

**Human
Services**

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December 05, 2019

Re: 2020 EYCC Funding to Licensed Centre-Based Child Care Providers

Dear Service Provider,

We are writing to share information on Early Years and Child Care (EYCC) funding for 2020. On November 28, 2019, the Region committed to providing funding to support the Wage Enhancement Grant (WEG), we are pleased to also confirm funding to support the continuation of:

- 1) Rate Reduction Operating Grant (RROG) *until April 30, 2020*; and
- 2) General Operating Fund (GOF) – Staff Wages and Benefits (SWB), Historical Funding, and Pay Equity (*eligible providers only*).

While the attached Guidelines provide details of each of the grants noted above, the Region would like to highlight the following information for 2020.

Rate Reduction Operating Grant (RROG)

The Region previously communicated that the RROG, which provided funding to reduce fees for eligible children enrolled in licensed child care will end on March 31, 2020. Since that time, we have received endorsement by Regional Council to extend the program until April 30, 2020. Your contracts will reflect this end date. This extension is pending Council approval of the 2020 Regional Budget. We will provide an update once available.

Service Providers are required to continue their current practice to either charge families the reduced rate **OR** issue a reimbursement of fees for eligible children at the beginning of the month.

Child care affordability continues to be a key priority in Peel. We are actively working on a revised affordability strategy that complements the Ontario Government's Childcare Access and Relief Expense (CARE) refundable tax credit and will communicate details once available.

GOF – Staff Wages and Benefits (SWB), Historical Funding, and Pay Equity

The Region is continuing to provide GOF Staff Wages and Benefits (SWB), Historical Funding and Pay Equity Funding (*eligible providers only*) to Service Providers for 2020.

Service Providers are required to use:

- GOF funding to enhance staff wages and benefits using your most recent GOF Distribution Plan;
- Historical funding (*eligible providers only*) to maintain staff wages and benefits consistent with payments provided to staff in previous years; and

- Pay Equity (*eligible providers only*) to continue to meet their pay equity obligations.

Looking Ahead for 2020

Changes to GOF, Historical and Pay Equity

The Region will continue to work with Service Providers to review:

- Current funding streams that support staff salary (e.g. GOF, Historical, Pay Equity and WEG) to explore opportunities to simplify funding distribution, reporting requirements and reduce administrative burden for Service Providers; and
- How funding is distributed to enhance staff wages and benefits across the system.

The Region will be seeking to engage you in 2020 to inform changes to our funding approach. Details on this engagement and how to participate will be communicated to you at a later date.

New EYCC Funding Technology - GovGrants

In 2020, the Region will be introducing GovGrants, a new technology system for Service Providers, with the objective of enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery. Among its many functions, GovGrants will allow Providers to apply for funding; update their organization information and allow them to correspond with Early Years Staff.

The Region will provide training sessions in the Spring of 2020. Please stay tuned for details.

Key Dates and Resources

December 16, 2019	Deadline for providers to return signed Amending Agreement to the Region for payment during the first week of January 2019 Note: Signed Agreements received after this date will result in delayed payments.
January 31, 2020	2019 EYCC funding year-end reconciliation and reporting due to the Region
April 30, 2020	Rate Reduction Operating Grant Ends
May 31, 2020	Deadline for In-Year Reconciliation of the Rate Reduction Operating Grant

You will receive your amended EYCCS Fee Subsidy and Funding Amending Agreement in the coming days. Please refer to your amending agreement which includes your funding allocation for 2020. Funding guidelines and resources will be available on our [website](#) shortly.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: EarlyYearsSystemDivision@peelregion.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting children and families in Peel Region. We look forward to continued collaboration with you in 2020.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,



Olivia Nunes
Manager, EYCCS Division
Region of Peel



James McLean
Manager, EYCCS Division
Region of Peel