

Halton Region Children's Services COVID-19 Child Care Funding Operator Webinar

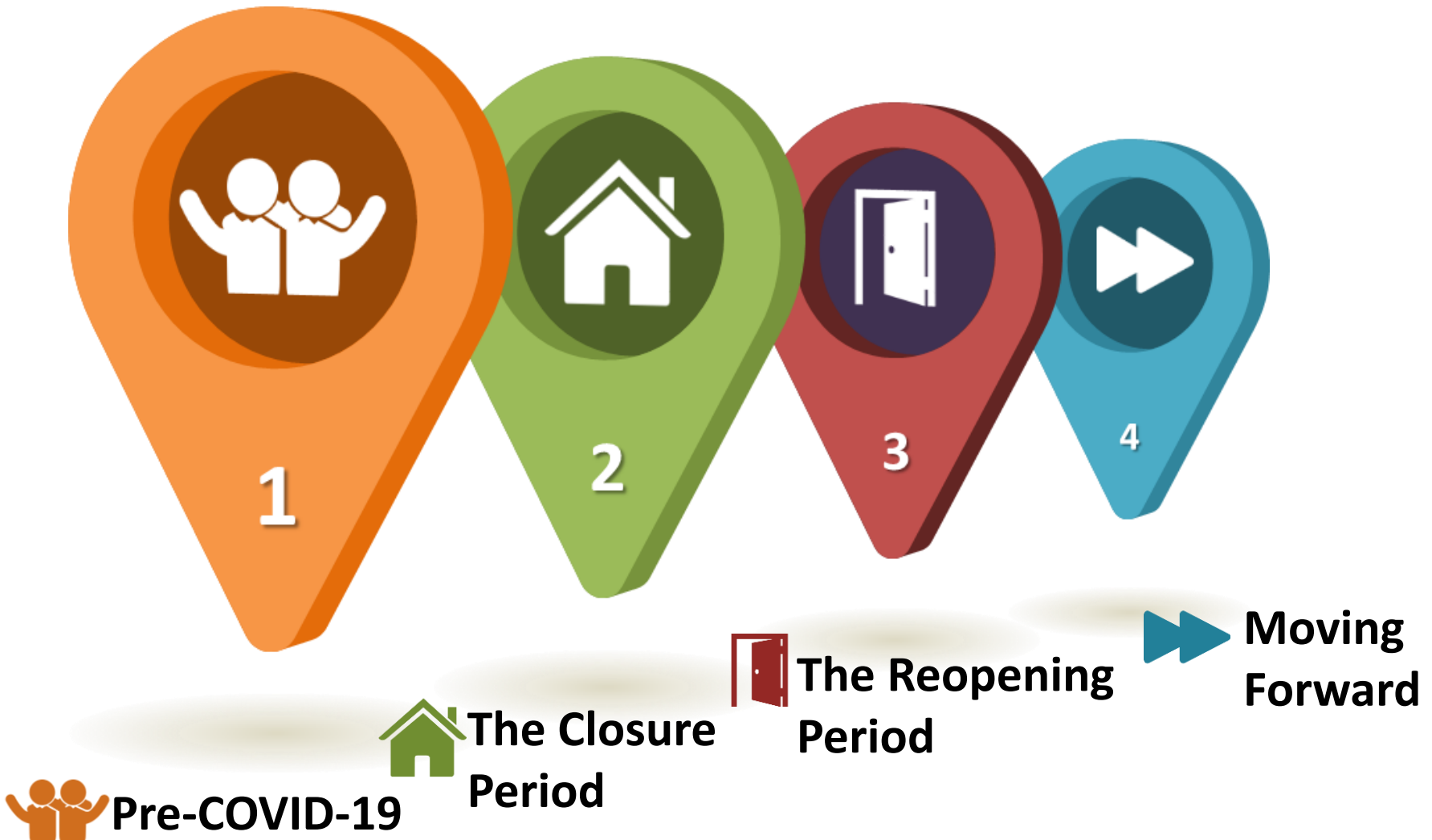
Children's Services Division
Halton Region



