

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES

PROGRAM MAP

## Children's Services

**Child Care  
Delivery**

**Child Care  
Service System  
Management**

Toronto Children's Services promotes access to high quality early learning, child care and supports for families through a well-planned and managed system.

All families in Toronto benefit from a range of services that promote healthy child development and family well-being.

Children's Services is responsible for managing Toronto's Child Care system in accordance with the Council approved 2015-2019 Children's Services Service Plan and Provincial guidelines and within the provincially legislated requirements of the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.

## SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT RESULTS

Question	Indicator/Measure	Internal Comparison of Toronto's 2017 vs. 2016 Results	External Comparison to Other Municipalities (MBNC) By Quartile for 2017	Chart & Page Ref.
How much is spent or invested in childcare per child (aged 12 and under)?	Operating Investment/Expenditure per 1,000 Children (12 & under) - (Service Level)	<b>Increase</b>  Operating Investment/expenditures per child increased compared to prior year  (Service Level indicator)	<b>1</b>  Highest rate/level of operating investment/expenditures on children compared to others  (Service Level indicator)	4.1 4.2 pg. 5/6
How many regulated childcare spaces are available?	Regulated Child Care Spaces in Municipality per 1,000 Children (12 & under)– (Community Impact)	<b>Increase</b>  Number of regulated spaces increased  (Community Impact)	<b>3</b>  Lower rate of regulated spaces compared to others  (Community Impact)	4.3 4.4 pg. 7/8
How many subsidized childcare spaces are available?	Fee Subsidy Child Care Spaces per 1,000 LICO Children – (Community Impact)	<b>Increase</b>  Number of subsidized spaces increased  (Community Impact)	<b>1</b>  Highest rate of subsidized spaces compared to others  (Community Impact)	4.5 4.6 pg. 9
What percentage of children under 12 years old are considered low income children?	Percentage of Children in the Municipality (12 and under) that are LICO Children -- (Community Impact)	<b>Stable</b>  Proportion of low income children was stable from prior year  (no graph)  (Community Impact)	<b>4</b>  Highest proportion of low income children compared to others  (Community Impact)	4.6 pg. 9
How large is the waiting list for a subsidized child care space? (Community Impact)		<b>Decrease</b>  Size of wait list for a subsidized space decreased  (Community Impact)	N/A	4.7 pg. 10
How much does it cost per year, to provide an average child care space?	Annual Child Care Service Cost per Normalized Child Care Space – (Efficiency)	<b>Stable</b>  Cost per subsidized space was stable  (Efficiency)	<b>3</b>  Cost per subsidized space is higher compared to others  (Efficiency)	4.8 4.9 pg. 11/12

## SUMMARY OF OVERALL RESULTS

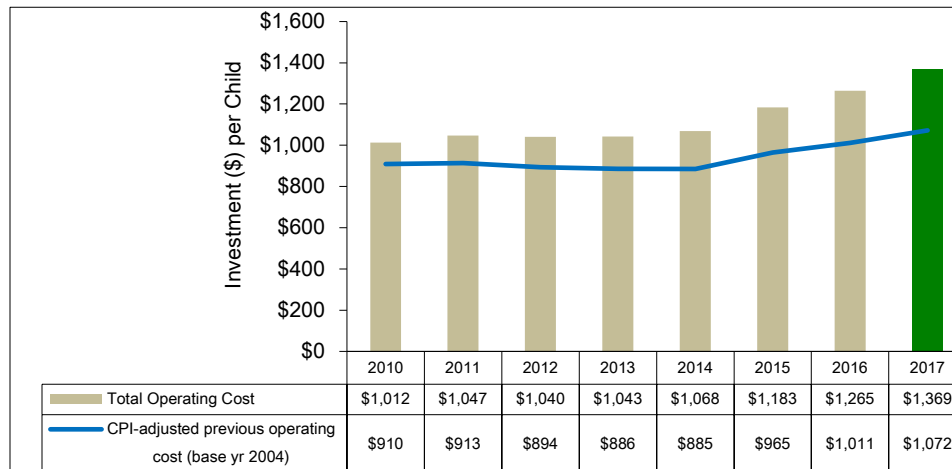
Internal Comparison of Toronto's 2017 vs. 2016 Results	Internal Comparison of Toronto's 2017 vs. 2016 Results	External Comparison to Other Municipalities (MBNC) By Quartile for 2017	External Comparison to Other Municipalities (MBNC) By Quartile for 2017
Service Level Indicators (Resources)	Performance Measures (Results)	Service Level Indicators (Resources)	Performance Measures (Results)
<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">1 - Increased</div> <div style="background-color: #ffcc00; color: black; padding: 2px;">0 - Stable</div> <div style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; padding: 2px;">0 - Decreased</div> 100% stable or increased	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">3 - Favourable</div> <div style="background-color: #ffcc00; color: black; padding: 2px;">2 - Stable</div> <div style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; padding: 2px;">0 - Unfavorable</div> 100% favorable or stable	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">1 - 1st quartile</div> <div style="background-color: #ffcc00; color: black; padding: 2px;">0 - 2nd quartile</div> <div style="background-color: #ffcc00; color: black; padding: 2px;">0 - 3rd quartile</div> <div style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; padding: 2px;">0 - 4th quartile</div> 100% in 1st and 2nd quartile	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">1 - 1st quartile</div> <div style="background-color: #ffcc00; color: black; padding: 2px;">0 - 2nd quartile</div> <div style="background-color: #ffcc00; color: black; padding: 2px;">2 - 3rd quartile</div> <div style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; padding: 2px;">1 - 4th quartile</div> 25% in 1st and 2nd quartile

