

2025 LHCC CWELCC and School Age Updates

Licensed Home Child Care Agencies Early Years and Child Care Services June 18, 2025

Housekeeping

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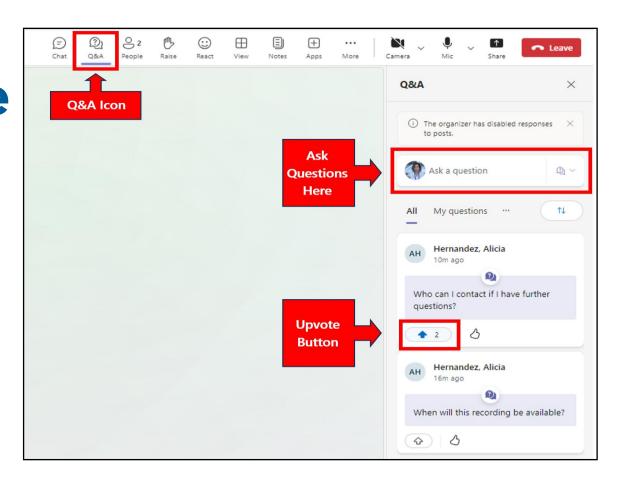
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Disclaimer: This slide deck is shared for informational purposes only and does not replace the requirements and rules set out in the <u>Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014</u>, its <u>regulations</u>, your service agreement, the CWELCC guideline (updated in July) and/or the service provider handbook.

How to use the **Microsoft Teams** A&Q feature





Agenda

CWELCC updates:

- 1. Closure day policy
- 2. CWELCC guideline updates

Q&A Period 1

School Age Guideline updates:

- 1. Workforce Innovation Funding
- 2. Operations Funding

Q&A Period 2



CWELCC closure days

What are closure days?

Any days on which child care services are not available to children. Closure days may be:

PLANNED:

 Any days the home is scheduled to be closed, such as public holidays, vacation/breaks, PD day.

FEES PAID BY FAMILIES

• Closure days where the **agency** charges fees to families.

The provincial cap of up to 20 days applies to planned paid closure days

UNPLANNED

 Days the home must close due to circumstances out of one's control. For example, a major weather event where Peel school boards close.

FEES NOT PAID BY FAMILIES

- Closure days where the **agency** does not charge fees.
- Unpaid closure days are not service days and therefore impact CWELCC funding.

CWELCC maximum number of paid closed days

What is the same:

- The maximum: 2 consecutive weeks, 4 weeks in the calendar year.
- Maximum only applies to closure days for which fees are charged (unless you have to close due to events out of your control).

What changed:

- <u>2025 provincial guideline</u> clarified that **statutory holidays count** towards the maximum (chapter 2 page 13).
- <u>2025 provincial guideline</u> clarified the closure days apply to when the home is planned to be closed and families cannot access care and required to pay fees (chapter 2 page 13).

Peel's transition plan - calendar year

Purpose: Support agencies who have more than 20 closure days by giving them extra time to meet the provincial requirements **if they need it**.

If you operate in a calendar year...

Timeline	Requirement (including statutory holidays)
January 1- December 31, 2025	 You can have the lower of: 26 planned paid closure days, or The number of planned paid closure days you had in 2024.
Beginning January 1, 2026	You must comply with annual maximum of 20 planned paid closure days from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

You do not have to wait to comply but have extra time if you need it.

Options to comply

If you charge families for more than 20 paid closure days (including statutory holidays), you must take one of the following actions:

- Reduce the number of closure days (open for more days) to ensure you have 20 or less planned paid closure days; or
- 2. Stop charging families a fee for any closure days that exceed the up to 20 paid closure days cap; or
 - This will reduce your CWELCC funding as unpaid closure days are not service days and are not funded in CWELCC funding formula calculation.
- 3. A mix of the above.

Goal: You must not exceed 20 planned paid closure days per year



Closed Days - Homes

 CWELCC funding is based on days the home is open and providing care (active home days)

 Back up care offered to families - does not count towards the closure day limit - care can be accessed by families

• Child is sick and does not attend - does not count to closure day - the home is open

 Home provider is sick - does not count to closure days - unplanned day home is closed



Payments to staff

Public (statutory) holidays:

- Are not vacation or unpaid leave days.
- At minimum, you must meet <u>Employment</u>
 <u>Standards Act</u> public holiday pay requirements.
- If your HR policies have different rules, you must pay the higher amount.

Professional activity/learning days:

- Are regular working days.
- You must pay staff their regular wages.

* This does not constitute legal advice. Your legal obligations may be more than the minimum outlined. We encourage you to seek legal advice before implementing changes to your benefits and/or compensation packages.



CWELCC updates



Coming soon: GovGrants update task

We will collect in GovGrants:

- ✓ Your 2026 parent handbooks.
- ✓ The days you close and charge families.
- ✓ The days you close and do not charge families.
- ✓ Your service days.
- ✓ Your operating hours.
- ✓ 2025 staff & wages information.
 - More information will be shared by late July 2025



Next steps

- Notify us before increasing your closure days (mailbox or EYS).
- Update your parent handbook by
 September 1 with service days and closure information and whether fees are charged.
- Report your updated closure day data and upload your 2026 parent handbook in GovGrants when requested.
- Updated CWELCC guideline in July.
 - → Additional details regarding reconciliation and reporting requirements (timing TBD)

Questions?

Email us at earlyyearssystemdivision@peelregion.ca





2025 LHCC School-Age Funding Updates

2025 School-Age Guideline Funding Components





January 2025

Workforce Grants (Base Funding, WEG/HCCEG, WCF)

BASP Fee Reduction

Added July 2025

Operations
Workforce Innovation Funding



Operations Funding

Operations Funding Overview

The goals of this funding are to: increase access, stabilize fees and enhance program quality.

