

2026: EYCC01

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

**FROM:** Matthew DesRosiers  
Director, Funding Branch  
Early Years and Child Care Division  
Ministry of Education

**DATE:** February 18, 2026

**SUBJECT:** **2026-27 First Nations/Transfer Payment Agencies Child Care  
and Child and Family Program Service Agreement Package**

---

I am pleased to provide you with the 2026-27 First Nations/Transfer Payment Agencies Child Care and Child and Family Programs service agreement package. This package includes:

- *2026-27 Ontario Child Care and Child and Family Programs Business Practice, Service and Funding Guideline*
- 2026-27 updated schedules to the service agreement for your First Nation or Transfer Payment Agency (Schedules B-F)
- Other supporting documents (as applicable):
  - 2026-27 Health and Safety (Repairs and Maintenance) Funding Request Form
  - Child and Family Program Serious Occurrence Report Form
  - Ontario Works Overview

The *2026-27 Ontario Child Care and Child and Family Programs Business Practice, Service and Funding Guideline* will be available [online](#) 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 2026-27 Budget Schedule.

## **Ministry Updates**

In 2026-27, the ministry is investing approximately \$52 million to support 96 First Nations and three Transfer Payment Agencies. This includes approximately \$38 million for child care programs, \$12 million for child and family programs and \$1.6 million for health and safety (repairs and maintenance) applications.

### **A. Funding Guideline**

Any changes to the funding guideline can be found in the Highlight of Changes section of the *2026-27 Ontario Child Care and Child and Family Programs Business Practice, Service and Funding Guideline*.

### **B. Extension of Five-Year Transfer Payment Agreement**

As communicated on December 17, 2025, the ministry is extending the current five-year (2021-26) First Nations/Transfer Payment Agencies Child Care and Child and Family Programs transfer payment agreement (TPA) for an additional year. The agreement will now expire at the end of next fiscal year on March 31, 2027. As a reminder, the new Schedule B is deemed to replace Schedule B for the period of time to which it relates and therefore no signature is required at this time. The attached schedules (B-F) supersede the existing schedules. Please retain a copy of these updated schedules with your signed 2021-22 agreement.

The ministry continues to work towards the renewal of five-year TPAs, set to start in 2027-28, which may include a review of funding policy to improve clarity and reduce administrative burden on First Nations/Transfer Payment Agencies for Child Care and Child and Family Programs, while exploring opportunities to enhance governance, accountability, and financial transparency. The ministry will consult with First Nations/Transfer Payment Agencies on potential changes.

### **C. Funding for Health and Safety (Repairs and Maintenance)**

The ministry is inviting First Nation communities with licensed child care centres and home child care agencies to apply for Health and Safety (Repairs and Maintenance) funding for 2026-27. First Nation communities requiring additional funding to meet licensing requirements under the [Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014](#) may apply through the Health and Safety (Repairs and Maintenance) funding process. Please refer to the funding guideline for more details. While applications will continue to be accepted throughout the fiscal year, First Nations are encouraged to submit their complete applications to the ministry at [tpa.edu.EarlyLearning@ontario.ca](mailto:tpa.edu.EarlyLearning@ontario.ca) as soon as possible to help support timely application assessment and processing within the current fiscal year.

## **2026-27 Key Dates**

The chart below lists all documents that are required to be submitted to the ministry for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

<b>Document</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Wage Enhancement Grant Application Form (where applicable)	May 25, 2026
Financial Statements (Education Finance Information System or Attestation) for 2026-27	July 30, 2027

As a reminder, in 2026-27, to minimize risk of year-end recoveries and ensure accountability of public funds, transfer payment partners must adhere to the requirements as outlined in the TPA. According to the terms of the TPA, the Ministry may take action, as set out in section A12.2, should an Event of Default occur as per section A12.1(a). This could include instances where the ministry has confirmed that First Nations/Transfer Payment Agencies do not have active child care services or child and family programming in compliance with the TPA, or where there is a failure to submit required reports and financial statements by the specified deadlines. The ministry will be providing all First Nations/Transfer Payment Agencies the opportunity to engage on these issues and support compliance.

Please contact your Financial Analyst with any questions regarding your 2026-27 payments or financial reporting. A contact list and other information on funding is available on [Ministry of Education's website](#). If you have questions or concerns regarding this memorandum or the enclosed materials, please contact [childcarefunding@ontario.ca](mailto:childcarefunding@ontario.ca). For funding or program related enquiries, please reach out to us through the [Early Years Support Request form](#).

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

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Matthew DesRosiers

Director, Funding Branch

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

Whitney Wilson, Director, Early Years Branch, Early Years and Child Care  
Division, Ministry of Education

Karen Puhmann, Director, Child Care Branch, Early Years and Child Care  
Division, Ministry of Education

Financial Analysts, Funding Branch, Early Years and Child Care Division, Ministry  
of Education