



2023-2026
Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) System
City of Greater Sudbury Directed Growth Strategy

PROVINCIAL DIRECTION

Ontario’s vision for the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system is to ensure families across the province have access to high-quality, affordable, flexible, and inclusive child care - no matter where they live.

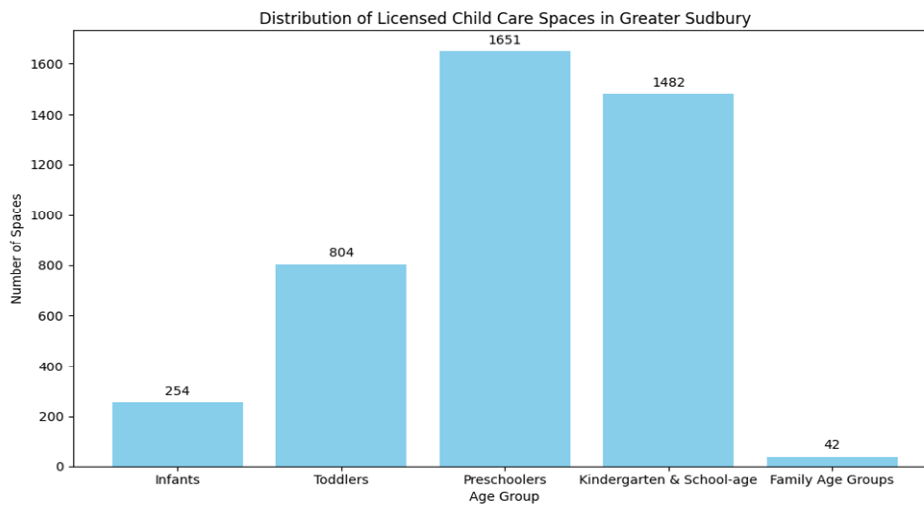
The province recognizes the important role of Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) in shaping local child care systems. CMSMs are responsible for understanding community needs, planning and managing services, identifying gaps, and coordinating support. In Greater Sudbury, Children Services is the designated CMSM and is responsible for identifying which communities will receive new licensed child care spaces under the 2023–2026 CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy.

As part of the CWELCC Agreement, the Province has committed to creating 86,000 new licensed child care spaces that are high-quality and affordable. This includes more than 33,000 spaces already established between 2019 and 2026. These new spaces reflect a strong commitment to maintaining access to fully funded, not-for-profit child care programs within Greater Sudbury.

CWELCC DIRECTED GROWTH PLAN

The Province has approved the creation of 429 new licensed child care spaces in Greater Sudbury, to be developed between 2024 and 2026. This expansion will increase the total number of licensed child care spaces in our community from 4,234 to 4,663.

These new spaces will be distributed across various age groups as follows:



To help determine where new CWELCC child care spaces will be located, the Province has established population-based criteria that CMSMs must use to identify priority communities under the CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy. These priority populations include:

- Low-income families
- Francophone families
- Families with children with special needs
- Indigenous families
- Racialized families
- Newcomer families

While child care operators are not restricted from opening new licensed spaces for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, or school-age children, only the 429 spaces approved and outlined in this plan will receive CWELCC funding. This means any additional spaces created outside of the approved allocation will not be eligible for reduced parent fees under the CWELCC program.

Children Services acknowledges the 2023–2026 CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy may not fully meet the child care needs of all families in our community. The number of spaces being created reflects the parameters set by the Province, including funding limits, timelines, and the current workforce challenges facing the child care sector.

Despite these constraints, Children Services remains committed to pursuing future opportunities to expand the licensed child care system. Our goal is to increase the number of available spaces and improve access to affordable, high-quality child care for families across Greater Sudbury.

DATA AND INFORMATION SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING

Community Analysis

Each area of the city holds a unique demographic profile related to the number and age of children, Francophone and Indigenous populations, parents’ work schedules, and income levels. These factors have an impact on the demand for services and the needs of families who use them. For analysis and planning for the Greater Sudbury CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy, there are nine distinct neighbourhood profiles that will be used in reporting the distribution and space allocation.

Parent and Community Consultation

Greater Sudbury is committed to ensuring the child care spaces created under the CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy are responsive to the needs of families and communities. As such, a broad community consultation was undertaken in late winter/early spring 2023 to collect information and feedback from these important stakeholders. The consultation included the distribution of a comprehensive parent, educator, and service provider survey as well as community consultations with stakeholders across the sector. A total of 750 surveys/feedback forms were received and used to inform Greater Sudbury’s CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy.

Additional Community Data/Information

To inform the Greater Sudbury 2023-2026 CWELCC System Directed Growth Strategy, we used a variety of data sources, including community consultations and surveys. Key datasets included the 2021 Census, caseloads and utilization rates from Ontario Works and Fee Subsidy programs, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of social and specialized service locations, the Early Development Instrument (EDI) report for Greater Sudbury, as well as information and maps of major employer locations and infrastructure.