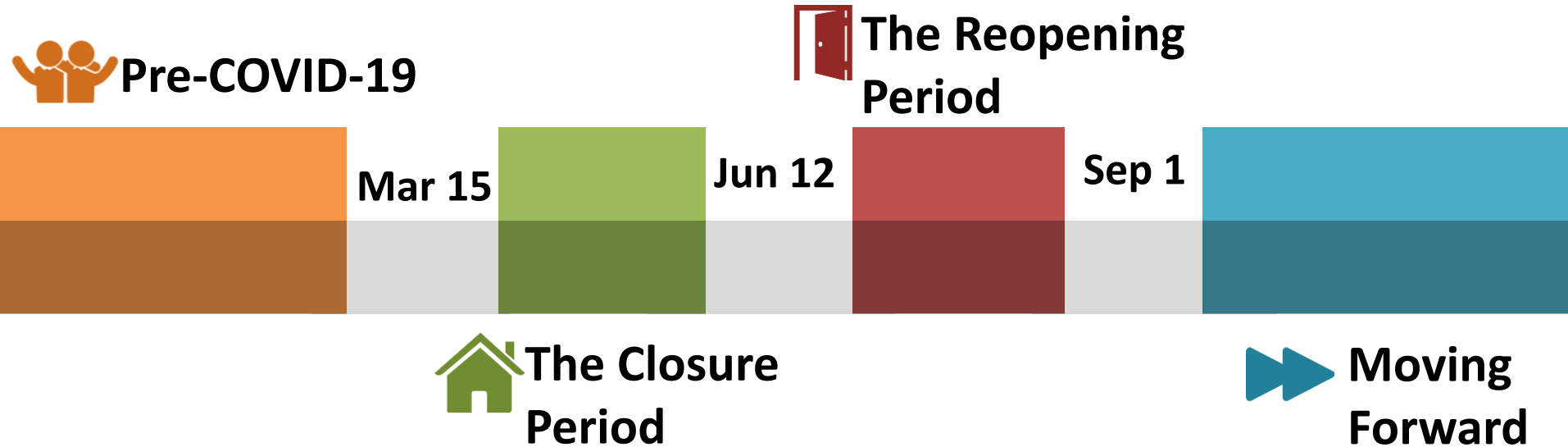


COVID-19 Child Care Funding Overview

Outline



Funding Timeline





PRE-COVID-19

Prior to March 15

Pre-COVID-19

“Business as usual”

Wage Enhancement Grant/ Home Child Care Enhancement Grant	\$2 per hour for all hours worked in program for eligible employees
Pay Equity	Provincial funding for child care programs with a proxy order from the Pay Equity Commission
General Operating Grant	90% of General Operating Grant used toward staff salaries/wages, 10% used toward other operating expenses
Fee Subsidy	Operators are funded based on family eligibility, managed through OCCMS



