



# START-UP GRANT and ELCC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATION

FOR LONDON-MIDDLESEX DIRECTED GROWTH STRATEGY

<b><u>Contact information for person completing application form:</u></b>	
<b>Full Name:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Position Title:</b>	<b>Telephone Number:</b>
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	<b>Application Date:</b> yyyy-mm-dd
<b>Child Care Agency and Centre Name or Licensed Home Child Care Agency (LHCCA) Name:</b>  <b>Agency:</b>   <b>Centre:</b>	<b>Full Address of Child Care Centre/Home Child Care Agency Head Office:</b>
<b>Type of Program (if applicable):</b> <i>Please check all that apply.</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous (off-reserve)  <input type="checkbox"/> Francophone	<b>Full Address of Proposed Location:</b>
<b>Expected Opening Date:</b> yyyy-mm-dd	<b>Licence # if expanding existing site:</b>

## START-UP GRANT AND ELCC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND OVERVIEW

### PURPOSE

Start-up Grants are intended to support the creation of new licensed full day child care spaces for children ages 0-5 that are in alignment with the Service System Manager's directed growth strategy and with the greatest need. These grants are provided under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) framework, by the Ministry of Education and the Government of Canada to help increase the availability of child care in neighborhoods that have traditionally had fewer options, even when considering natural population growth. Child care licensees who are enrolled in CWELCC are eligible to apply for Start-up Grant funding.

The Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund (ELCC Infrastructure Fund) supports infrastructure projects with a goal of increasing inclusion in child care for underserved populations through the creation of new, licensed child care spaces. The ELCC Infrastructure Fund supports not-for-profit licensed child care centres in alignment with Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework and will complement the Start-up Grant program.

### PRIORITY POPULATIONS

Funding will be **prioritized** for projects that support full-day child care spaces for ages 0-4 and prioritize access to licensed child care for vulnerable and diverse populations, including:

- a) Children living in low-income families
- b) Children with disabilities and children needing enhanced or individual supports
- c) Indigenous children
- d) Black and other racialized children
- e) Children of newcomers to Canada
- f) Francophone children

In addition to the above, ELCC Infrastructure Fund prioritize projects that support:

- g) Communities requiring child care during non-standard hours
- h) Rural and remote regions
- i) High-cost urban areas

### FUNDING PARAMETERS FOR APPLICATIONS

The parameters and eligible uses of Start-up Grant and ELCC Infrastructure funding have been established by the Ministry of Education.

Start-up Grants can be used to offset the initial costs required to expand or create more affordable child care spaces such as equipment and leasehold improvements, including retrofits, renovations, or expansion projects.

Capital projects for licensed child care programs for kindergarten, school-aged children, and before and after school programs are not eligible for Start-up Grant funding.

ELCC Infrastructure funding can be used to fund projects for child care facilities to be created, retrofitted, renovated or expanded to accommodate a maximum group size for each age grouping for eligible children in accordance with O. Reg. 137/15.

Licensed home child care agencies and licensees operating for-profit child care centres, as well as licensees operating school-based child care centres, are not eligible to receive ELCC Infrastructure Fund funding.

**For Start-up Grant, Operators must:**

- Ensure Start-up Grants are funding projects required for child care facilities to be created, retrofitted, renovated, or expanded to accommodate a maximum group size for each age grouping of eligible children,
- Ensure a focus on providing child care options to those who need them the most.
- Participate in the CWELCC system for at least 7 years after opening the new child care spaces (that is, from the first day of operation).
- Spend the Start-up Grant funding from the date the service agreement between the licensee and the CMSM/DSSAB is executed to December 31, 2026 (that is, the licensee must spend the funding by December 31, 2026).

**For ELCC Infrastructure Fund, Operators must:**

- Continue operating in the facility for at least 7 years after opening the new child care spaces (that is, from the first day of operation).
- Participate in the CWELCC system for at least 7 years after opening the new child care spaces (that is, from the first day of operation).
- Spend the ELCC Infrastructure Fund funding from the date the service agreement between the licensee and CMSM/DSSAB is executed to December 31, 2026 (that is, the licensee must spend the funding by December 31, 2026).
- Have a purchase of service agreement with the CMSM and be eligible to receive fee subsidy payments from the CMSM/DSSAB.

## ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

**Eligible expenses for Start- Up Grant include:**

- Play-based materials, equipment, and furnishings (both indoors and outdoors) as outlined in Section 19 of Ontario Regulation 137/15 under *the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*; non-consumable supplies/equipment to support the ongoing regular operation of the licensed child care program (e.g. appliances, IT, supplies to support learning environments while adhering to health and safety requirements).
- Renovations, additions, or repairs to licensed child care facilities or potential child care facilities as approved by the Service System Manager (“SSM”).
- Changes to outdoor play spaces that are required as a result of the expansion of child

care spaces in the centres so that the licensee continues to comply with Section 24 of O. Reg. 137/15 under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*. Funding to cover the costs incurred to make outdoor play space changes are subject to the overall project cap of \$350,000 per 20 child care spaces created.

- Leasehold improvements.

#### **Eligible expenses for home child care licensees:**

- Play materials, equipment, and furnishings (both indoors and outdoors) as outlined in Section 27 of O. Reg. 137/15 under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* that can be transferred between home child care licensees as required.
- **Eligible expenses for ELCC Infrastructure Fund include:** Purpose built new construction, renovations, retrofits, and additions to community-based child care facilities. This includes expenses incurred through the planning, design and building stages of these projects.
- Purchase of land or buildings.
- Purchase of play-based materials, equipment, and furnishings (both indoors and outdoors) as outlined in O. Reg. 137/15 under the CCEYA.
- Purchase of non-consumable supplies/equipment to support the ongoing regular operation of the child care program (for example, appliances, IT equipment, supplies to support learning environments while adhering to health and safety requirements).
- Changes to outdoor play space that are required as a result of the creation of new child care spaces so that the licensee continues to comply with O. Reg. 137/15.
- Leasehold improvements.

As stated above, licensed home child care agencies are not eligible to receive ELCCC Infrastructure Fund funding.

#### **INELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

##### **Ineligible expenses for Start-up Grant include:**

- Purchase of land or buildings.
- Debt costs including principal and interest payments related to capital loans, mortgage financing, and operating loans.
- Property taxes.
- Expenditures related to 6-12 age groups.
- School-based child care spaces.
- Indoor and outdoor renovations, additions or repairs to home child care licensee premises or potential home child care licensee premises.

### Ineligible expenses for ELCC Infrastructure Fund include:

- Debt costs, including principal and interest payments related to capital loans, mortgage financing, and operating loans.
- Property taxes.
- Amortization of existing assets.
- Operating expenses.
- Expenditures related to licensed child care programs for kindergarten and school-aged children and before and after school programs.
- Expenditures related to facilities owned by school boards.
- Expenditures related to licensed home child care spaces.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Licensee completes the Summer 2025 Directed Growth Call Out application and submits **by August 15, 2025** to [ChildrensServicesAdmin@london.ca](mailto:ChildrensServicesAdmin@london.ca) (if the proposed new spaces would be located in London) or to [ChildCare@middlesex.ca](mailto:ChildCare@middlesex.ca) (if the proposed new spaces would be located in County of Middlesex).
2. The City of London (SSM) and the County of Middlesex will evaluate all CWELCC Directed Growth Applications using the identified criteria. **Decisions will be made by mid-September 2025.**
3. Programs for which the Ministry has received advice indicating they are likely CWELCC eligible will have their eligibility for Start-up Grant and ELCC Infrastructure funding reviewed. If Start-up Grant and/or ELCC Infrastructure Fund funding is required and approved for CWELCC expansion, licensees will be provided a Start-up Grant/ ELCC Infrastructure Fund funding Schedule to their existing Funding Agreement.

## START-UP GRANT AND ELCC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATION

This Start-up Grant and ELCC Infrastructure fund application consists of 4 parts:

Part I – Description of Access and Inclusion Impact

Part II – Budget (separate excel Start-up Grant and ELCC Infrastructure budget workbook)

Part III – Project Timeline

Part IV – Sign-off

### PART I – DESCRIPTION OF ACCESS AND INCLUSION IMPACT

Please indicate the number of new licensed child care spaces this grant would support to create greater access and inclusion for underserved populations.

