

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

July 15, 2024

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's child care and early learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

- Enhanced Staffing Funding – Update
- Early Development Instrument (EDI) Data Tool – Updates
- Professional Learning Funding
- 2024 Workforce Compensation Retroactive Payment
- Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Compliance Audits
- Ontario Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grants

Enhanced Staffing Funding – Update

The [online application for enhanced staffing funding](#) for the September to December 2024 funding period is open until August 9.

Applications for enhanced staffing must include a Collaborative Action Plan that details the need for enhanced staffing support, including goals and milestones for success. For child-specific services, the application must also include the child's signed Individual Support Plan.

Early Development Instrument (EDI) Data Tool - Updates

The EDI is a questionnaire completed by kindergarten teachers that measures children's ability to meet age-appropriate developmental expectations at school entry. In 2023, it was completed by all six school boards in the Durham Region. The Region of Durham, Children's Services Division recently received the 2023 EDI data and has updated the Durham Region EDI Data Tool. This interactive tool allows the user to explore children's scores from the eight municipalities in the Durham Region (and the 50 health neighbourhoods). To learn more or to access the EDI Data Tool, visit the [Data in the Early Years](#) section of the Durham website. For questions about the EDI or the EDI Data Tool, please contact Natalie Mercier at Natalie.Mercier@durham.ca.

Professional Learning Funding

The Ministry of Education is providing professional learning funding to improve the recruitment and retention of the Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) workforce and other program staff and build the capacity of the early years and child care sector to support the provision of high-quality programs. The Professional Learning Funding letter of agreement (LOA) is available on the Operator Portal. Service providers must sign and return the LOA to initiate payment.

Professional Learning Funding provides the following staff with the opportunity to participate in one and a half professional learning days:

- Program staff and supervisors in licensed child care centres (RECE, Non-RECE, and director-approved staff).
- Home visitors and home child care providers.
- Program staff and supervisors in EarlyON Child and Family Centres.
- Non-program staff (e.g., cooks).
- Management

The Professional Learning reconciliation document will be available on the Operator Portal in September. Professional Learning Funding can not be used to support mandatory training (e.g., First Aid, Food Handlers, etc.).

If you have questions about Professional Learning Funding, please contact Tracy.Barclay@durham.ca or Stacey.Stevenson@durham.ca.

2024 Workforce Compensation Retroactive Payment

The 2024 Workforce Compensation retroactive payment was issued in May. This payment was titled 'CC CWELCC MAY-JUNE WORKF' on the payment advice and covered the additional workforce compensation funds owed for January to May 2024. These funds must be used to retroactively pay eligible RECE staff.

Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Compliance Audits

The 2024 CWELCC Compliance Audits have commenced. Each year, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) must complete audits on a random sample of service providers in receipt of CWELCC funding to confirm that funding has been used

for its intended purpose. Audits will focus on ensuring that the goals and requirements of CWELCC are met.

A Quality and Contract Compliance Advisor (QA) will contact randomly selected service providers to advise of the audit date five days before the visit and request information from the service provider to support the audit process. Following the onsite visit, the QA will provide a copy of the audit results to the service provider to review and sign.

For more information, please refer to the Compliance Audits policy in the CWELCC Policies and Procedures manual on the Operator Portal.

Ontario Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grants

Applications for the Fall 2024 semester for previous Qualification Upgrade Program (QUP) will open on July 22. All other applications will open on August 6. Applicants accepted into an approved program can apply for ECE Grants before registering for their upcoming semester. Funding will prioritize past QUP applicants. Visit the [Ontario ECE Grants website](#) for more information.