

Children's Services

service plan

2015-2019

Community Development &
Recreation Committee

April 20, 2015



why service planning



Service planning serves many purposes for Children's Services:

- As the service system manager
- As a manager of public funds
- As a community partner
- As a policy leader

2010-2014 accomplishments

1) STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

- Completed two Parent Summits to engage families and inform policy

2) ADVANCING QUALITY

- Created the only Canadian validated quality assessment tool for infant, toddler, and preschool child care

3) IMPROVING ACCESS AND EQUITY TO SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

- Managed system growth of 8,200 child care spaces for a total of 64,700 spaces and 1,116 fee subsidies for a total of 25,116 subsidies

4) DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Established the Toronto Child and Family Network

5) TRANSITION TO EARLY LEARNING

- Lead strategies to stabilize child care through the transition to FDK

Toronto's children and families



25%

of Toronto's children live below the low income measure



22%

of children in Toronto live in lone-parent households

55% of them live below the low income measure



78.6%

females aged 20-54
in workforce

Family - Median Income

Ontario: **\$101,715**

vs

GTA: **\$101,317**

vs

Toronto: **\$89,539**

vs

lone-parent families: **\$44,584**



8.6%

recent immigrants
(i.e. immigrated between 2006 and 2011)



16.6%

first generation Canadians

current service sector

- Child care
- Middle childhood programs
- Child care fee subsidy
- Aboriginal programs
- French-language programs
- Special needs services
- Family support
- Quality assurance

EARLY YEARS

PRENATAL/
INFANT
prenatal-1½

TODDLER
1½-2½ yrs

PRESCHOOL
2½-4 yrs

SCHOOL AGED

KINDERGARTEN
4-5 yrs

MIDDLE CHILDHOOD
6-8 yrs 9-12 yrs

approach: 'systems' perspective



High quality,
accessible
services

Strong
communities,
& supported
families

Healthy child
development

Social and
economic
benefits for
society

Building a Toronto that works for all children and families to
live, work, play and learn.

approach: influences on the system

Municipal policy



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- Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy
 - Human Services Integration
 - Poverty Reduction Strategy
 - Newcomer Strategy
 - Urban Aboriginal Framework

Provincial policy



-
- Ontario Early Years Policy Framework
 - Special needs and mental health strategies
 - Shared accountability with school boards

Broader social context



-
- National child care initiatives
 - Quality
 - Vulnerability

approach: stakeholder-driven



- Children
- Families
- Aboriginal families & service providers
- Newcomer families
- LGBTQ-led families & families of trans or gender independent children
- Advocacy & women's organizations
- Academics & local experts
- The Toronto Child and Family Network
- Child care service providers
- French-language service providers
- Family Support practitioners
- Toronto Children's Services staff
- School boards

service system vision

- **All children** have access to a continuum of services and programs that support their individual needs;
- **Families** know where to find meaningful and affordable supports and services, and have a say in how these services are planned, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background;
- **Communities** are invested in promoting the well-being of their children and families and are connected to the networks and expertise they need to do so;
- **Service providers** are equipped with the tools they need to provide high-quality services, including innovative learning opportunities and meaningful partnerships;
- **The system** is nimble, responsive, integrated, and accountable.

strategic directions

1. Access to high-quality child care

2. Inclusive support for all families

3. Engagement, partnerships, and communication

4. Systems change

5. Leadership

strategic directions



1. Access to high-quality child care

- Facilitate growth with all levels of government
- Implement capital strategy for infants and toddlers
- Expand school-age programs in schools
- Improve waitlist and intake processes
- Advance quality across the system