For an explanation of how to interpret this summary and the supporting charts, please see the Guide to Toronto's Performance Results. These quartile results are based on a maximum sample size of 10 municipalities.

## SERVICE/ACTIVITY LEVELS

One method of examining service levels for child care is to relate municipal costs to all children under the age of 12. This category includes children who are cared for in regulated child care programs, by families at home, or in non-regulated child care arrangements.

### 4.1 - HOW MUCH IS SPENT OR INVESTED IN TORONTO FOR CHILDCARE PER CHILD AGED 12 AND UNDER?



**Chart 4.1** reflects Toronto's total operating

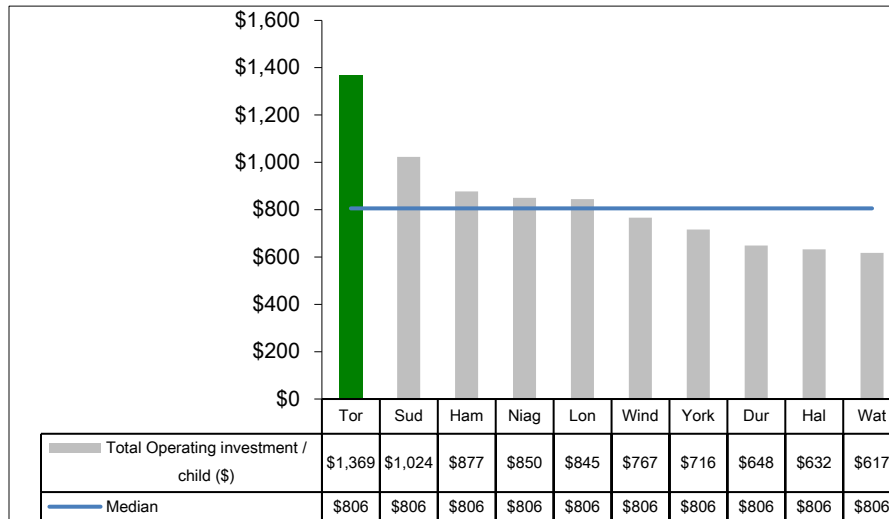
**Chart 4.1 (City of Toronto) Operating Investment/Expenditure per Child Ages 12 and Under**

investments/expenditures for all child care related activities, per child aged 12 years and under. The results for 2010 and prior years are not based on Statistics Canada revised population estimates.

The above chart shows an increase in investment in 2017. These investments include the activities of operating and purchasing subsidized child care spaces, base funding, special needs resourcing, other municipally funded activities, and program administration.

To reflect the impact of inflation, Chart 4.1 also provides Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjusted results for the operating investment /expenditures per child, which are plotted as a line graph. This adjustment discounts the actual operating cost result for each year by the change in Toronto's CPI since the base year of 2004.