	<b>Infant</b> <i>(younger than 18 months)</i>	<b>Toddler</b> <i>(18 months or older but younger than 30 months)</i>	<b>Preschool</b> <i>(30 months or older but younger than 6 years)</i>
<b>Existing Licensed</b>			
<b>New Licensed</b>			

### PART II – BUDGET

Please complete the attached 2025 Start-up Grant and ELCC Infrastructure Fund Budget Workbook. This is an Excel document accompanying this application.

Start-up Grant funding caps:

- Centre-Based Licensed Child Care: Funding grants of up to \$350,000 for every 20 spaces for centre-based child care programs.
- Home-Based Licensed Child Care: Funding grants of up to \$1,200 per CWELCC space created, to a maximum of \$7,200 per provider.

Note: ELCC Infrastructure Fund funding does not have prescribed caps.

### PART III – PROJECT TIMELINE

Please identify the major milestones associated with the work to be completed. Please provide a date where applicable in the following chart:

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Anticipated Date of Achievement (yyyy-mm-dd)</b>
Floor Plan Approval letter received from Ministry of Education Licensing	
Site plan submission	
Permits issued	
Ministry issues license	
Opening	

## PART IV- SIGN-OFF

I understand that should I or the applying organization be eligible for and receive Start-up Grant funding and/or ELCC Infrastructure Fund funding, I or the applying organization will be required to participate in the CWELCC system until the end of the current Federal-Provincial CWELCC agreement on March 31, 2026. If I or the applying organization opts out of the CWELCC system or closes prior to March 31, 2026, I or the applying organization will be required to repay the Start-up Grant or the Infrastructure Fund to the City of London.

I understand that the City of London, as Service System Manager, may ask for additional documentation that confirms I or the applying organization can repay these funds should it not meet the expectations of the Start-up Grant and/or the ELCC Infrastructure Fund requirements, prior to entering into a Funding Agreement with the licensee. With signing authority for this organization, I certify that the information provided here is to the best of my knowledge, accurate and true.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND SIGNATURES

#### Notice of Collection:

The applicant acknowledges that the information collected, used or disclosed under this Application is subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSO 1990, c M. 56 and regulations ("MFIPPA"), and the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* as amended, or any successor legislation, applicable federal or provincial legislation regulations and standards relating to the collection, use and disclosure of information. This information will be used to provide advice to the Ministry of Education and service system planning. If you have questions regarding the collection of information, please contact the Manager, System Operations in the Child Care and Early Years Department:

#### City of London

- 355 Wellington St. Suite 249, London, ON N6A 3N7
- [ChildrensServicesAdmin@london.ca](mailto:ChildrensServicesAdmin@london.ca)

#### County of Middlesex

- 399 Ridout Street North, London, ON N6A 2P1
- [ChildCare@middlesex.ca](mailto:ChildCare@middlesex.ca)

**By signing this Application, the person named below confirms that the information provided within and accompanying this Application is accurate to the best of their knowledge:**

<b>Name of Licensee</b>	
<b>Name of person submitting application</b> (must have authority to bind the organization)	
<b>Role of person submitting application</b>	



<b>Contact information</b>	Email: Phone:
<b>Date the application is being submitted</b> YYYY-MM-DD	
<b>Signature</b>	
<p>The City of London or the County of Middlesex does not guarantee approval of Start-up Grant Funding and/or ELCC Infrastructure funding. All applications are subject to City of London or the County of Middlesex review and funding availability. The City of London or the County of Middlesex is not responsible for the viability of new child care programs opening in London-Middlesex. Child care program providers must make informed decisions based on their own research related to program expansion.</p> <p>This Start-up Grant application and ELCC Infrastructure Fund application is to be submitted to the Child Care and Early Years Team at the City of London at <a href="mailto:ChildrensServicesAdmin@london.ca">ChildrensServicesAdmin@london.ca</a> (if the proposed new spaces would be located in London) or to the Child Care Team at the County of Middlesex at <a href="mailto:ChildCare@middlesex.ca">ChildCare@middlesex.ca</a> (if the proposed new spaces would be located in Middlesex).</p>	