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THE CLOSURE PERIOD

March 15 to June 11

Funding Summary

Month

Funding Provided

Ministry/Halton Direction

March

- Wage Enhancement Grant
- General Operating Grant
- Pay Equity
- Fee Subsidy

- Support staff wages and/or top-up to employment insurance program

April

- Wage Enhancement Grant
- General Operating Grant
- Pay Equity

- Support staff wages and/or top-up to employment insurance program

May

- Sustainability Funding

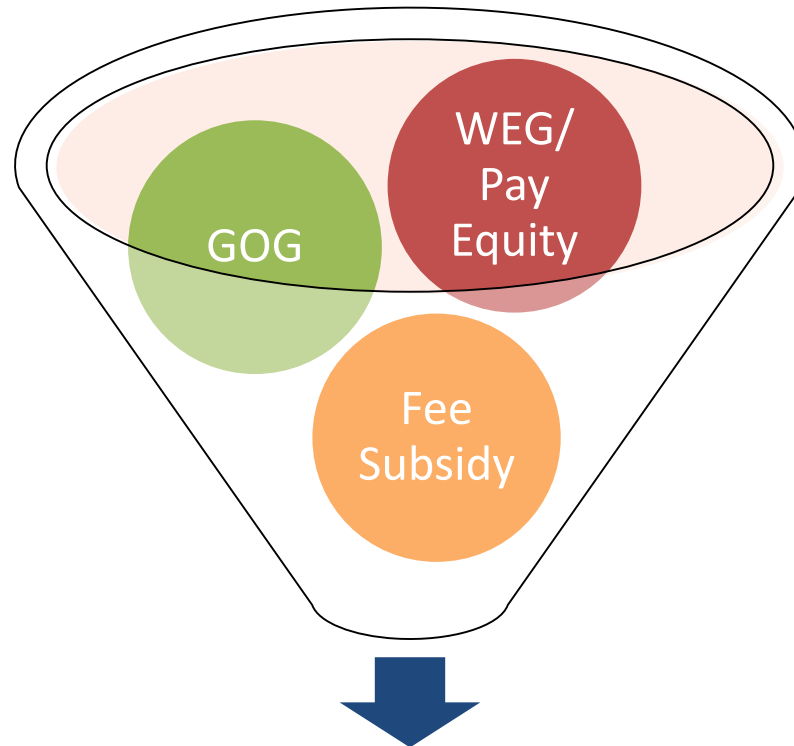
- Provincial funding cannot support staff salaries/wages
- Eligible fixed overhead costs

June

- Sustainability Funding

- Provincial funding cannot support staff salaries/wages
- Eligible fixed overhead costs

Closure Period Funding



Sustainability Funding



Sustainability Funding



Eligible



Ineligible

- ✓ **Fixed costs***, including mortgage, utilities, internet/phone loan interest, insurance, supplemental benefits, etc.
- ✓ **Tenant portion of rent**

- ✗ **Salaries and wages**, including statutory benefits
- ✗ **Non-fixed costs**, including audits, repairs and maintenance (including building and equipment), transportation, meals, advertising, ECE college membership, supplies for reopening

*Fixed overhead costs incurred directly by a centre can represent the following:

- 1) A cost that a centre is contractually obligated to pay while centres are ordered to be closed and/or;
- 2) A cost that is required to keep a centre sustainable until it can be reopened



Salaries and Wages: Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

- All child care centres were required to apply for Federal COVID-19 Economic Response Plan funding to support staffing costs retroactively to March 15, 2020
- Wage Enhancement Grant, General Operating Grant or Pay Equity paid to eligible staff between March 15 to April 30, 2020 as a top-up to employment insurance or as part of regular wages will **not** be recovered
- Child care centres that did not distribute funding during this time, can distribute funding now
- Funding for the period of March 15 to April 30, 2020 will be reconciled as part of year-end reconciliation processes



Rent

- March 15-31:
 - 100% eligible (if parents fees have been returned)
 - To be adjusted with October payments
- April 1 – August 31 Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA):

Property owner participates in CERCA

Property owner refuses participation

25% of rent will be covered using sustainability funding

Property owner/ tenants do not qualify for participation in CERCA

75% of rent will be covered using sustainability funding



Closure Period Reconciliation



August 2020:

Organizations reconciled funding for the period of March 15 – June 11

September 2020:

September payments adjusted to reflect closure period reconciliation

Rent for March 15 to March 31 to be reflected in the October payment

Refer to your “**Halton COVID-19 Closure Period Reconciliation Letter**” for details

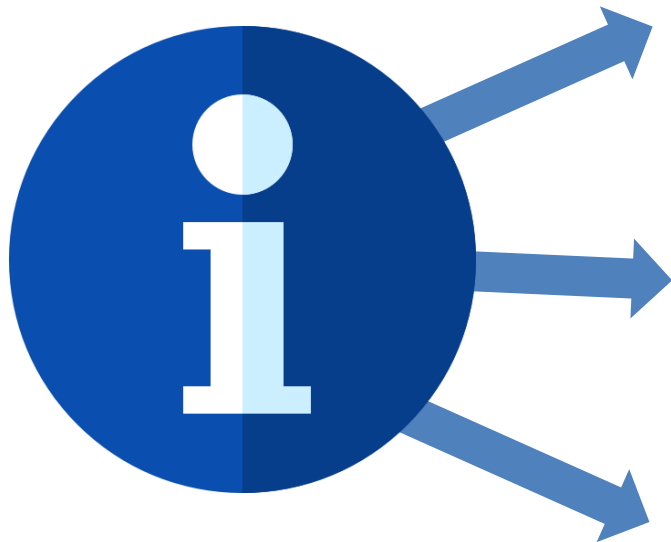


For More Information on Closure Period Funding

July 17 - Halton Region Memo:
**“Update Regarding COVID-19 # 7 –
Funding”**

May 9 Ministry of Education Memo:
**“Child Care Sector Funding – COVID
Outbreak”**

