

**From:** Toronto Children's Services [mailto:do-not-reply-tcs@toronto.ca]  
**To:** Child care operators with Fee Subsidy Agreement (Agency Primary Contact)  
**Sent:** July 15, 2021 2:19 PM  
**Subject:** Toronto Children's Services – Safe Restart 2021 (Q3)

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

Dear Child Care Operators,

We are pleased to communicate that the Province has given Toronto Children's Services (TCS) additional flexibility to use its funding allocation to continue to directly support the financial viability of the child care sector during the pandemic recovery. A Safe Restart Funding (Q3) payment should be received by your centre the end of July.

This significant investment of additional Safe Restart Funding supports 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 continues to wind down over the next couple of months and is projected to end, this investment will support centres as they build back to pre-pandemic levels of enrolment. By confirming this funding now, we are encouraging agencies to have the confidence to be bold and creative in bringing families into care and resuming programming even where there is less than a full group size enrolled.

The distribution of funding is based on approved budgeted operating capacities (September, 2021) of child care programs, the number of operating days in the third quarter (66) and a predetermined General Operating Funding (GOF) daily rate by age group. The rates for Infant, Toddler and Preschool are based on the age point value as described in the General Operating Funding Guidelines. In addition, the Kindergarten and School-Aged rates are based on the GOF Preschool daily rate of \$22.50 to support full-time summer expenses.

The rates for Infant, Toddler and Preschool are based on the General Operating Funding point system times \$1.50 per point:

- Infant: 41 points X \$1.50 = \$61.50 daily rate
- Toddler: 24 points X \$1.50 = \$36.00 daily rate
- Preschool: 15 points X \$1.50 = \$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 be eligible for the same areas, including:

- enhanced cleaning;
- additional PPE beyond what the Ministry is supplying directly;
- additional staff to meet COVID-19 health and safety requirements;
- support 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 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, is intended to support expenses (including marketing and promotion) not already funded by programs such as the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) or rent supports.

As you know, centres are required to have Fee and Admission policies that include procedures for closures, absences, withdrawals and priority of admissions. With this additional funding, TCS is confirming that agencies may support families by either refunding or crediting some or all fees that were paid when a centre or room was closed under a public health order related to COVID-19. Agencies should consider this action based on their own financial position and related policies.

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. In

addition, the funding may be reallocated across the agencies individual locations that have a service agreement for fee subsidy as the need arises.

While there will be no One Time Stability funding provided in 2021, future COVID-19 related funding, including any further amount for Safe Restart Funding, will be determined as TCS continues to monitor and respond to the changing child care landscape, including enrolment trends and the status of provincial and federal supports through the remainder of the summer and early fall.

#### Safe Restart Funding Reporting:

The reporting process has been updated due to this additional funding. Final reporting for any 2020 Safe Restart Funding that was carried over into 2021 will be due in late fall 2021.

The reporting process for 2021 funding will be communicated in 2022.

We are hopeful that with increasing vaccine rates and education and lower COVID-19 infection rates overall, families will begin to bring children back into care. With this additional funding, Toronto Children's Services in partnership with the provincial and federal governments, continues our efforts to support the financial viability and the increased enrolment of the child care sector which plays a critical role in child development, family well-being and the broader economic recovery.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your Consultant.

Thank you,  
Shanley McNamee

Shanley McNamee  
General Manager  
Toronto Children's Services