

The Government of Canada has identified child care as a national priority to enhance early learning and childhood development, support workforce participation and contribute to economic recovery. The Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) System is a provincial program funded by the Ministry of Education. Funding under the CWELCC System will be used to build and leverage the success of Ontario’s existing early learning and child care system by increasing quality, accessibility, affordability and inclusivity in early learning and child care.

The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (Leeds Grenville) is the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) responsible for implementing the CWELCC System within Leeds and Grenville.

KEY DATES FOR LEEDS GRENVILLE CWELCC IMPLEMENTATION

<p>July 4, 2022</p>	<p>CWELCC System Launched</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Guidelines, Application and Opt-Out Forms Released. • Licensed child care Operators with head offices within Leeds and Grenville can begin to apply to enroll in the CWELCC System. • Twenty-five percent (25%) child care fee reduction for eligible children will begin once the Operator is enrolled in the CWELCC System. • Parent refunds (retroactive to April 1, 2022) will begin for eligible children once the Operator is enrolled in the CWELCC System. • Workforce Compensation benefits will begin once the Operator is enrolled in the CWELCC System.
<p>July 14, 2022</p>	<p>CWELCC System Program Launch Operator Information Webinar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A webinar hosted by Leeds Grenville, Children’s Services Department, for local child care Operators.
<p>Sept. 1, 2022</p>	<p>Application for Enrollment or Opt-Out Deadline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All eligible licensed child care Operators must apply to the CWELCC System or opt-out of the CWELCC System by this date. • Operators who opt-out of the CWELCC System will not have another opportunity to enroll until 2023. • If an Operator does not enroll in the CWELCC System by September 1, 2022, parents of eligible children will not receive retroactive fee refunds or a fee reduction.

End of December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fifty percent (50%) reduction on average in child care fees for eligible children registered with an Operator enrolled in the CWELCC system will come into effect.
End of Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten dollar (\$10.00) Per Day Average Child Care Fees for Eligible Children.

Which Operators Can Apply to the CWELCC System?

- All licensed child care Operators with programs serving children under the age of six (6), or turning six (6) before June 30 that year, within Leeds and Grenville are eligible to apply to participate in the CWELCC System, even those that do not currently have a Service Agreement with Leeds Grenville.
- Participation in the CWELCC System is optional; however, Operators are encouraged to participate so that families can benefit from fee reductions.

How Will Parents Benefit from the Implementation of the CWELCC System?

- Parents with eligible children under the age of six (6), or turning six (6) before June 30 in a calendar year who are enrolled in child care with an Operator participating in the CWELCC System for 2022, will benefit from lowered child care fees and parent refunds retroactive to April 1, 2022, if applicable.

How Will Child Care Employees Benefit from the Implementation of the CWELCC System?

- Wage Floor funding will support recruitment and retention of Ontario’s child care workforce through improved compensation for low wage earners and an annual wage increase for eligible Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) who are employed by Operators enrolled in the CWELCC System.
- Minimum Wage Off-Set funding will support eligible non-RECE staff employed by Operators enrolled in the CWELCC System.

Inquiries Regarding the CWELCC System

- Telephone: 613-342-3840, x 2127
- Email: childrenservices@uclg.on.ca
- CWELCC System Information: leedsgrenville.com/en/services/canada-wide-early-learning-and-child-care-system.aspx