- 1. Funding must be used to cover expenses to support school age children; and
- 2. Expenses must be appropriate, reasonable and attributable to school-age program delivery between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

More information about this funding will be released in the updated LHCC School-Age Guideline in July

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses are program materials that support **school age children.** This may include:

- Age-appropriate educational books, including bilingual and multicultural options
- Pre-assembled kits designed to enhance school age programming with:
 - Art & Craft Materials
 - STEM & Exploration
 - o Games:
 - Sensory & Loose Parts
 - Outdoor Supplies

Workforce Innovation Funding (WIF)

Workforce Innovation Funding

1) Planning time grant - No change

- You may provide eligible home providers with a \$75 planning time grant each month from June to December 31, 2025.
- You have the option to use your funding to support planning time retroactively from April 1 to May 31, 2025.

Workforce Innovation Funding

2) **NEW!** Professional learning

- Provides funding for professional learning to eligible home visitors and home providers from April 1 to December 31, 2025.
- Both home visitors and home providers can access up to \$500 for professional learning.
- By July 31, 2025, you must:
 - Share this funding opportunity with your home visitors and home providers (template will be provided); and
 - Develop an internal policy outlining the process for accessing professional learning funding (if your agency does not already have one).

Workforce Innovation Funding

3) Incentive Grant for Home Providers

- Provides up to \$1,500 in funding from January to December 31, 2025 to support eligible home providers with costs of starting or re-starting a home child care business.
 - To meet this requirement, home providers must not have been enrolled with an agency between January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024.
- Provide clear communication to new home providers about the incentive grant, including details on how the grant will be administered and what expenses are eligible.



Funding Flexibility

School-Age Funding in 2025

You must meet all mandatory funding requirements:



Unspent 2025 funding can be used for other eligible costs with:

- Workforce Funding (Base Funding, WEG, WCF)
- BASP Fee Reduction
- Operations Funding
- Workforce Innovation Funding (WIF)

- Workforce requirements
- •BASP fee reduction
- Operations
- Planning Time
- Professional Learning
- •Incentive Grant

Funding Flexibility Policy

Reminders

- You cannot use financial flexibility to enhance wage grants beyond the grant's policy requirements.
- If you use financial flexibility in 2025 to offset other costs, additional expenses (and enhancements) in other categories must be considered as one-time and will not be supported in 2026.

Funding Flexibility Policy

Examples:

- You cannot use financial flexibility to give someone \$3/hr for WEG.
- You can use financial flexibility to provide new homes with planning time.
- You cannot use financial flexibility to invest more in operations if you do not have school-age enrollment.
- You can use financial flexibility to support new homes with professional learning.



Reporting & Accountability Requirements

Expense Reporting

Component	GovGrants Budget Category (total spent)	Detailed Excel Expenses (Required to Report)
Operations Funding	• Operations	Expenses on program materials
Workforce Innovation Funding (WIF)	 Planning Time Professional Learning Cost Incentive Grant 	 Total wages and benefits for time spent on program planning Total professional learning cost for training fees, courses, facilitator costs, wages and benefits for the time spent traveling, and wages and benefits for participation in professional learning activities Total expenses for new homes providers to start or starting their business

Revised Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Workforce Innovation Funding:

- Number of individuals supported with planning time...
- Total number of actual planning time hours
- Number of individuals supported with paid professional learning cost.
- The number of home child care providers who received the first incentive grant. Count each individual once.
- The number of home child care providers who received the second incentive grant. Count each individual once.

Reporting and Accountability Requirements

- Use GovGrants to report total annual expenditures for all applicable budget categories.
- An Excel template will be provided to support detailed expenditure reporting for reconciliation.
- Details about reconciliation and proration of expenses (for programs serving children 0-12 years old) will be shared in the coming months.



Funding Methodology

Funding Methodology

Your updated funding allocations in the School-Age announcement are based on the following:

Workforce Innovation Funding (WIF) -

- Planning time grants are calculated at \$75 per active home provider, multiplied by each month from April 2025 to December 2025.
- Professional learning is calculated at \$500 per full-time equivalent (FTE), with 1 FTE assumed for each active home, plus any additional FTEs reported in the Wage Enhancement Grant data.
- Incentive grants are approved for each new active home in 2025. It is calculated as a fixed amount of up to \$1500, dependent of number of agency placed children from Peel and number of active months.

Operations - \$306 per space multiplied by the total school-age enrollment reported and validated as of April 2025.



What's Next

Release updated LHCC School-Age guideline and payments for:

- Operations Funding
- WIF

Details about reconciliation and reporting will be shared soon

Questions?

Email us at earlyyearssystemdivision@peelregion.ca





Appendix 1

Appendix - Workforce Innovation Funding

Professional Learning Costs (Home Visitors and Home Providers)

Used to cover the costs of registrations or fees to attend or participate in eligible professional learning sessions.

Professional Learning Time (Home Visitors)

Used to support base wages and mandatory benefits for extra hours worked or to pay for supply coverage.

OR

To support up to one-hour of travel time for in-person training outside of working hours.

IMPORTANT: Professional learning courses and trainings must be paid for before December 31, 2025.

Payments to staff* (cont.)

Other closure days:

• If you paid staff for other planned paid closure days in 2023, you **must** continue to pay.

• If you did not pay staff for other planned paid closure days in 2023, you are **encouraged** to pay staff within their CWELCC program allocation.

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Payments to staff* (cont.)

Unplanned paid closure days:

 You must pay staff scheduled to work, the wages they were expected to get for the day. For example, if a staff was scheduled to work 6 hours, they would get paid 6 hours, if the staff was scheduled to work 8 hours, they would get paid 8 hours.

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