Your Assigned Halton Region Analyst

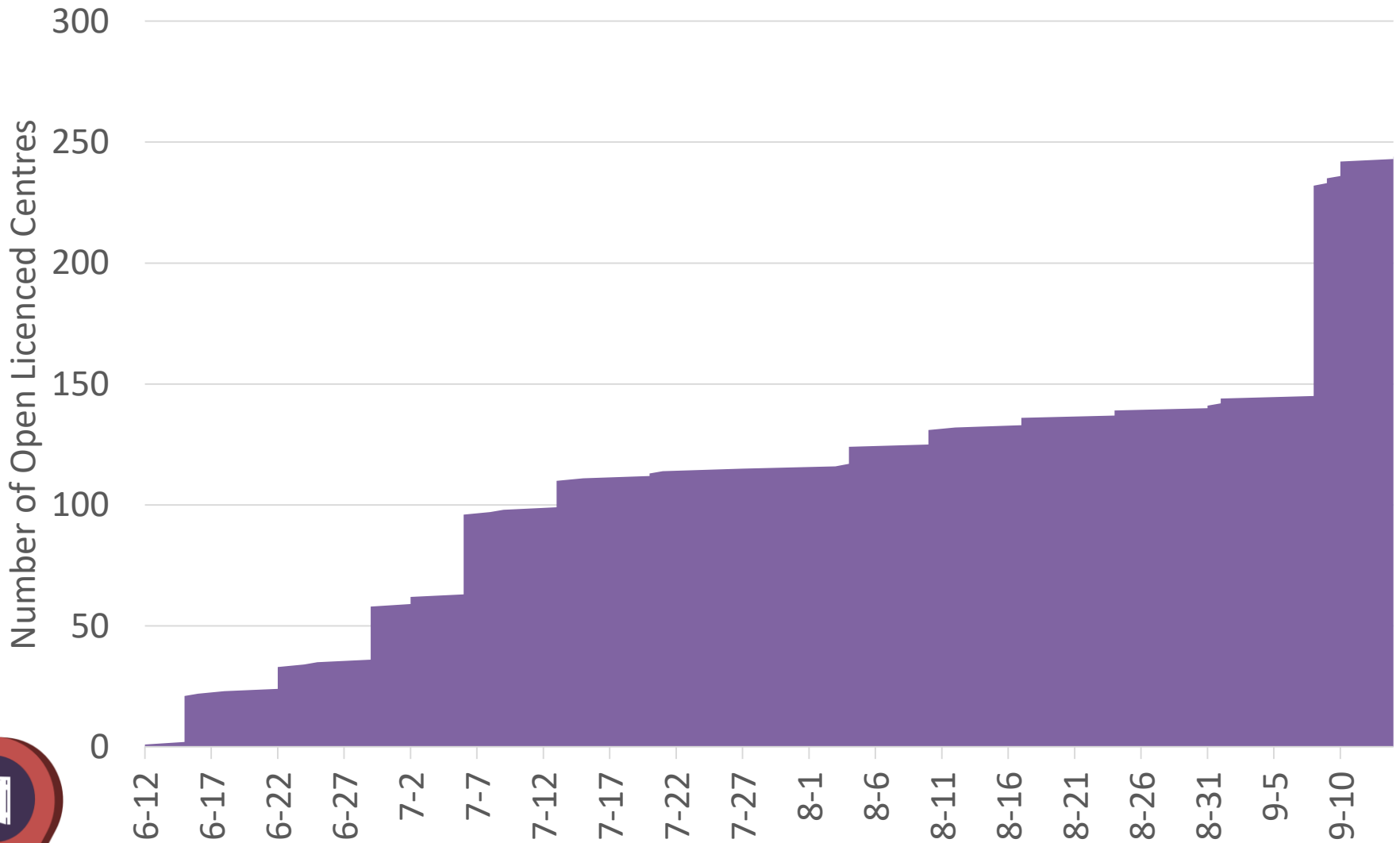




THE REOPENING PERIOD

June 12 to August 31

Reopening Timeline



Funding Summary

Month

Funding Provided

Ministry/Halton
Direction

June

- Sustainability Funding

- Eligible fixed overhead costs **and** eligible reopening costs

July

- Sustainability Funding

- Eligible fixed overhead costs **and** eligible reopening costs

August

- Sustainability Funding

- Eligible fixed overhead costs **and** eligible reopening costs



Prior to First Day of Service



- Eligible fixed overhead costs and rent per closure period

Once Reopened



- Personal Protective Equipment
- Enhanced Cleaning
- Minor Capital
- Proportional Vacancy Costs
- Proportional General Operating Grant, Wage Enhancement Grant, or Pay Equity
- Fee Subsidy



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Enhanced Cleaning



Minor Capital

- Minor Capital (under \$5000) where required per EDU's Operational Guidance Document or Local Public Health direction
- Examples:
 - Plexiglass barriers or other physical barriers
 - Doorbells
 - Room dividers
 - Playground dividers, gates
 - Portable hand-washing sinks
 - Hand washing stations



Proportional Vacancy Costs

- A portion of fixed overhead costs and rent (if ineligible for CECRA) will be covered by provincial funding.
- The amount covered is based on “**per cent vacant**”.

$$\% \text{ Vacant} = \frac{\text{Number of Days of Care}}{\text{Workdays} \times \text{Pre-COVID Licensed Capacity}}$$

- Individual Children Absent due to COVID-19 symptoms or centre closes due to an outbreak
→ eligible for vacancy costs if parents fees are returned



