



Hamilton

**Ontario Early Years Child  
and Family Centres**

# Background

- As of **January 2018**, the City will be responsible for the local planning , funding and ongoing management of the new Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFCs)
- In June 2017, the Ministry of Education announced the 2018 funding allocation of **\$5.9 million** for Hamilton
- Two capital funding opportunities are available through local boards of education
- The creation of the OEYCFCs aligns with the **Hamilton Early Years Community Plan**



# Local Planning Process

- In June 2016, the City convened an OEYCFC planning group comprised of representatives from the existing OEYC agencies, including Indigenous and Francophone operators, Ministry of Education, local school boards, professional resource centre, and City staff (CES and Public Health)
- The planning group informed the needs assessment and initial OEYCFC plan which is due to the ministry by September 29, 2017
- The group consulted with families and children to better understand why families use family support programs and the current barriers to accessing these services
- The planning group conducted data and financial analysis and mapping exercises to inform the initial plans



# Needs Assessment

- Needs assessment identified strengths of the existing system and highlighted key accomplishments to-date:

Strong foundation and working relationships with OEYCs and PFLCs

Long established relationships

Innovative initiatives such as the Check It Out clinics

Collaboration with early years providers (e.g. professional development)

Focus on program evaluation

Families report a “comfortable, welcoming and friendly” environment at OEYCs and PFLCs



# Needs Assessment

- Needs assessment identified considerations to inform planning for the new system:

Minimal funding increases resulting in limited ability to expand hours or locations to meet changing needs

Some perception of service duplication

Need to view programs as a system

Unclear access points for families that are not currently engaged

Need to work closely with providers that have expertise regarding the needs of diverse populations and children with complex needs

Need for more efficient data collection mechanisms

Opportunity to align Child & Family Centres with broader community hubs strategy



# Conceptual Model

- Based on the needs assessment the new model will include:

## Mandatory Provincial Core Services

- Engaging parents and caregivers
- Making connections for families
- Supporting early learning and development

## Local System Expectations

- Participation in the Hamilton Early Years Quality Program
- Professional learning and development
- System-wide data and monitoring protocols
- Stakeholder engagement
- Coordination of programs, supports and processes



# Child & Family Centre Sites

- The new model will move towards more **full-service sites** in **permanent locations**
- One of the key objectives is to move towards more **equitable distribution** of sites across the city
- The long-term vision is for the new system to include approximately **15-20 Child & Family Centre sites**
- Sites will be a combination of **full-time and part-time**
- Sites will be combination of **new and existing locations**
- The new system will be **phased in** beginning in 2018 in order to minimize disruptions and capitalize on new opportunities



# Site and Operator Selection

- The Child & Family Centre system will build on the existing 8 main OEYC sites and the existing 6 OEYC operators
- CHMS staff will begin a process to assess potential new sites and operators

## Site Selection

- Ability to meet needs of a diverse population
- Range of settings across the city
- Supports easy family access
- Supports neighbourhoods
- Supports community connections
- Meets physical requirements
- Meets operational requirements

## Operator Selection

- Not-for-profit
- Financial and organizational viability
- Capacity to deliver high quality programs
- Capacity to address diverse needs
- Commitment to work in partnership with other community partners
- Participation in the quality program
- Staff are paid a living wage





# Next Steps

- Develop a transition plan for the new Child & Family Centre system, including the selection of sites and operators
- Continued consultation with families, early years staff, and community partners
- Develop a communication plan to keep all key stakeholders informed
- Meet with City Councillors to discuss opportunities and potential changes within their respective Wards
- Commitment to supporting families and programs to transition to the new system



# Questions?