Zone	Areas Included
Zone 1	Azilda, Chelmsford, Dowling, Levack, and Areas
Zone 2	Lively, Copper Cliff, Naughton, Whitefish, and Areas
Zone 3	Donovan, Flour Mill, and Areas
Zone 4	Garson, Coniston, Wanapitei, Falconbridge
Zone 5	Hanmer, Valley, Capreol and Areas
Zone 6	Minnow Lake and Areas
Zone 7	New Sudbury and Areas
Zone 8	South End and Areas
Zone 9	Downtown, West End, Kingsmount, Bell Park, and Areas

CURRENT LICENSED CHILD CARE SYSTEM

Greater Sudbury's licensed child care system comprises centre-based, school-based, and licensed home child care programs, with the majority located in the more densely populated areas of the community. These services are delivered by 15 distinct non-profit child care operators who have long-standing funding partnerships with Children Services.

Of the 6,685 licensed child care spaces currently available, approximately 60 per cent serve children in kindergarten and school age. This creates an imbalance in the availability of spaces for infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children.

To address this gap, the Greater Sudbury CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy will prioritize the expansion of licensed spaces for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Additionally, the strategy will support the growth of licensed home-based child care in neighborhoods with smaller populations, where mixed-age group settings can better meet the needs of children and families.

CENTRE BASED SPACES					
	Licensed Spaces (Infant, Toddler, Preschool, Kindergarten Family Grouping)	Operating Spaces (Infant, Toddler, Preschool, Kindergarten Family Grouping)	Licensed Spaces (School-Age)	Operating Spaces (School Age)	Total
Azilda, Chelmsford, Dowling, Levack and areas	542		315		857
Lively, Copper Cliff, Naughton, Whitefish and areas	351		239		590
Donovan, Flour Mill and areas	199		105		304
Garson, Coniston, Wahnapiatae, Falconbridge and areas	273		165		438
Hanmer, Valley, Capreol and areas	637		515		1152
Minnow Lake and area	171		105		276
New Sudbury and area	791		410		1201
South End and area	601		399		1000
Downtown, West End, Kingsmount, Bell Park and areas	627		240		867
Total	4192		2493		6685

HOME BASED SPACES				
	Licensed Spaces (Infant, Toddler, Preschool, Kindergarten Family Grouping)	Operating Spaces (Infant, Toddler, Preschool, Kindergarten Family Grouping)	Licensed Spaces (School Age)	Operating Spaces (School Age)
Azilda, Chelmsford, Dowling, Levack and areas	18	14		
Lively, Copper Cliff, Naughton, Whitefish and areas	18	13		
Donovan, Flour Mill and areas	18	18		
Garson, Coniston, Wahnapiatae, Falconbridge and areas	12	10		
Hanmer, Valley, Capreol and areas	12	10		
Minnow Lake and area	6	5		
New Sudbury and area	41	28		1
South End and area	30	26		
Downtown, West End, Kingsmount, Bell Park and areas	6	6		
Total	161	130		1

The licensed child care spaces outlined in the chart above may include net new licensed home child care spaces, new child care centre spaces, or a combination of both. The development of centre-based spaces depends on the availability of suitable buildings within designated communities. These buildings must meet the requirements of a licensed child care program, either as-is or with renovations.

Building standards for licensed child care centres are governed by the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA) and must be approved by the Ministry of Education's Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch. In addition, facilities must comply with municipal by-laws, Public Health regulations, and current building and fire codes.

In situations where creating community-based spaces is not feasible - due to lack of available buildings, prohibitive costs, or timelines that exceed implementation requirements - Children Services reserves the right to reallocate designated CWELCC spaces to another community.

The designated community-based child care spaces, as outlined in the above chart include new licensed home child care and child care centre-based spaces or a combination of both. The creation of centre-based spaces is, however, subject to the availability of an existing building in the designated community that has the ability, with or without renovation, to meet the requirements of a licensed child care program.

Building requirements for licensed child care centres are outlined in the Provincial Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA) and are subject to the approval of the Ministry of Education Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch, municipal by-law requirements, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Public Health requirements as well as current building and fire codes.

In cases where options for the creation of community-based spaces are non-existent, cost prohibitive or would exceed the implementation timeline, Children Services reserves the right to move designated CWELCC spaces to another community.

OPERATOR SELECTION

Expression of Interest

The newly allocated CWELCC spaces will be distributed among the 16 child care operators who currently have a valid funding agreement with the City of Greater Sudbury. If these operators are unable to meet the new space targets, Children Services will initiate a public Expression of Interest process to identify additional not-for-profit providers for our community.

