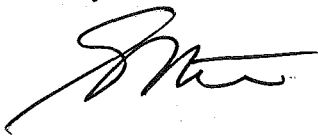




Hamilton

## INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	July 11, 2019
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Child Care Fee Subsidy Wait List (HSC19039) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Brenda Bax (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4120 Jessica Chase (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3590
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Grace Mater Director, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### COUNCIL DIRECTION:

Not Applicable

### INFORMATION:

On June 7, 2019, staff received the Ministry of Education 2019 Child Care and Early Years funding allocations and corresponding Child Care Service Management and Funding Guidelines. These guidelines outline the Ministry's direction for the various funding envelopes that support the City to effectively manage a high-quality child care and early years system in Hamilton. They also outline the service targets for the Child Care Fee Subsidy program.

Child Care Fee Subsidy provides financial assistance towards the cost of licensed child care for children 0 to 12 years of age. Eligibility is based on a reason for service and an income test. Staff have reviewed the Ministry funding, guidelines and year to date fee subsidy utilization and found that the current child care fee subsidies are 13% higher than last year and the caseload is 9% higher than the 2019 Ministry targets.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Child Care Fee Subsidy Wait List (HSC19039) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2**

The 2019 fee subsidy budget is capped and supports an average of 4,087 children each month, however, approximately 4,464 children are currently receiving a fee subsidy. In order to remain within the budget allocation and maintain the Ministry targets, staff are now implementing a child care fee subsidy wait list. The wait list only applies to new applicants and does not impact families who are currently receiving a child care fee subsidy from the City of Hamilton.

Although staff are implementing a wait list strategy, we recognize that there are children who require immediate placement; therefore, the wait list will not apply to families who meet the following criteria:

- Eligible families with a child in need of special needs resources;
- Eligible families in high-risk situations; and,
- Young parents who are 16 to 25 years of age.

Families who do not meet these criteria will be placed on a wait list.

Staff will continue to monitor the caseload and when a subsidy becomes available, families will be removed from the wait list on a first come first serve basis.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None