**4.2 - HOW DOES TORONTO'S COST (INVESTMENT) PER CHILD UNDER 12 COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?**



**Chart 4.2** compares Toronto's 2017 operating investment/expenditures per child to other municipalities.

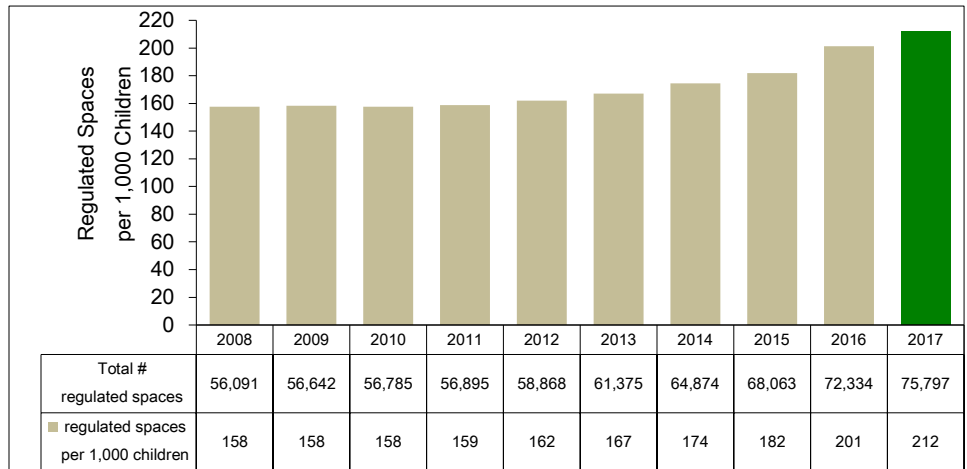
**Chart 4.2 (MBNC 2017) Operating Investment/Expenditure per Child Ages 12 and Under**

Toronto ranks first of ten municipalities (first quartile), with the highest investment/ expenditure per child. These costs can be influenced by the number of subsidized spaces, the age mix of children, the relative cost of living and the level of child poverty in a municipality.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

Providing access to early learning and care is a primary objective of Children's Services. The number of licensed child care spaces available impacts access for families. For parents that are unable to afford the full cost of child care services, access to a subsidy is very important.

### 4.3 - HOW MANY REGULATED CHILDCARE SPACES ARE IN TORONTO?

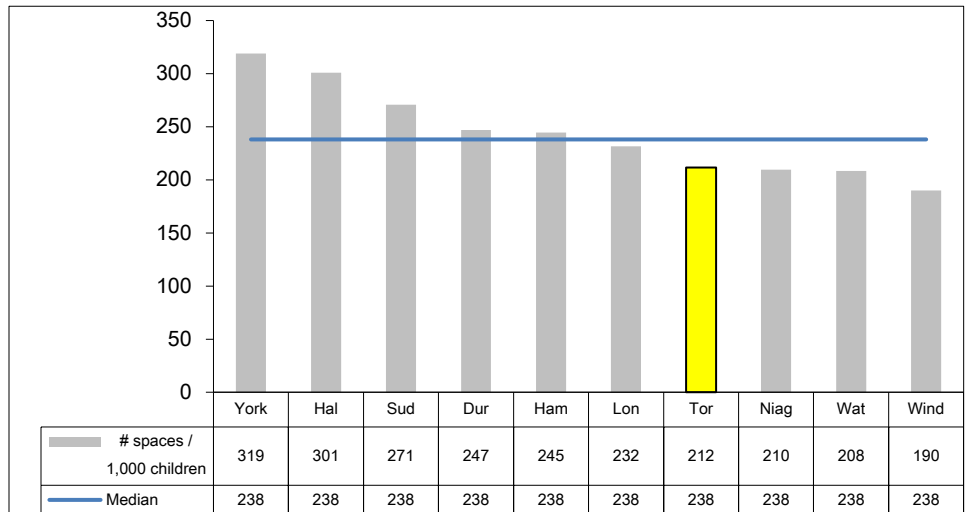


**Chart 4.3** provides information on the total number and rate of regulated Child Care spaces there were in Toronto per 1,000 children under the age of 12. The results for 2010 and prior years are not based on the revised population estimates.

