

Ministry of Education
Early Years and Child Care Division

315 Front Street West, 11th floor
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ministère de l'Éducation
Division de la petite enfance et de la garde d'enfants

315, rue Front Ouest, 11e étage
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

2023: EYCC03

Memorandum To: Chiefs of First Nations with Child Care and Child and Family Program Agreements
First Nations Administrators
Transfer Payment Agency Administrators

From: Whitney Wilson
Director, Programs and Service Integration Branch
Early Years and Child Care Division
Ministry of Education

Date: September 14, 2023

Subject **2023-24 First Nations Child Care and Child and Family Program Service Agreement Package**

I am pleased to provide you with the 2023-24 child care and/or child and family program service agreement package. This package includes:

- 2023-24 updated schedules to the service agreement for your First Nation or Transfer Payment Agency (Schedules B-F)
- 2023-24 Ontario Child Care and Child and Family Programs Business Practice, Service and Funding Guideline
- Other supporting documents (as applicable):
 - 2023-24 Health and Safety Funding Request Form
 - Child and Family Program Serious Occurrence Report Form
 - Ontario Works Overview.

The *2023-24 Ontario Child Care and Child and Family Programs Business Practice, Service and Funding Guideline* is available online at the [Ministry of Education's website](#) and a copy is also attached. Please refer to the applicable sections of the guideline for details on each of the specific funding lines noted in your 2023-24 Budget Schedule.

Ministry Updates

In 2023, the ministry is investing approximately \$49 million to support 95 First Nations and three transfer payment agencies. This includes approximately \$37 million for child care and \$12 million for child and family programs.

A. Funding Guideline

Any changes to the funding guideline are highlighted in the summary of guideline changes on page 5 of the *2023-24 Ontario Child Care and Child and Family Programs Business Practice, Service and Funding Guideline*.

B. Five-Year Transfer Payment Agreement

First Nations and transfer payment agencies will be entering Year 3 of the five-year service agreement with the ministry which is set to expire on March 31, 2026. As a reminder, following signature in Year 1 (2021-22) of the agreement, **signed agreements are not required** for subsequent years (e.g., Years 2 to 5). The attached schedules (B-F) supersede the existing schedules. Please retain a copy of these updated schedules with your signed 2021-22 agreement.

C. Funding for Mental Health Initiatives

Beginning in 2023, the government is allocating a total of \$9 million in funding (\$3 million per year for three years) toward mental health supports for families and children. This funding has been proportionally allocated across the province for EarlyON centres and First Nations with child and family programs.

Please refer to the 2023-24 funding guideline for more information about how First Nations with Child and Family Programs may use this funding to build further capacity in the system for mental health initiatives and your updated Schedule D: Budget

D. Funding for Health and Safety

The ministry is inviting First Nation communities with licensed child care centres and home child care agencies to apply for Health and Safety funding for 2023-24. First Nation communities requiring additional funding to meet licensing requirements may apply through the Health and Safety funding process. Please refer to the funding guideline for more details. While applications will continue to be accepted throughout the fiscal year, First Nation partners are encouraged to submit their applications to the ministry as soon as possible.

2023-24 Cash Flow

Monthly cash flow in 2023-24 will initially be based on the most recently signed 2021-22 service agreement (less any one-time funding). Once the 2023-24 budget schedules are released to the First Nation or transfer payment agency and processed by the ministry, monthly cash flow will be updated to reflect your 2023-24 allocations and will include any catch-up payment.

2023-24 Key Dates

The chart below lists all documents that are required to be submitted to the ministry for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Documents are to be submitted via email.

Document	Due Date
Wage Enhancement Application Form (where applicable)	November 30, 2023
Financial Statements (Education Finance Information System or Attestation)	July 31, 2024
Health and Safety Request Form (where applicable)	Accepted throughout the year

Please contact your Financial Analyst with any questions regarding your 2023-24 cash flow or financial reporting. If you have questions or concerns regarding this memorandum and/or the enclosed materials, please contact your Early Years Advisor.

A contact list and other information on funding are available on the [Ministry of Education's website](#).

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and continued efforts to serving children and families in your communities.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Whitney Wilson
Director, Programs and Service Integration Branch

c: Holly Moran, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years and Child Care Division, Ministry of Education

Andrew Yang, Director, Financial Accountability and Data Analysis Branch, Early Years and Child Care Division, Ministry of Education

Early Years Advisors, Programs and Service Integration Branch, Early Years and Child Care Division, Ministry of Education

Financial Analysts, Financial Accountability and Data Analysis Branch, Early Years and Child Care Division, Ministry of Education