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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Completed two Parent Summits to engage families and inform policy</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2) ADVANCING QUALITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Created the only Canadian validated quality assessment tool for infant, toddler, and preschool child care</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>3) IMPROVING ACCESS AND EQUITY TO SERVICES FOR CHILDREN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 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</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>4) DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Established the Toronto Child and Family Network</td>
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<th>5) TRANSITION TO EARLY LEARNING</th>
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<td>• Lead strategies to stabilize child care through the transition to FDK</td>
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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% of females aged 20-54 are in the workforce.

8.6% of recent immigrants (i.e., immigrated between 2006 and 2011).

16.6% of first generation Canadians.

Family - Median Income:
- Ontario: $101,715
- GTA: $101,317
- Toronto: $89,539
- Lone-parent families: $44,584
# Current Service Sector

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EARLY YEARS</th>
<th>SCHOOL AGED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREGNATAL/INFANT</td>
<td>KINDERGARTEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prenatal-1½</td>
<td>4-5 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TODDLER</td>
<td>MIDDLE CHILDHOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1½-2½ yrs</td>
<td>6-8 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESCHOOL</td>
<td>9-12 yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2½-4 yrs</td>
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</table>
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

• 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
• 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
Capital Strategy for infants and toddlers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Spaces</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schools First</td>
<td>+ 490 spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Plan commitments</td>
<td>+ 100 spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 37 &amp; others</td>
<td>+ 310 spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Learning Transition</td>
<td>+ 200 spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional target</td>
<td>+ 451 spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>+ 1,551 infant and toddler spaces</strong></td>
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Increasing the availability of programs in schools:

- kindergarten before- and after-school program
- corresponding middle childhood program
increasing child care fee subsidies

Percentage of child population served:
- Current System: 7%
- To Eliminate the Waitlist: 12%
- To Serve Low-Income Families: 25%
- To Serve 30% of the Population: 30%

Additional annual funding needed:
- Current System: $0
- To Eliminate the Waitlist: $179 million
- To Serve Low-Income Families: $582 million
- To Serve 30% of the Population: $739 million
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
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
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