**Chart 4.3 (City of Toronto) Regulated Child Care Spaces per 1,000 Children under 12**

It shows small increases in the total number of spaces each year between 2008 and 2013, with higher increases starting in 2013 reflecting an increase in provincial capital funding and the implementation of Full-Day kindergarten. Information on the number of licensed child care spaces in each of Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods can be found at [Wellbeing Toronto](#).

**4.4 - HOW DOES THE NUMBER OF REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACES IN TORONTO COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?**



**Chart 4.4** compares 2017 results for the number of regulated child care spaces there were per 1,000 children under 12 in Toronto, relative to other municipalities.

**Chart 4.4 (MBNC 2017) Regulated Child Care Spaces per 1,000 Children under 12**

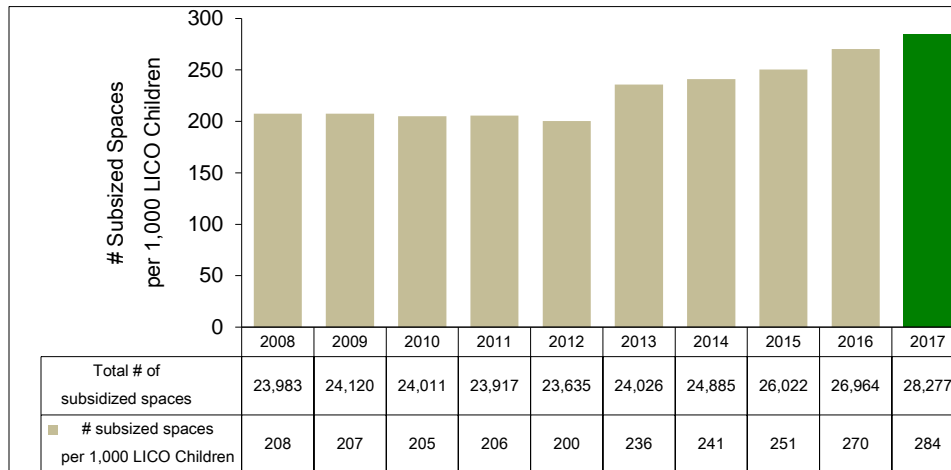
Toronto ranks seventh of ten (third quartile) in terms of having the largest number of regulated spaces. The total number of regulated spaces is a function of demographics and population, and the availability of federal, provincial or City capital funding. The municipal role in increasing the supply is often limited to application of instruments, such as Section 37 agreements, which require developers to fund child care in new developments, and municipal capital funding.

In 2017 the City Council approved a Growth Strategy directed additional Federal funding for expansion of spaces. This will result in a significant increase in capital expenditure to increase capacity.

While the previous charts relate to the number of regulated spaces, Chart 4.5 provides information on the number of subsidized child care spaces in Toronto, per 1,000 children in low-income cut-off (LICO) families. Subsidized spaces are for parents who are unable to afford the full cost of child care.



