

HEALTH & SAFETY MINOR CAPITAL FUNDING UPDATE

The Toronto Child Care Service Plan 2010 – 2014 was adopted by Toronto City Council May 2010. The Service Plan includes a child care capital strategy which sets out principles and priorities for allocating capital funds.

The Children's Services Health and Safety minor capital funding program has been under review this year to ensure that the objectives for this program are consistent with the Division's child care capital strategy and to ensure a process that is clear, accountable and makes effective use of public resources.

The objectives of the minor capital health and safety funding program have been updated to reflect the Child Care Service Plan 2010-2014 and are as follows:

- Investment ensures child care programs are able to meet the requirements of the Day Nurseries Act, City's Operating Criteria, Public Health and Fire regulations;
- Investment addresses emerging health and safety needs, including improvement to physical environments of child care centres;
- Investment will be utilized to maintain current child care capacity;
- Investment may be targeted or allocated in a strategic way that responds to current service system pressures including accessibility, efficiencies and maintaining age or geographic equity;
- Investments will consider transitional planning processes to an Early Learning System.

Children's Services has been given very little additional funding to assist child care centres through the transition to Early Learning. For this reason it is critical that City funding is invested in a way that is consistent with the Division's Service Plan and capital strategy.

In order to determine the impact of Full-Day Kindergarten on the current child care system, Children's Services is in the process of completing a ward by ward analysis. This analysis will be used to forecast transitional needs, and to identify opportunities to invest minor capital health and safety funds in a way that will have the greatest impact. Operators can expect health and safety funding to be allocated early in 2011 once the ward analysis data is complete.

Please note agencies that have incomplete projects and/or outstanding invoices will be contacted directly and will be expected to come into compliance regarding any outstanding items by the end of 2010. Only those agencies in full compliance will be considered for new applications. Child Care operators should be communicating with their Children's Services Consultant regarding outstanding items, questions or issues that arise.