

2023 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC)

Region of Peel CWELCC Funding Teleconference

Transition Operating Grant and Expansion Planning

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

This document reflects questions raised at the Region’s funding teleconference on February 15/16 related to the 2023 CWELCC Transition Operating Grant and Expansion Planning.

Refer to the [Region’s website](#) for the Q&A document related to the Workforce Compensation Funding teleconference that was held on February 23.

This document is intended for all licensed child care providers (centre based and home child care) participating in Peel’s CWELCC program.

Refer to the updated [2023 CWELCC Funding Guidelines](#) for more information.

Don’t see your question? Please email us at: EarlyYearsSystemDivision@peelregion.ca or contact your Early Years Specialist (EYS).

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CWELCC FUNDING PROGRAMS

1. What programs can I support using my CWELCC funding allocation?

Your CWELCC funding supports these three programs:

- Fee Reduction
- Workforce Compensation
- Transition Operating Grant

Note: You cannot use your funding allocations interchangeably between the three CWELCC programs.

CWELCC Funding Programs	Eligible Expenses	GovGrants Budget Category
1. Fee Reduction Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the reduction of your approved base fee by 52.75% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Care Fees
2. Workforce Compensation Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase eligible staff wages and benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Wages & Benefits
3. Transition Operating Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A Cost Escalation Part B Operating Expenses If enrolment is at licensed capacity, may be used to reduce registration fees by 52.75%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A – Other Part B – Other Fixed Expenses <p>LHCC agencies with both CWELCC and FSA will see their TOG through their Base Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A – Base Other Category Part B – Base Operating Category

Note: Refer to the updated [2023 CWELCC Funding Guidelines](#) for the list of eligible and ineligible expenses for each of these programs.

TRANSITION OPERATING GRANT (TOG)

2. How is the Region supporting inflationary costs in 2023?

- To address cost increases and to support provider viability while participating in CWELCC, all participating providers will receive a Transition Operating Grant (TOG) for 2023.
- The TOG consists of two parts:
 - Part A: Cost Escalation Amount
 - Part B: Operating Amount

3. What are the differences between TOG Part A and Part B?

Part A: Cost Escalation Amount	Part B: Operating Amount
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports inflationary expenses and other changes to costs. This funding must be spent on the proportion of the eligible expenses that supports children aged 0-5 years. This funding will not be recovered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports expenses for child care programs with children aged 0-12 years. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Administration amount for existing EYCC programs ✓ Additional operating amount You will be required to report the amount of funding spent by age category (CWELCC eligible children aged 0-5 and children aged 0-12). This funding will be reconciled, and any unspent funding will be recovered.

4. How do I find my TOG allocation for 2023?

- We will not be issuing a memo to communicate your total TOG allocation. You will find your TOG allocation in [GovGrants](#). See Question #1 for information on GovGrants budget categories.

5. How was my TOG allocation calculated?

- Depending on the funding agreements you have with the Region, your TOG allocation will be calculated differently. See Table 1 and Table 2 below for more information.
- More information on how your TOG allocation was calculated can also be found in **Appendix 2** of the updated [2023 CWELCC Funding Guideline](#).

Table 1: TOG Allocation Methodology for Centre-Based Providers:

	You have a CWELCC, Fee Subsidy, and Wage Enhancement Contract	You have a CWELCC and Wage Enhancement Contract
Part A: Cost Escalation Allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.75% Inflation on Base Fees • 2.75% Inflation on General Operating Allocation for centre-based providers who received GOF in 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.75% Inflation on Base Fees
Part B: Operating Allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration for GOF, WEG, WIF • Special Purpose Allocation (repairs and maintenance, play-based toys and equipment, transformation) • Additional changing costs to implement CWELCC and remain viable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration for WEG • Additional changing costs to implement CWELCC and remain viable

Table 2: TOG Allocation Methodology for LHCC Agencies:

	You have a CWELCC, Fee Subsidy, and Wage Enhancement Contract	You have a CWELCC, Wage Enhancement Contract
Part A: Cost Escalation Allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.75% Inflation on Base Fees • 2.75% Inflation on GOF SWB and Payment to Provider components who received Base Funding in 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.75% Inflation on Base Fees
Part B: Operating Allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration for Base Funding, WEG, WIF • Additional changing costs to implement CWELCC and remain viable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration for WEG • Additional changing costs to implement CWELCC and remain viable

6. What expenses are eligible and ineligible under the TOG?

- The TOG is intended to support cost increases due to fees being frozen and provides an additional flexible operating amount to support the cost of implementing CWELCC.
- Refer to **Section 7** of the updated [2023 CWELCC Funding Guideline](#) for the list of TOG eligible and ineligible expenses.
- LHCC agencies who have both a CWELCC Agreement and Fee Subsidy Agreement with the Region will see their TOG through their Base Funding. Refer to the [2023 LHCC Base Funding Guideline](#) for the list of TOG eligible and ineligible expenses.

7. Is the Region directing providers to distribute TOG by specific percentages or caps?

- No, there are no percentages or caps to limit how you spend your TOG funding.
- You have flexibility to decide how much of your TOG you will use to support eligible expenses.
- We have provided you with a planning tool to support your tracking of TOG expenses.

8. Does the TOG help with wage compression (gap between senior and newer staff) and/or other increased payroll costs?

- Yes, the CWELCC TOG helps you with cost increases due to Provincial direction to freeze your child care fees as of March 27, 2022 (increases to rent/lease, food, staffing, inflation, etc.).
- Aside from TOG, you cannot use any other Regional grant to maintain the gap between senior and newer staff. We recommend that any wage enhancements related to compression are noted separately on employee paystubs or paid as a lump sum as the province is currently developing a new funding formula for CWELCC for 2024.
- Refer to the CWELCC Workforce Compensation Funding Q&A document on the [Region's website](#) for more information on workforce related questions.