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Wage Enhancement and General Operating Grants and Pay Equity

- CEWS applications are to be inclusive of the wage enhancement and general operating grant amounts
 - 75% of **total** staff salaries and wages are to be funded by CEWS
 - Remaining 25% of total staff salaries and wages are to be supported through parental fees and provincial funding
 - Sustainability funding can be used to support 25% of wage enhancement grant, general operating grant and pay equity not supported by CEWS and any gaps not covered by parent fees and/or federal funding



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Wage Enhancement Grant Exception

- Prior to COVID-19, Wage Enhancement Grant only hours worked in-program (supporting ratio) were eligible
- For the period of **June 12-December 31**, Wage Enhancement Grant can be provided to staff who are supporting health and safety requirements or enhanced cleaning provided:
 - Normally they would have been in an eligible position
 - They previously qualified for WEG
- New staff in non-eligible positions, cannot be funded



Fee Subsidy Resumes

- Payments processed based on submission of monthly attendance in the Ontario Child Care Management System
- Individual children absent due to COVID-19 symptoms or self isolation → fee subsidy paid and absence to be recorded using code “A”
- Centre closed due to an outbreak → fee subsidy not paid and eligible fixed overhead costs associated with the fee subsidy spots are eligible



Reopening Reconciliation



September/October 2020:

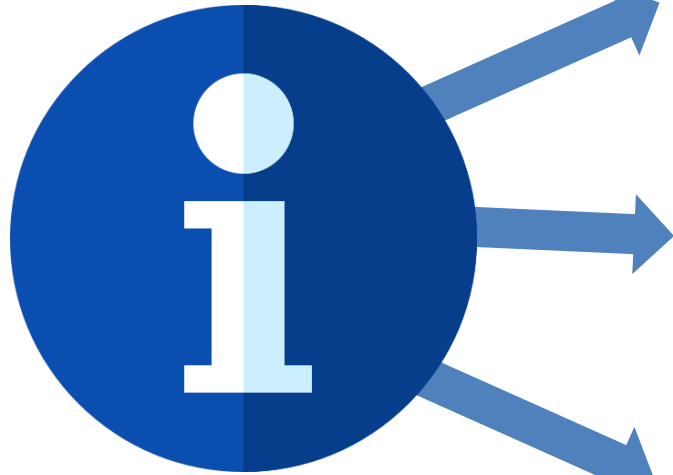
Organizations to work with Halton Region Analysts to reconcile funding for the period of June 12 – August 31