early years access

Capital Strategy for infants and toddlers

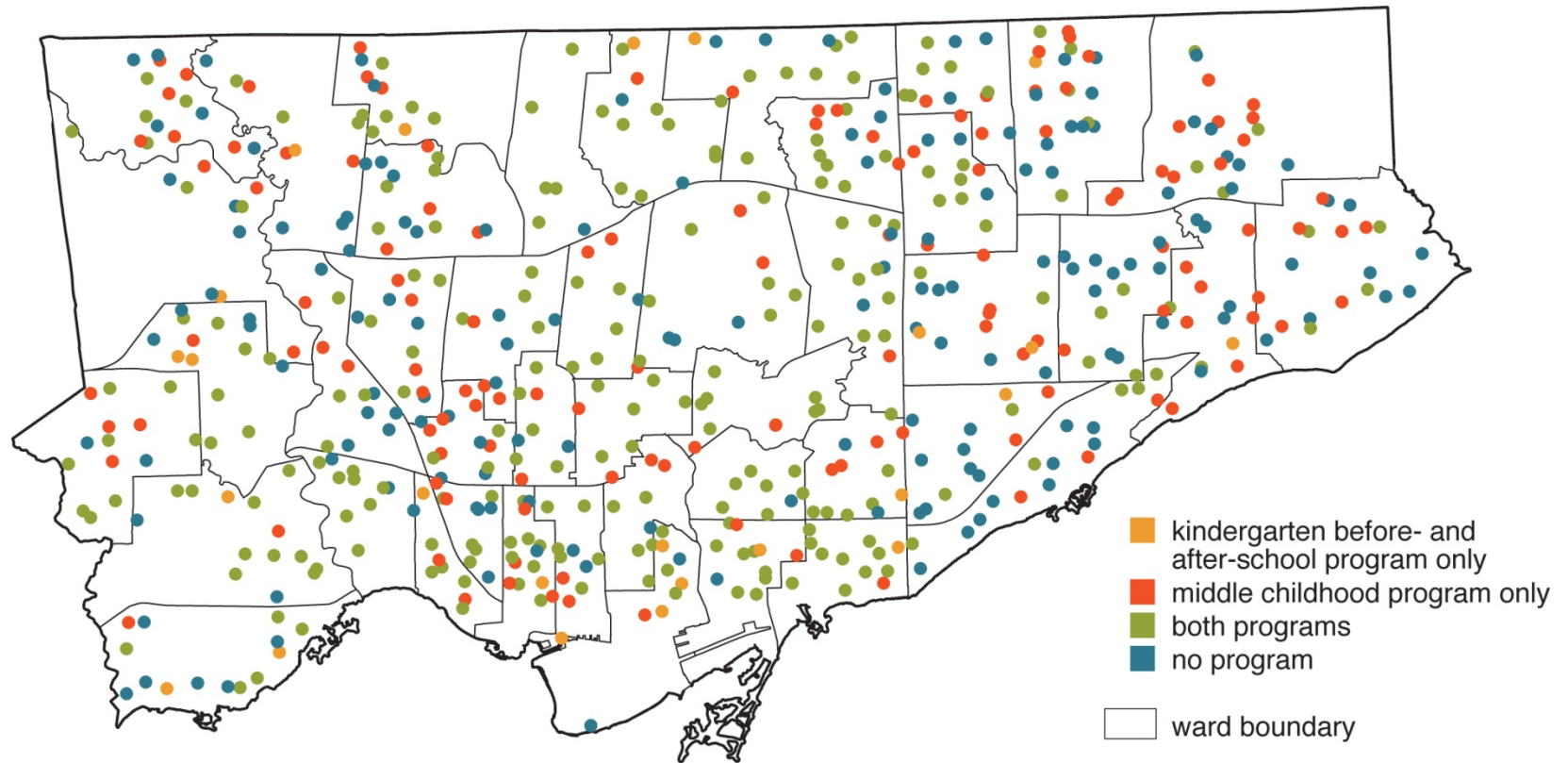
Schools First	+ 490 spaces
Capital Plan commitments	+ 100 spaces
Section 37 & others	+ 310 spaces
Early Learning Transition	+ 200 spaces
Additional target	+ 451 spaces
<hr/> Total	+ 1,551 infant and toddler spaces



