



CITY OF HAMILTON
COMMUNITY & EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Children's & Home Management Services

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 7, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2016 Provincial Child Care Funding Allocation for the City of Hamilton (CES16015) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Grace Mater (905) 546-2424 ext. 4979 Dawn Meitz (905) 546-2424 ext. 3587
SUBMITTED BY:	Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community & Emergency Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the City of Hamilton accept the additional 2016 Child Care funding in the amount of \$744,068 (100% Provincial) from the Ministry of Education; and,
- (b) That the General Manager of Community & Emergency Services Department be authorized to execute the service agreement from the Ministry of Education in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to support a system of responsive, high-quality, accessible and increasingly integrated early years services and programs, the Province continues its multi-year reform of the child care system in Ontario. In keeping with this reform, the Ministry of Education has recently announced increased funding in 2016 in the amount of \$744,068 to the City of Hamilton for children's services.

The additional funds will be allocated across the local system using a balanced approach much like that taken with the additional funding received in 2015. The additional funding will support:

- System priorities and capacity building;
- Stabilizing the child care system by supporting operating costs.; and,
- Access to child care fee subsidies for families.

The investment of the additional Ministry funding aligns with the Early Years Community Plan 2012-2015 and is reflective of ongoing extensive consultation with the child care sector.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial:

A total of \$744,068 in new child care funding has been received by the City from the Ministry of Education. These are 100% Provincial funds and there are no cost sharing requirements for the City.

Staffing:

There are no staffing implications associated with Report CES16015.

Legal:

The 2016 Child Care Service Agreement has been received from the Ministry of Education and has been forwarded to Legal Services for review. Once approval is received from Legal Services the agreement will be executed.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Government of Ontario continues to stabilize and transform the early years and child care systems to better meet the needs of children aged 0-12 years. The Ministry of Education has supported this transformation through the introduction of:

- The Early Years Policy Framework;
- The new funding formula to allocate child care funding to municipalities;
- The new Funding Framework and Guidelines to support municipalities in managing the local child care system through the transformation process and development of local funding models;
- School-First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy; and,
- How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years.

In January 2016, the Ministry of Education announced the 2016 Child Care Funding Allocations, including an increase of \$16.3 million province-wide, to support the government's vision for a responsive, high-quality, accessible and increasingly integrated early years system. As a result, the City of Hamilton has received an increase of \$744,068 (100% Provincial) in funding for 2016.

	Total Gross Budget	Provincial Share	Municipal Share
2013	\$44,971,122	\$39,377,556	\$5,593,566
2014	\$47,773,659	\$42,180,093	\$5,593,566
2015*	\$49,850,558	\$44,256,992	\$5,593,566
2016*	\$50,624,625	\$45,031,059	\$5,593,566

* Excludes wage enhancement allocation

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The City of Hamilton is required to enter into a service agreement with the Province each year.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The investment of the additional Ministry funding aligns with the Early Years Community Plan 2012-2015 and is reflective of extensive ongoing consultation with the child care sector.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION

The additional 2016 funds will be allocated across the child care system using a 'balanced approach with a focus on:

- System priorities and capacity building;
- Stabilizing the child care system by supporting operating costs; and,
- Access to child care fee subsidies for families.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.

Strategic Objective

2.2 Improve the City's approach to engaging and informing citizens and stakeholders.

2.3 Enhance customer service satisfaction.

Strategic Priority #3

Leadership & Governance

WE work together to ensure we are a government that is respectful towards each other and that the community has confidence and trust in.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None