**4.5 - HOW MANY SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SPACES ARE IN TORONTO?**

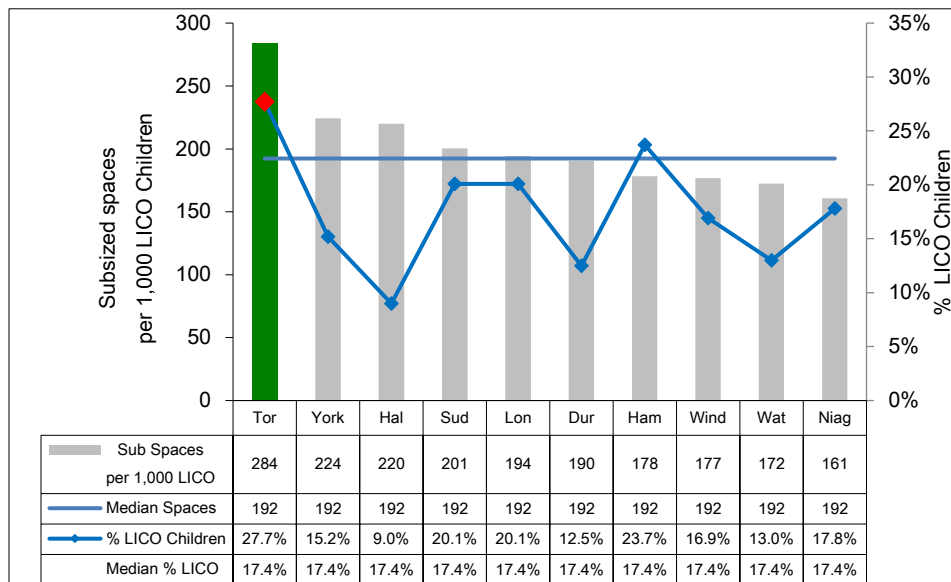


**Chart 4.5** shows, from 2008 to 2012 the number of subsidized child care spaces fluctuated around a stable target of 24,000 spaces. The results for 2010 and prior years are not based on the revised population estimates.

**Chart 4.5 (City of Toronto) Subsidized Child Care Spaces per 1,000 LICO (Low-Income) Children under 12**

From 2013 to 2017, that number increased as a result of additional Provincial and City funding allocations that resulted in a target increase of more than 4,000 spaces.

**4.6 - HOW DOES THE NUMBER OF SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SPACES IN TORONTO COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?**

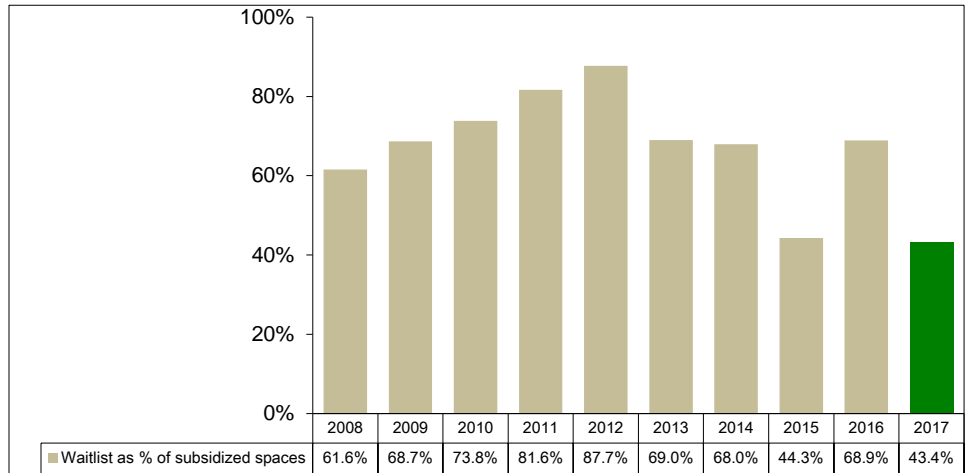


**Chart 4.6** also reflects the number of children in low income (LICO) families, as a percentage of all children in the municipality, plotted as a line graph relative to the right axis. This provides some indication of the level of child poverty.

**Chart 4.6 (MBNC 2017) Subsidized Spaces per 1,000 LICO (Low Income) Children and % of All Children Considered LICO Children**

Toronto has the highest level of % LICO children at 27.7% for 2017. Toronto's high proportion of LICO children may indicate that it is underserved in terms of the number of subsidized spaces. The size of the waiting list for a subsidized space also provides an indication of demand.

**4.7 - HOW LARGE IS THE WAITING LIST FOR A SUBSIDIZED SPACE IN TORONTO?**



**Chart 4.7** shows demand in Toronto for subsidized child care from 2008 to 2017.

**Chart 4.7 (City of Toronto) Size of Waitlist for a Subsidized Space as a Percentage of All Subsidized Spaces**

In 2013, the wait list decrease can be attributed to changes in the licensed child care system. With the introduction of Full-Day Kindergarten, four and five year old children now only need a before and after school program, which is less expensive than a full day program. These resources were utilized to increase the number of subsidies available.

In 2015, the wait list decreased as a result of additional funding.

In 2017, the wait list represented 43.4% of all subsidized spaces a decrease of 25.5% from the previous year.

Licensed child care in Toronto is expensive and many families rely on a child care fee subsidy to help with the cost. The waitlist for a fee subsidy is primarily affected by what the City has allocated in the budget. As of January 2018, the City's budget allows for 30,490 subsidies, an increase of 1,074 subsidies from the 2017 budget.