Auspice

The Ministry of Education has set the required ratio of not-for-profit versus for-profit licensed child care spaces for children aged 0 to 5 years, which must be created in each CMSM region under the CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy. CMSM/DSSABs where less than 90 per cent of their spaces for infant, toddler, preschool, kindergarten, and school-age children are currently not-for-profit must maintain their threshold when introducing the new CWELCC spaces. Alternatively, CMSM/DSSABs where 90 per cent or more of their current spaces are not-for-profit are permitted to reduce their current rate of not-for-profit new spaces to 90 per cent with the introduction of CWELCC spaces.

Of the current licensed infant, toddler, preschool, kindergarten, and school-age child care spaces in Greater Sudbury, 100 per cent of these spaces are operated as not-for-profit spaces.

Family Access to Spaces

To ensure families, as outlined in the Provincial CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy criteria, have access to the 429 spaces being created, all community-based child care spaces created as part of the initiative will be subject to a centralized intake and placement process that will be coordinated by the City of Greater Sudbury.

Program Pedagogy

The community-based child care spaces outlined in the chart above may consist of newly licensed home child care spaces, new child care centre spaces, or a combination of both. The development of centre-based spaces depends on the availability of suitable buildings within designated communities. These buildings must be capable of meeting the requirements for licensed child care programs, either in their current condition or with renovations.

All licensed child care centres must comply with the standards set out in the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA) and receive approval from the Ministry of Education's Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch. In addition, facilities must meet municipal by-law requirements, public health regulations, and current building and fire codes.

If it is determined that creating child care spaces in a designated community is not feasible - due to a lack of available buildings, high costs or timelines that exceed implementation requirements – Children Services reserves the right to reallocate CWELCC-designated spaces to another community where they can be more effectively established.

Children Services is committed to building an inclusive child care system that reflects the values of diversity, equity and inclusion. All planning and placement decisions will prioritize equitable access for all children, including those with exceptionalities. Child care operators participating in this initiative are expected to uphold and implement Greater Sudbury's inclusion model, ensuring every child is welcomed, supported and allowed to thrive in a safe and inclusive environment.

Enrollment in CWELCC

Any operator selected to deliver child care spaces under the CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy must either hold or enter into a Service Agreement with the City of Greater Sudbury for CWELCC funding. Additionally, operators are required to maintain their enrollment in the CWELCC system through to the end of 2026.

Parent Fees

Under the CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy, all selected operators, including new licensed home child care providers, must comply with provincial legislation introduced in 2022 that sets a maximum allowable daily fee for families accessing CWELCC-enrolled programs. This includes adhering to all requirements outlined in the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA) and maintaining full enrollment in the CWELCC system. Operators must ensure all mandatory fees, including registration and daily care costs, do not exceed the legislated cap, currently set at an average of \$22 per day.

CWELCC DIRECTED GROWTH FUNDING

Start-Up Grant Funding: School-Based Location

Funding is available to assist with school-based program start-up expenses associated with the new program/site. This includes funding for expenses such as:

- Play-based toys and equipment
- Office furniture
- Technology
- Signage

Start-Up Grant Funding: Community-Based Location (Centre-Based)

Funding is available to assist with community-based location building renovation and start-up expenses associated with the new program/site. This includes funding for expenses such as:

- Minor capital renovation (i.e., plumbing, painting, minor construction, etc.)
- Play-based toys and equipment
- Office furniture
- Technology
- Signage

Start-Up Grant Funding: Community-Based Location (Licensed Home)

Funding is available to assist existing licensed home child care program operators with start-up expenses associated with opening new homes. This includes funding for expenses such as:

- Play-based toys and equipment (for loan to home providers)
- Materials

Where a licensed child care operator is new to the operation of licensed home child care, additional start-up funding to assist with the creation of office space for the home visitor, as well as for storage of toys, equipment, etc., to be loaned to home providers, may be available. This includes funding for expenses such as:

- Minor capital renovation (e.g. painting, minor construction, IT installation, etc.)
- Office furniture
- Technology
- Signage

Program Operating Funding

Operators selected to operate CWELCC spaces under this initiative will receive ongoing CWELCC operating funding to offset program operational expenses (e.g. rent, insurance, program expenses, etc.). This funding is intended to offset the ongoing reduction in parent fee revenue as well as address increasing inflationary and operational expenses. The amount of funding allocation is calculated based on the number of spaces, age group and the program's annual operating expenses.

Workforce Compensation Funding

Licensees selected to operate CWELCC spaces under this initiative will receive Workforce Compensation Funding to support the recruitment and retention of Registered Early Childhood Education (RECE) staff.

QUESTIONS/INQUIRIES

For more information on the Greater Sudbury 2023-2026 CWELCC System Directed Growth Strategy, please contact: Greater Sudbury Children Services at: childrenservices@greatersudbury.ca