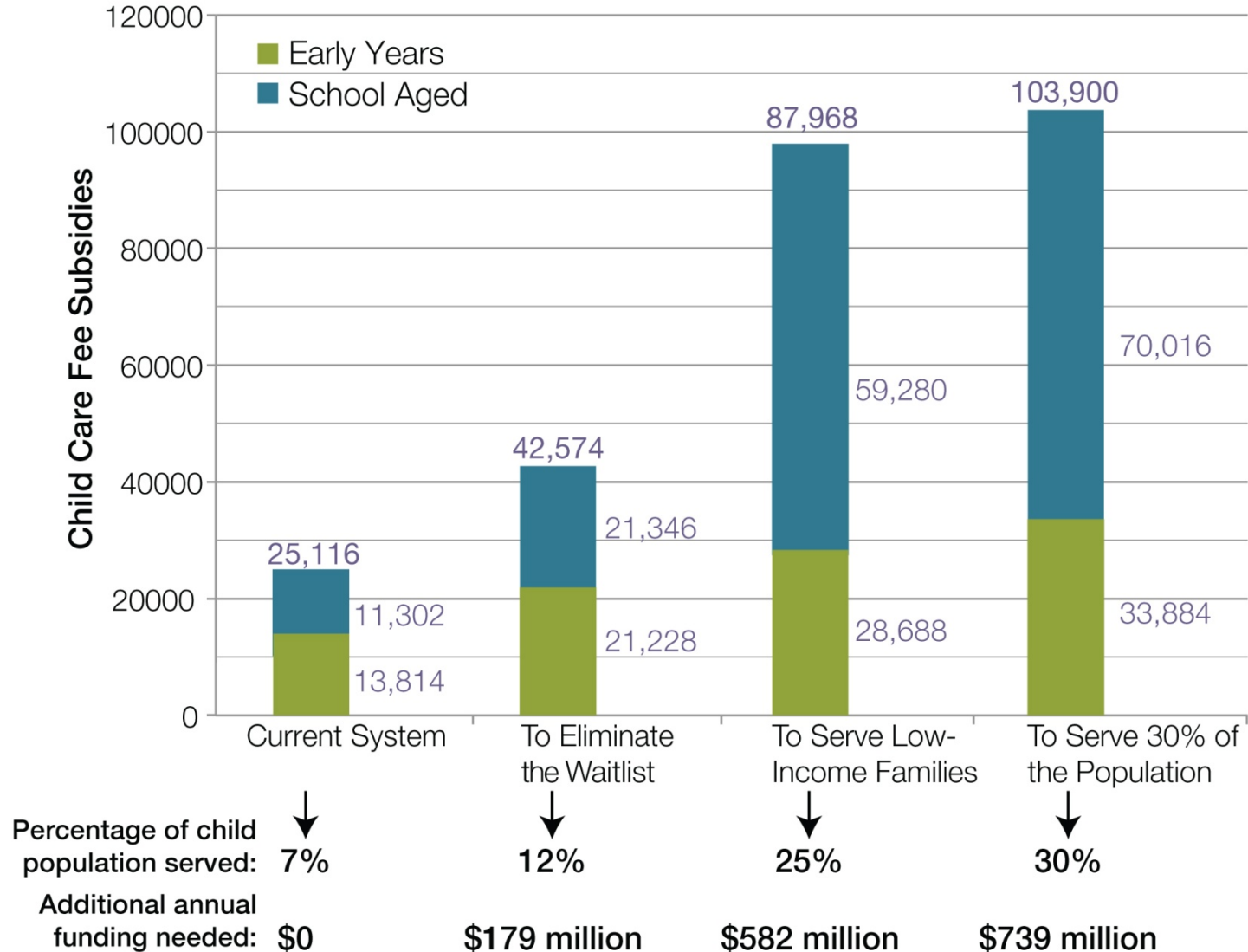
school aged access

Increasing the availability of programs in schools:

- kindergarten before- and after-school program
- corresponding middle childhood program



increasing child care fee subsidies



strategic directions



2. Inclusive support for all families

- Contribute to poverty reduction
- Strengthen special needs supports
- Increase Aboriginal access and cultural competency
- Increase French-language access for infants and toddlers
- Enhance inclusivity for LGBTQ
- Improve access for newcomers

strategic directions

3. Engagement, partnerships, and communication

- Implement targeted communications and engagement strategies
- Improve professional learning for French-language
- Support Aboriginal Advisory
- Strengthen Toronto Child & Family Network
- Strengthen partnerships with school boards



strategic directions

4. Systems change



- Transition to new child care funding model
- Target supports to service providers
- Strengthen licensed home child care
- Consolidate planning for middle childhood
- Develop service model for Child and Family Centres

5. Leadership

- Sustainable funding
- Integrate human services
- Promote Assessment for Quality Improvement
- Monitor the well-being of children and families
- Support the sector workforce
- Continue support for public and non-profit child care



priorities for 2015-2016

Examples:

1. Access to high-quality child care

- Encourage and expedite the development of new child care spaces for infants and toddlers based on the division's Capital Strategy

2. Inclusive support for all families

- Increase and simplify access to child care for Aboriginal families

3. Engagement, partnership, and communication

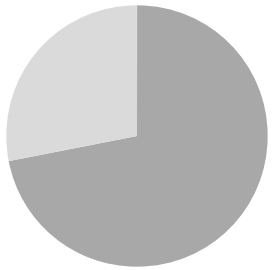
- Develop new models of engaging families

4. Systems change

- Present new child care funding model to Council for approval

5. Leadership

- Implement joint planning structure with school boards



Child Care
Funding
Model



Reducing
reliance on
the reserve