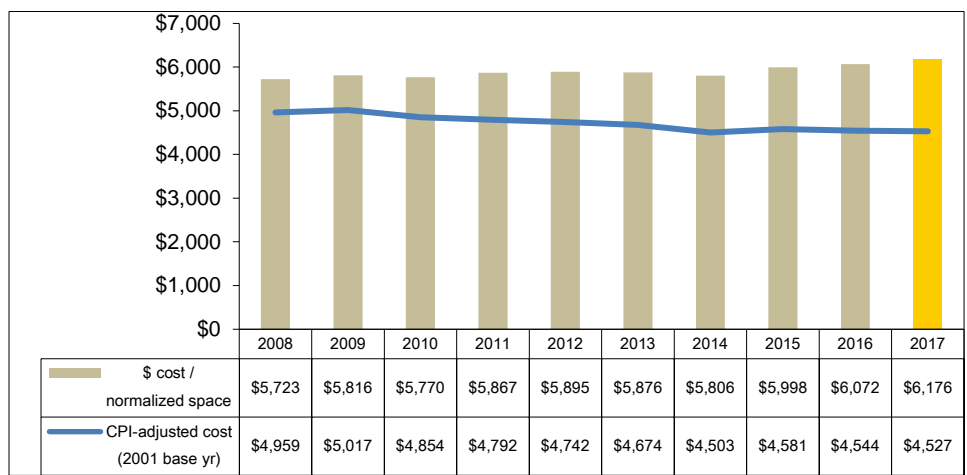
## EFFICIENCY

To examine efficiency, the most comparable area of child care operations between municipalities is the cost of providing a subsidized child care space. Children of different ages require a different level of staff to child ratios to provide care. Since more staff are required to provide care to infants, a municipality will pay more for an infant space and less for a space occupied by a school-aged child, where fewer staff are required to provide care.

Efficiency measures in MBNCanada adjust for different staffing ratios by converting them to “a normalized space” which makes the results more comparable. A normalized space takes into consideration the mix of infant, toddler, pre-school, and school-age spaces, the different staffing ratios required, and the costs associated with providing care.

The cost of service between municipalities varies significantly depending on the proportions of different modes for providing care used in each municipality (e.g. home- or centre-based care), and the differences in cost of living.

### 4.8 - HOW MUCH DOES IT COST PER YEAR TO PROVIDE AN AVERAGE CHILD CARE SPACE IN TORONTO?



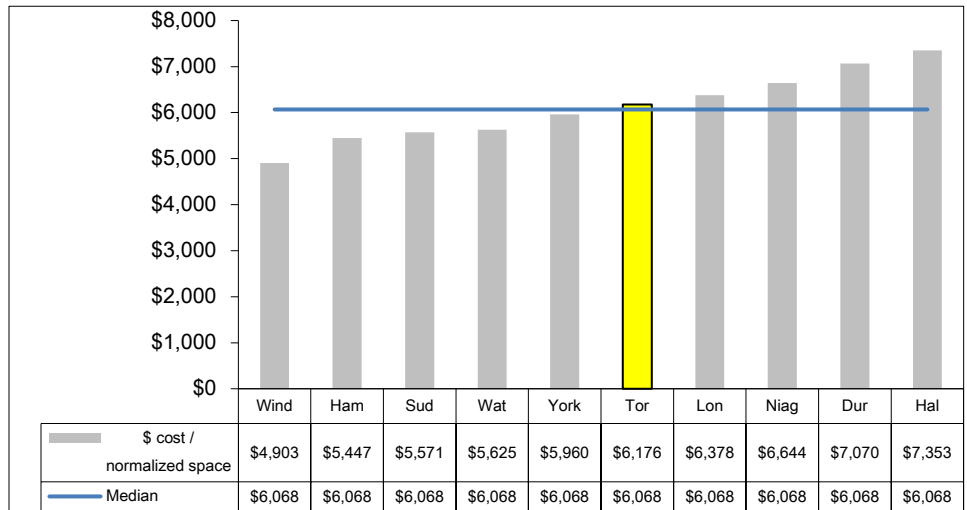
**Chart 4.8** provides Toronto’s annual child care costs per normalized child care space for the period 2008 to 2017.

