

Early Years and Child Care





Early Years and Child Care

2026 Budget

Providing children and families with early years and care programs and services that are accessible, accountable, affordable, diverse and inclusive, and high-quality.



Core service

Early Years and Child Care

2026 Budget

Licensed child care: we support child care providers to deliver inclusive, affordable, accountable, high quality and accessible programs.

EarlyON program: we oversee free programs where families with children birth to 6 years can grow and learn together.

Child care subsidy: we provide financial support so families with lower incomes can afford licensed child care.

Special needs resourcing: we support children who need extra support to thrive in licensed child care.



Early Years and Child Care

2026 Budget

Interesting facts about this service

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1.1%

Increase in EYCCS program budget



10,768

New 3-year child care space expansion target for 2024-2026



1,245

Additional qualified staff needed to support child care expansion



96%

Licensed child care sites participate in CWELCC



Achievements

Improving affordability

- Supported a 50% fee reduction for 7,794 spaces through the Before and After School Affordability and Enrichment program
- Lowered child care fees for children younger than
 6 years to an average of \$22/day
- Supported 9,574 children with Child Care Subsidy

Improving inclusiveness

- Engaged a diverse group of over 2,000 parents, caregivers and children to shape our 2025 to 2030 service system plan
- Implemented DEI practices to ensure that our work is guided by a culturally responsive and inclusive lens

Improving access

- Implemented a new Child Care Subsidy referral application process to automate and streamline the Ontario Works/Subsidy referral process
- Added 5,893 new affordable spaces to the system since 2022

Improving quality

- Launched a new and refreshed "Raising the Bar in Peel" Quality Enhancement Initiative co-developed by CDRC, Peel Region and Peel's licensed child care system
- Implemented a Continuous Quality
 Improvement cycle across all EarlyON sites

Service delivery model

How do we do it

Early Years and Child Care

We manage the early years and child care system so families have programs and services that are accessible, accountable, affordable, accountable, diverse and, inclusive, and high quality Plan, fund, expand and oversee licensed child care

Provide child care subsidy for families with lower incomes

Administer funding to reduce child care fees for all families

Partner with child care providers to ensure quality child care services

Plan, fund and oversee special needs resourcing services for children in licensed child care

Plan, fund and oversee EarlyON Family and Child Centres



Service levels and trends

Early Years and Child Care 2026 Budget



53,276

Licensed child care spaces supported by Peel

Supporting providers to deliver affordable, inclusive high-quality programs.



3,052

Children assisted with special needs supports in licensed child care

Supporting all children to thrive in licensed child care.

\$

9,574

Child care subsidies provided

Allowing lower income families to access licensed child care.



646,598

Family visits to EarlyON programs

Allowing families of children birth to 6 years to learn and grow together.



Business plan outlook

Planning for the future

Our 2026-2029 business plan outlook will be directed by our Early Years and Child Care Service System Plan 2025-2030. It is our roadmap for identifying goals and measuring successes under our 5 key strategic priority areas:

- 1) Families have **access** to early years and child care programs, services and information that meet their specific needs.
- 2) Early years and child care programs are responsive to the needs of families and **accountable** in the use of public funds.
- 3) Early years and child care programs are **affordable** for all families with children aged 12 years and younger.
- 4) Early years and child care programs are responsive, **diverse** and inclusive of all children and families.
- 5) Families experience **high quality** early years and child care programs and services.





Performance measures and results

\$19,372

Average annual child care fee savings for families through CWELCC

Improving child care affordability for families with children under 6.

7,794

Before and after school program spaces supported with **50%** fee reduction

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99%

Licensed child care programs in Peel that participate in Peel Inclusion Resource Services (PIRS) Over
60%
achievement of our ministry directed
3-year expansion target

Improving affordability of before and after school programs for families with children ages 6 to 12. PIRS agencies are now enhancing their work with DEI Plans. Improving access for families by creating more child care spaces.



Operating Budget



Cost containment



Finding efficiencies in the 2026 Budget (in \$ millions)

	Cost savings	Cost avoidance
Department realignment savings	\$0.4	-
TOTAL	\$0.4	-



Proposed operating budget

ltems	In \$ millions
2025 Net Base Budget	\$20.3
Cost to maintain 2025 service level	
Inflation: Labour costs/Goods and services	0.7
Cost containment	(0.4)
Completion of CWELCC Start-up Expenditures	(32.6)
Completion of CWELCC Start-up Funding	32.6
Completion of CWELCC Infrastructure Expenditures	(11.8)
Completion of CWELCC Infrastructure Funding	11.8
Sub-total: Cost to maintain 2025 service level	\$0.3
2026 Service demand	
Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care program (CWELCC) subsidy increase	49.9
Increase CWELCC Funding	(49.9)
Sub-total: 2026 Service demand	\$0.0
2026 Proposed Net Budget Change from 2025	\$0.3
Proposed Total 2026 Net Budget	\$20.6



2026 Budget

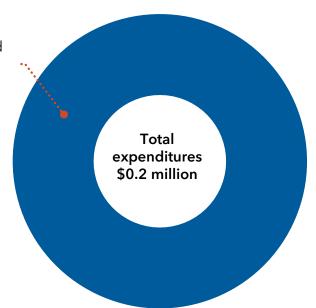
Capital Budget and Plan



2026 Capital Budget

\$0.2 million

State of Good Repair, \$0.2, 100%



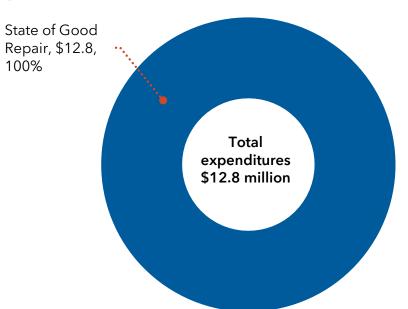
Capital Reserves \$0.2 million; 100%

Key highlights

 \$0.2 million for child care facilities capital projects (Brampton West, Chinguacousy, Collegeside, Ernest Majury and Streetsville)

2026 10-year Capital Plan

\$12.8 million



Capital Reserves

\$12.8 million; 100%

Key highlights

 \$12.8 million for child care facilities state of good repair capital projects

Summary of key financial information

Resources to achieve level of service (in \$ millions)

	2025	2026
Total expenditures	\$642.5	\$648.3
Total revenues	\$622.2	\$627.7
Net expenditures	\$20.3	\$20.6
Full-time staffing resources	125.1	125.1
Capital investment		\$0.2
10-year capital investment		\$12.8

Outlook years (in \$ millions)

	2027	2028	2029
Net increase	\$3.7	\$0.4	\$0.5
% Increase	18.1%	1.8%	1.8%

