
2020 CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Status of New Child Care Centres

This briefing note responds to a request from Budget Committee (Motion 1a) for the General Manager, Children's Services to provide a status of all new child care centres, identifying those being led by new developments.

Issue/Background:

- City Council approved Toronto's Child Care Growth Strategy ([2017.CD19.2](#)). One of the goals of this 10-year strategy aims to build new child care spaces to meet demand
- Based on population projections, having enough licensed child care available to serve 50% of children will require the creation of an additional 30,000 spaces. Capital development, including retrofits, takes on average 3 to 4 years from agreement to completion, and because of licensing requirements, high costs of land acquisition and construction, appropriate spaces for child care development are limited
- Children's Services continues its partnerships with the provincial and federal governments, school boards, and the child care community to increase the number of licensed child care spaces through building new child care centres, expanding existing centres, and retrofitting other spaces for child care programs

Key Points:

- Table 1 below summarizes planned expansion of child care spaces in four categories: projects included in Children's Services' 2020-29 Staff Recommended Capital Budget and Plan, school-based projects that have received approval from the Province, child care centres funded through new developments, and projects supported by other funding sources

Table 1: Summary of New Child Care Centres

Description	Negotiating Agreement	In Planning, Design or Procurement	Under Construction	Total
Projects incl. in 10-Year Capital Budget and Plan	1	7	10	18*
Approved to Proceed School-Based Projects		16	1	17
New Developments (Section 37) not incl. in 10-Year Capital Budget and Plan	12	4	6	22
Other Funding Sources	4	1	1	6
Total	17	28	18	63

*This total includes the Lawrence Orton ELCC site, which is expected to open in 2020

- *"Approved to Proceed School-Based Projects"* are jointly selected by the City of Toronto and school boards and are approved by the Province. These projects are managed directly by school boards and the capital funding is flowed directly from the Province to the school boards. In addition, operating funding for these 17 projects has been committed to by the Province
- Operating impacts for the remaining 46 projects will be assessed and included in future years' budget submissions, as and when required. Given the historical trend of three to five years for project delivery from the date of approval, none of these remaining projects are expected to be operational prior to 2024.
- The 63 projects identified in Table 1 represent a total of 3,855 new spaces, with 1,329 or approximately 34% anticipated to be created through Section 37 funding as a result of new development projects
- Appendix 1 includes a detailed listing of the 63 projects by ward and project name

Questions & Answers:

Q – What is the impact of Bill 108 on proposed new child care centres funded by Section 37?

A – Currently, the impacts of Bill 108 on the development of new child care centres is unknown; the full impact will be assessed when implementation details become available.

Q – Do the projects in Table 1 represent all planned child care expansion?

A – No. There are approximately 3,200 additional spaces that have been identified for potential expansion which are currently in various stages of pre-planning and approval. This includes the 49 school-based capital projects recently approved by City Council to proceed with joint confirmation in partnership with school boards and the Province.

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