

Halton Region Children’s Services COVID-19 Funding Webinar

Questions and Answers

Below are questions/answers from the September 15 and 17, 2020 Children’s Services funding webinars. Further questions can be directed to your Halton Region Analyst, or Satinder Klair, at Satinder.Klair@halton.ca

1. Non- Purchase of Service Agreement Organizations	
<p>Is the funding discussed in the webinar for all centres, or only those with a Purchase of Service (POS)?</p> <p>I have not received any reconciliation workbooks, I do not have a Halton Region program analyst, etc.</p>	<p>Child care operators who do not have a purchase of service agreement can apply directly to the Ministry of Education for funding support. Not having a purchase of service agreement is defined as not having a purchase of service agreement for general operating and/or fee subsidy funding with Halton Region.</p>
<p>We applied for re-opening funding directly with the Ministry of Education, however we have not heard anything yet. Should I be worried or is it taking a longer time to respond to applications?</p>	<p>You may wish to contact your Ministry of Education Program Advisor on the status of your application.</p> <p>To obtain applications and for more information, contact the Ministry’s Licensed Child Care Helpdesk, Monday to Friday from 8am-6pm, at: Phone: 1-877-510-5333 Email: childcare_ontario@Ontario.ca</p>
<p>Is there still time for non-POS agencies to apply to the Ministry of Education for COVID-19 funding?</p>	<p>Phone: 1-877-510-5333 Email: childcare_ontario@Ontario.ca</p>
2. Fixed Costs, Rent/ Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (OCERCA)	
<p>What if a property owner has not yet announced the rent refund or OCECRA application?</p>	<p>Provincial funding for rent depends on your property owner’s status with the Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (OCECRA) program.</p>
<p>Our property owner did apply for April to August OCERCA funding but will not be going ahead with September. What is our eligibility for provincial funding?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the property owner is eligible and approved, the tenant portion of 25% can be supported through Provincial funding. If the property owner is ineligible, 75% of rent can be supported through provincial funding. If the property owner is unwilling to apply, 25% of rent can be supported

	Safe Restart Funding is available to support fixed overhead costs for vacancies for September onwards. Additional details will be available in the October memo.
What should be included in Professional Fees under fixed costs?	Examples of eligible professional fees include contracted bookkeeping or legal fees.
Why are ECE renewals not a fixed cost?	Renewals for membership in the Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators (ECE) is not an eligible expense under Provincial funding guidelines.

3. Staff wages/Salaries, General Operating Grant, Wage Enhancement Grant

Will the 10% GOG limit for eligible expenses still be in place for 2020 or has it been increased?	The 10% limit on eligible other General Operating Grant expenses is expected to remain in place for the remainder of 2020.
Can you elaborate on the Ministry/Halton direction regarding support top-up to employment insurance program?	Wage Enhancement Grant (WEG), General Operating Grant (GOG), and Pay Equity for the period of March 15-April 31 can be distributed to eligible staff if it has not already been paid. The funding can be provided as a top-up to employment insurance programs or CERB. The funds over this period will be reconciled as part of the year-end reconciliation process.
Can WEG can be paid out as a lump sum for the period of March 15 to April 31?	Yes, Wage Enhancement Grant and General Operating Grant can be paid to staff as a lump sum for the period of March 15 to April 31, 2020

4. Safe Restart Funding, Vacancy Costs

Can you give few scenarios regarding Safe Restart Funding vacancy costs?	Federal Safe Restart Funding can be used to support short-term vacancies as operators return to full capacity.
Can you please give an example of how the value of short term vacancies will be calculated for Safe Restart Funding purposes?	Further details regarding Safe Restart Funding, including how vacancy costs will be calculated, will be available in the October memo.