November 2020

November payments adjusted to reflect the reopening period reconciliation



For More Information on Reopening Period Funding



August 27- Halton Region Memo:
**“Update Regarding COVID-19 # 8 –
Funding”**

The Ministry of Education Operational
Guidance Document

Your Assigned Halton Region Analyst





MOVING FORWARD

September 1, 2020



September Onwards

Wage Enhancement Grant	
Pay Equity	
General Operating Grant	
Fee Subsidy	Operators are funded based on family eligibility, managed through OCCMS
Federal Safe Restart	Additional funding to support child care operators adapt to the COVID-19 environment (to be distributed)



Federal Safe Restart Funding

- Funds are intended to be used between September 1 to December 31, 2020
- Operators must have a purchase of service agreement for general operating, fee subsidies and/or EarlyON Child and Family Centres
 - Operators without a purchase of service agreement will receive funding support directly from the Province
- Funding can support five types of costs:
 1. Additional personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, gowns, etc.)
 2. Enhanced cleaning
 3. Additional staff to meet health and safety requirements
 4. Short-term vacancies as operators return to full capacity
 5. Minor capital (under \$5K) required for reopening or local public health requirements
- More details to follow



Reminder: Your Halton Region Analyst is here to help!



Kristin



Anna



Rukman



Michelle



Kayla



Selina



Swati



Annie





Questions & Answers

Pre-Submitted Questions

Common Themes



1. Wage Enhancement and General Operating Grants and Pay Equity from March 15 to April 30, 2020
2. September payments
3. Reopening reconciliation and reimbursement
4. Rent support after August 31
5. Vacancy support after August 31

**Centre specific questions should be directed to your
Program Analyst**

Q: Update Memo Regarding COVID-19 # 8 Funding indicates funding provided between March and April can be flowed to eligible staff. Can you please clarify what this means?

- A:**
- Operators that did not flow funding for March and April to eligible staff can do so now
 - The funding will be reconciled as part of the year-end reconciliation process

Q: How do I determine if staff are eligible for Wage Enhancement Grant, General Operating Grant, or Pay Equity? What if all my staff were on employment insurance and/or CERB? Are we required to distribute this funding?

- A:**
- Any staff that were eligible prior to the closure are eligible
 - Employment Insurance and/or CERB allow a top-up
 - Any funding not flowed to staff will be recovered as part of year-end reconciliation

Q: What does my September payment consist of?
Why does my September payment reconcile March to April payments when that funding can be flowed to staff?
When will my September payment be issued?

- A:**
- Your September payment consists of funding you were receiving prior to the closure
 - September payment also reconciles any eligible fixed overhead expenses for the closure period
 - September payment **does not** reconcile funding provided in March and April for Wage Enhancement, General Operating Grant, and Pay Equity. This funding will be reconciled as part of year-end reconciliation processes
 - September payments will be distributed this week (*apologies for the delay*)

Q: When will reopening expenditures and reconciliation be completed?

- A:**
- The closing period (March 15 to June 11) has been reconciled
 - The reopening period will be reconciled next
 - Updated workbooks have been distributed and are due on September 25, 2020 to your Program Analyst
 - November payment will reflect reopening reconciliation

Q: Will rent be supported after August 31st, 2020?
Can the Federal Safe Restart Funding be used for rent?

- A:**
- CECRA has been extended. You are encouraged to work with your property owner
 - As all other funding and parent fees have resumed, rent is ineligible under Safe Restart Funding
 - Revenue from parent fees or CECRA is expected to support with rent
 - Safe Restart Funding can support with other costs associated with reopening (i.e. staffing.)
 - Additional details will be provided in the October memo

Q: How will vacancy costs be supported after August 31st? Is it similar to the reopening period?

- A:**
- Short-term vacancies as operators return to full capacity is an eligible cost under Safe Restart Funding
 - Further direction is being sought from the Ministry of Education on how vacancy costs will be supported



Thank you for your time and attention

QUESTIONS

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