

Ministry of Education

Associate Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre associée

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Memorandum To: Chief Administrative Officers, CMSMs/DSSABs
General Managers/Commissioners, CMSMs/DSSABs
Children's Service Leads, CMSMs/DSSABs

From: The Honourable Indira Naidoo-Harris
Associate Minister of Education

Date: October 4, 2016

Subject: Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres –
Service Planning Investment for 2017

Thank you for your ongoing support and leadership in planning for the implementation of Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres. I know how important these programs and services will be for children and families, and the incredible impact that they will have on communities across the province.

To respond to requests from our municipal partners, I am pleased to announce that beginning in January 2017, the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) will provide a one-time \$5M investment for Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) for the 2017 calendar year to support initial planning efforts.

As you know, on February 19, 2016, the Premier announced the provincial plan for moving forward with the integration and transformation of child and family programs to establish Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres by 2018. This transformation will result in child and family programs funded by the Ministry of Education becoming part of a cohesive system of services and supports guided by a provincial framework, a common identity and a new funding approach. These centres will be managed locally by CMSMs/DSSABs as part of their existing responsibility for the service system management of child care and other human services.

Creating Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres is just one step in the transformation that is currently underway in the child care and early years sector. Since 2003–04, the government has doubled child care funding and, within the next five years, Ontario will help to create another 100,000 new, licensed child care spaces for children ages 0-4 so that more families can find quality, affordable care. Starting in September 2017, all children ages 4 to 12 will have access to before-and-after-school care where there is sufficient demand from families.

The Ministry has been engaged in several conversations with stakeholders across the province to inform our approach for child and family centres. With input and advice from our partners, in July 2016 the Ministry distributed an information package containing details about new planning guidelines, data analysis services, child and family program data, and the inclusion of Early Literacy Specialists in system transformation. The package also outlined next steps related to conducting local needs assessments and developing initial service plans for Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres by May 2017.

We understand that this is important work that will require broad community engagement, detailed analysis, and collaboration with multiple partners. To address the need for resources to support this work, the one-time \$5M investment that will be provided to CMSMs/DSSABs for the 2017 calendar year will support:

- building capacity to determine community needs, identify prospective service locations, service providers, and program offerings;
- developing local service system plans for child and family centres; and
- establishing local service contracts and/or purchase of service agreements to prepare for program implementation by January 2018.

The new service planning investment will be distributed to CMSMs/DSSABs through a new transfer payment agreement for 2017. Every CMSM/DSSAB will receive a minimum of \$87,719 and additional funds will be allocated to reflect child population (see attachment for a list of allocations by CMSM/DSSAB). CMSMs/DSSABs will also continue to receive funding for service system planning/administration as a portion of future Ontario Early Years Child and Family Program allocations on a go-forward basis. More information about the ongoing funding approach for Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres will be released in early 2017.

These new investments will be provided in addition to the new resources being transferred to CMSMs/DSSABs for data analysis services beginning in January 2017. Combined, these resources will support communities as they prepare for program implementation and broader early years system integration.

I encourage you to follow up with your local Child Care Advisor or Education Officer if you would like to discuss this memo further. I look forward to our continued collaboration in supporting children and their families in the coming years.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Indira Naidoo-Harris
Associate Minister of Education

C: Gary McNamara, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Attachment: 2017 Service Planning Investment Allocations