

From: Toronto Children's Services [mailto:do-not-reply-tcs@toronto.ca]
Sent: September 23, 2021 1:07 PM
To: Child care operators with Fee Subsidy Agreement (Agency Primary Contact)
Subject: Toronto Children's Services – Safe Restart 2021 (Q4)

Ce message sera traduit en français et acheminé à nos partenaires francophones prochainement.

Dear Child Care Operators,

We are pleased to announce that a fourth quarter Safe Restart Funding (Q4) payment will be provided to your centre in the beginning of October.

This is another significant investment of Safe Restart Funding to support centres to remain open, maintain the employment of their staff, and actively work to attract families back into care. As the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program is projected to end this fall, this investment will support centres as they build back to pre-pandemic levels of enrolment. We continue to encourage agencies to reach out to families and open their rooms even where there is less than a full group size enrolled.

The distribution of funding is the same as the Q3 Safe Restart Funding and is based on approved budgeted operating capacities (December, 2021) of child care programs, the number of operating days in the fourth quarter (66 days) and the daily rate by age group:

- Infant: \$61.50 daily rate
- Toddler: \$36.00 daily rate
- Preschool: \$22.50 daily rate
- Kindergarten and School-Aged: \$22.50 daily rate

As per direction from the Ministry of Education, all available federal support programs must continue to be maximized for as long as they remain available. These include the federal support programs under the Canada Economic Response Plan, such as the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and rent supports, as well as the new provincial programs available to businesses, such as the Ontario Small Business Support Grant.

This additional Safe Restart allocation continues to cover the same eligible expenses, including:

- enhanced cleaning;
- additional PPE beyond what the Ministry is supplying directly;
- additional staff to meet COVID-19 health and safety requirements;
- support expenses resulting from staff absenteeism where staff need to stay home/self-isolate (because they or their children are sick);
- additional administration costs for up to 10% of the total allocation;
- support for short term vacancies due to lower enrolment in programs as operators return to full capacity, or room closure, centre closure and child absenteeism as a result of Provincial or Toronto Public Health direction (including covering the fees from full fee families and the parent portion of fee subsidy families)(1); and
- minor capital required in accordance with Ministry's reopening operational guidance or Toronto Public Health requirements. Please note all child care operators are to apply through the regular Health and Safety Fund in order to maximize the Safe Restart Funding on other eligible areas.

(1) Safe Restart funding allocated to support short-term vacancies as described above, supports the expenses (including marketing and promotion) not already covered by fees or programs such as the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) or rent supports.

This investment of Safe Restart Funding is intended to be flexible and may continue to be used by operators in the eligible areas described above to financially support the transition to pre-pandemic levels of enrolment into 2022. As well, Safe Restart Funding may be used to support the workforce challenges experienced by the sector.

2020 Safe Restart Funding Reporting (UPDATED):

Based on additional clarification from the Province, TCS is confirming that there will be no additional reporting requirements for 2020 Safe Restart Funding beyond the information already received through the previous Safe Restart Reporting Form, annual budgets and audits. The regular financial control mechanisms of budgets and audits will be used to review funding allocations and expenditure activity to ensure compliance with eligibility criteria.

We remain hopeful that with increasing vaccination rates, families will begin to bring children back into care. With this additional Safe Restart Funding, Toronto Children's Services in partnership with the provincial and federal governments, continue our efforts to support the sector which plays a critical role in child development, family well-being and the broader economic recovery.

Thank you,
Shanley McNamee

Shanley McNamee
General Manager
Toronto Children's Services