



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 7, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Best Start Funding (CES16017) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Grace Mater (905) 546-2424 ext. 4979 Rachelle Moore (905) 546-2424 ext. 3590
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not Applicable

Information:

In July 2015, the City of Hamilton was advised by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) that the Best Start Demonstration funding of \$1,355,400 would end effective March 31, 2016. An Information Update was provided to City Council on August 10, 2015. Since that time, discussions have been underway with the Ministry of Education (MEDU) to demonstrate how the programs and services created through the MCYS funding align with MEDU's mandate and their responsibility for family support programs across the province.

Following these discussions, the City of Hamilton was notified on January 13, 2016 that MEDU would mitigate the impact of the termination of funding for those components of the demonstration site expenditures that align with MEDU-funded family support programs. MEDU will provide the City with \$555,000 in annual funding to ensure the continuation of these services for children and families.

The Ministry of Education acknowledged the important role demonstration sites play in providing valuable learnings about how the integration of early years programs and services lead to positive outcomes for children and demonstrate emerging practices to guide integration in other communities.

Staff will continue to develop strategies to alleviate the impact of the lost funding.