9. Will my TOG allow me to support administration expenses?

- Yes, you can support administrative expenses with your TOG. You have the discretion to determine what portion of the funding you use to cover administration expenses.
- To streamline reporting requirements, your existing administration funding across all EYCCS programs was consolidated and is being flowed through TOG Part B.

10. Does the TOG administration funding amount support the Supervisor who performs additional administration duties to implement the CWELCC program?

- We recognize that implementing the CWELCC program may generate additional administrative duties. You can apply your TOG administration funding towards any individual on payroll that performs these additional administrative duties (i.e. program Supervisor).
- You have the flexibility to decide how much of your administration funding you wish to use on any costs that are associated with implementing CWELCC.

11. Is TOG Part B replacing Special Purpose funding?

- Yes, if you are an eligible centre based provider, 2023 TOG funding has replaced Special Purpose funding (see **Section 7** of the updated [2023 CWELCC Funding Guideline](#)). You have the flexibility to determine how much of your TOG you will use to support eligible Special Purpose expenses.
- LHCC agencies participating in CWELCC that also have an existing Fee Subsidy Agreement have the flexibility to use their 2023 Base Funding to support Special Purpose expenses (see the updated [2023 LHCC Base Funding Guideline](#)).
- We will share a planning tool to support you with tracking your TOG expenses, including eligible Special Purpose expenses.

12. When will I receive my TOG funding in GovGrants?

- Your TOG payments will begin the first week of March. We are committed to working with you if there is a cashflow issue.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

13. What are the reporting requirements for TOG?

- Part A must be spent on the proportion of the eligible expenses that supports children aged 0-5 years. This amount will need to be reported but any underspending will not be recovered.
- Part B must be used to support expenses for programs with children aged 0-12 years. You will be required to report the amount of funding spent by age category (CWELCC eligible children aged 0-5 and children aged 0-12). This amount will be reconciled and any unspent funding will be recovered by the Region.
- Refer to Section 10 in the updated [2023 CWELCC Funding Guideline](#) for the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the TOG.

14. How should I report part-time days in OCCMS?

- Providers with part-time rates will report their Full Fee Children and Full Fee Spaces in OCCMS using the “Part-Day” care type.

15. Can I apply for additional funding if there is shortfall in my CWELCC funding for TOG, WCF and Fee Reduction?

- Yes, we will be releasing a separate process to request additional funding, which will be released later this year.
- Note: You will need to submit documentation to demonstrate why additional funding is required for the Region to determine reasonability of your funding request as part of the process.

CWELCC EXPANSION PLANNING IN PEEL

16. What is the Region’s CWELCC Expansion Plan and when will it be released?

- On December 19, 2022, the Ministry of Education released its [Access and Inclusion Framework](#) which outlined that CWELCC expansion plans should support targeted, but limited growth specific to 0-5 child care spaces, with a focus on access.
- We are working with the Ministry to support the creation of affordable child care spaces in Peel communities who need them most and will be reporting to Council on March 9, 2023 on our proposed targeted communities.
- We will be releasing our Expansion Policy and Application Process in the Spring once we have received approval from the Ministry and reported to Regional Council.

17. Will the Region’s targeted communities be communicated to child care providers?

- Yes, once approved and following Regional Council in March, we will share details on our Expansion Policy and Application Process, including our targeted communities to Providers to ensure transparency.

18. Is licensed home child care included in the Region’s CWELCC Expansion Plan?

- Yes, new spaces will be in both centre based and home child care settings.

19. Do I need to notify the Region if I have new active homes?

- If you are a home child care agency participating in Peel's CWELCC program, and opening any new active homes, including within your existing licence, please email us at EarlyYearsSystemDivision@peelregion.ca with any changes in your number of active homes.

20. How can I join CWELCC if I am in the process of getting a licence for a new site OR planning to get a licence for a new site in the future?

- We are currently developing a policy and process for providers interested in joining the CWELCC program in Peel, as well as providers currently enrolled who are planning to expand or revise their programs.
- We will be releasing our CWELCC Expansion Policy and Application Process in the Spring.

21. If I have already completed the Ministry's licence application in Ontario's Child Care Licensing System (CCLS) for a new licence or licence revision, does that mean that I am automatically enrolled in the CWELCC program?

- If your agency has already applied for a licence in CCLS after January 1, 2023 or applied for a licensing revision to increase spaces at an existing program or new site, you are not guaranteed automatic approval for CWELCC.
- If you are working with the Ministry's licensing branch on expansion of your program or considering expansion in Peel, email us at EarlyYearsSystemDivision@peelregion.ca with your expansion details (e.g., Site/Agency Name, Site address including postal code, change in license capacity/number of active homes by age group as appropriate).
- The Ministry CWELCC licensing forms will not be signed until our plan is approved by the Ministry. For immediate assistance, email us at: EarlyYearsSystemDivision@peelregion.ca.

22. Will the Region prioritize child care providers who have an existing Fee Subsidy Agreement with the Region when considering applications?

- We are developing our application process and are exploring the criteria to assess applications from providers planning to expand or open new sites.
- As we work through our CWELCC Expansion process, we will be reviewing our current process to apply for Fee Subsidy Agreement.
- We will be exploring how our funding programs will ensure supports for vulnerable families.