**Chart 4.8 (City of Toronto) Annual Child Care Cost per Normalized Child Care Space**

To reflect the impact of inflation, the chart also provides Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjusted results, plotted as a line graph. This adjusts or discounts the actual result for each year by the change in Toronto’s CPI since the base year of 2001.

Cost increases in 2007 through 2009 for Toronto, reflect Toronto City Council’s direction to eliminate the gap between rates paid on behalf of subsidized clients and the actual cost of providing care. In 2017, child care cost per normalized child care space was relatively stable compared to the previous year.

**4.9 - HOW DOES TORONTO'S ANNUAL COST TO PROVIDE A CHILD CARE SPACE COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?**



**Chart 4.9** compares Toronto's 2017 annual child care costs per normalized child care space to other municipalities.

**Chart 4.9 (MBNC 2017) Annual Child Care Cost per Normalized Child Care Space**

Toronto ranks sixth of ten (third quartile) in terms of having the lowest cost. Costs across municipalities are influenced by differences in cost of living.

## 2017 ACHIEVEMENTS AND 2018 PLANNED INITIATIVES

The following initiatives are expected to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Children's Services:

### 2017 Initiatives Completed/Achievements

- More than 28,000 families received a fee subsidy in 2017, enabling them to participate in employment or education activities. The number of child care fee subsidies available for Toronto families has steadily increased each year, while the waitlist for subsidies has decreased.
- The number of licensed child care spaces continues to increase with more than 3,500 new spaces projected to be introduced in 2017.
- City Council adopted a 10 year growth strategy; Toronto's Licensed Child Care Growth Strategy for children under 4.
- Embarked on the Child Care Expansion Plan and Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement to expand child care and early learning in Toronto. These agreements provide new investments for increasing access and affordability of high-quality licensed child care.
- Improved access for Indigenous Families through strengthened connections with community organizations that serve the Indigenous Community.
- Launched a new Toronto-specific child care Funding Model that aims to support affordability and accessibility of child care programs and increase the stability and fairness of child care funding across Toronto.
- Launched Raising the Village to provide communities with data and research that measures the well-being of children and families in Toronto.
- Through the Toronto Child & Family Network (TC&FN), brought together many systems and leaders that improve quality, access and seamless service pathways so that all children and families in Toronto experience well-being.
- Launched an Ontario Works (OW) Shared Clients Project between Employment and Social Services and Toronto Children's Services to streamline the processing of shared clients receiving child care.
- Through the Human Services Integration initiative, launched a new website with integrated information about services and programs for Toronto's families.
- Introduced a "My Child Care Account" that provide families with a variety of self-serve functions including access to information about child care options and an online application for fee subsidy.
- Automated special needs service delivery requests and data collection to provide a solid base for planned service delivery and improve response time for service requests.

## 2018 Initiatives Planned

The 2018 Operating Budget funds the delivery of the following:

- 30,490 child care subsidies;
- 679 contracted child care centres with contracts for fee subsidy;
- 10 home child care agencies with fee contracts for subsidy;
- 68 additional child care centres with contracts for General Operating Grant;
- 900+ centres with agreements for Provincial Wage Enhancement;
- 52 Toronto Early Learning & Child Care Service Centres and 1 home child care agency;
- 21 agencies providing service for children with special needs;
- Administer the delivery of Ontario Early Years Child Care and Family Centres (OEYCFCs) through contracting with 50 agencies who deliver programming at over 262 locations.
- 34 summer day programs;
- 51 after-school & recreation programs (ARC); and
- Added new projects and capital grants to support growth in licensed child care spaces across the City.

## Factors Influencing Results of Municipalities

The results of each municipality included in this report can be influenced to varying degrees by factors such as:

- Varying levels of child poverty in municipalities and differing needs for subsidized child care.
- Cost to provide child care can be impacted by economic variables such as the cost of living in the municipality and the income levels of its residents.
- Rates for child care spaces other than those directly operated by a municipality are set in service agreements between the municipality and the child care service providers; and these rates can be influenced by the level of funding available, local wage conditions, pay equity legislation, municipal policies and business practices.