you are interested in opening new child care programs under the CWELCC system in 2023, I encourage you to speak with your local service system manager and your program advisor early in your planning process.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Boafoa Kwamena

Attachments

c. Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards