

Community Child Care Planning Program

2020 Program & Application Guide

1. Introduction

In order to better meet the child care needs of families, under *Budget 2018*, the Province of British Columbia announced expanded investment in the child care sector totalling \$1 billion over three years. This includes \$237 million to improve access to child care, including funding the creation of 22,000 new licensed child care spaces. Strong planning at the community level will ensure that this investment creates child care spaces in areas with the greatest need.

The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development has provided \$2.85 million for the Community Child Care Planning Program. Under this program, eligible projects can receive up to \$25,000. The program is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). To date, 74 local governments, including regional applications, have received funding through this program.

Community Child Care Planning Program

The Community Child Care Planning Program provides funding for local governments to engage in child care planning activities in order to develop a community child care space creation action plan.

Through partnerships and engagement, all funded projects will collect information regarding the child care needs of the community; create an inventory of existing child care spaces; identify space creation targets over the next 10 years; and identify actions that can be taken to meet those space creation targets.

The information gathered through these plans will be shared with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, and may inform future investments in child care space creation that the Government of British Columbia may provide your community through funding programs such as the [Child Care BC New Spaces Fund](#). Please note that completion of a community child care space creation action plan does not guarantee future space creation funding.

2. Eligible Applicants

Local governments, including municipalities and regional districts, in BC are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants can submit one application per intake, including collaborative projects and participation as a partnering applicant in a collaborative application.

3. Collaborative Projects Including Multiple Local Governments

Funding requests from two or more eligible applicants for collaborative projects may be submitted as a single application for eligible projects. In this case, the maximum funding

available would be based on the number of eligible applicants included in the application. It is expected that collaborative projects will demonstrate cost-efficiencies in the total grant request.

The primary applicant submitting the application for a collaborative project is required to submit a resolution as outlined in Section 8 of this guide. All partnering applicants are required to submit a Council or Board resolution that clearly states their approval for the primary applicant to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

4. Eligible Projects & Guiding Principles

Eligible projects include the completion of a community child care space inventory (using the required Excel template) and the development of a community child care space creation action plan. These planning activities should result in local governments collecting information regarding the child care needs of the community and identifying short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions that can be taken to improve access to child care in the community through the creation of new child care spaces.

Eligible projects will demonstrate a commitment to the following guiding principles:

- **Community Driven** — Community solutions are based on local priorities and plans, and address the unique needs of the community;
- **Catalysts for Action** — Funded activities enable local governments and community partners to create new child care spaces and improve access to affordable, quality child care in their community;
- **Coordinated** — Activities of different levels of government (including local governments, school districts, Métis Nation BC, and neighbouring First Nations) and community partners (including organizations providing child care to underserved communities) encourage collaboration, avoid duplication among programs and projects, and facilitate the co-location of child care services with other child and family services;
- **Sustainable Results** — Will result in an actionable plan, supported with sufficient resources, that will improve access to affordable, quality child care over time.

In addition, to qualify for funding, projects must be:

- A new project or new project component (applications for retroactive projects are not eligible to receive funding under this program);
- Capable of completion by the applicant within one year from the date of grant approval.

5. Requirements for Funding

As part of the approval agreement, all approved applicants are required to adhere to the following requirements:

- Comply with all applicable privacy legislation, in that recipients of the Community Child Care Planning Program are not authorized under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) to collect, use, or disclose personal information while conducting funded activities. [Personal information](#) is any recorded information about an identifiable individual other than their business contact information. This includes information that can be used to identify an individual through association or inference. To ensure that personal information is not inadvertently collected, funding recipients must

ensure any information collected cannot be used to identify individuals. For instance, when collecting information from stakeholders, any information that is collected and distributed should be composed of aggregate/summative data collected from a sufficiently large sample to ensure no individual(s) can be identified. In these cases, the information should be collected and presented in a manner such that a person should not be able to extrapolate or guess who the information is concerning.

Refer to Appendix 1 for important information on all requirements for funding.
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6. Eligible & Ineligible Costs & Activities

Eligible Costs & Activities

Eligible costs are direct costs that are approved by the Evaluation Committee, properly and reasonably incurred, and paid by the applicant to carry out eligible activities. Eligible costs can only be incurred from the date of application submission until the final report is submitted.

Under the Community Child Care Planning Grant program, eligible activities must be cost-effective and may include:

- Completion of a community child care space inventory (using the required Excel template);
- Development/update of a community child care space creation action plan, including the required content outlined in Appendix 2;
- Data collection (e.g. research, community consultations, workshops) and analysis;
- Community engagement activities.

The following expenditures are also eligible provided they relate directly to the eligible activities identified above:

- Consultant costs;
- Incremental applicant staff and administration costs;
- Public information costs (e.g. meetings related to the project, translation costs).

Ineligible Costs & Activities

Any activity that is not outlined above or is not directly connected to activities approved in the application by the Evaluation Committee is not eligible for grant funding. This includes:

- Capital projects, including renovations or upgrades to buildings;
- Development of architectural, engineering, or other design drawings for the construction or renovation of facilities providing child care;
- Ongoing or regular planning activities;
- Regular maintenance, operational, or administrative expenses, as well as overhead costs such as rent, office supplies, and communications services such as telephone and the internet;
- Fundraising, lobbying, or sponsorship campaigns;
- Legal, audit, or interest fees;

- Purchase of software, software licences, or service subscriptions;
- Project components already completed.

7. Grant Maximum

The Community Child Care Planning Program can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities – to a maximum of \$25,000.

In order to ensure transparency and accountability in the expenditure of public funds, all other grant contributions for eligible portions of the project must be declared and, depending on the total value, may decrease the value of the grant.

8. Application Requirements & Process

Application Deadline

The application deadline is January 31, 2020.

Applicants will be advised of the status of their application within 90 days of the application deadline.

Required Application Contents

- Completed Application Form;
- Local government Council or Board resolution, indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management;
- Detailed budget that indicates the proposed expenditures and aligns with the proposed activities outlined in the application form. Although additional funding or support is not required, any other grant funding or in-kind contributions must be identified;
- *For collaborative projects only*: Each partnering local government must submit a Council or Board resolution indicating support for the primary applicant to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

Resolutions from partnering applicants must include the language above.

Submission of Applications

Applications should be submitted as Word or PDF files. If you choose to submit your application by e-mail, hard copies do not need to follow.

All applications should be submitted to:

Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities

E-mail: lqps@ubcm.ca

Mail: 525 Government Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8

Review of Applications

UBCM will perform a preliminary review of applications to ensure that the required application elements have been submitted and eligibility criteria have been met. Only complete application packages will be considered for funding.

Following this, all eligible applications will be reviewed and scored by the Evaluation Committee, which will include representatives from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Scoring considerations and criteria include the following:

- Alignment with the objectives and guiding principles of the Community Child Care Planning Program;
- Organizational capacity;
- Anticipated results;
- Partnerships and demonstrated community support;
- Engagement and inclusivity;
- Cost-effectiveness of the project, including in-kind or cash contributions to the project from the eligible applicant, community partners or other grant funding.

Point values and weighting have been established within each of these scoring criteria. Only those applications that meet a minimum threshold point value will be considered for funding.

The Evaluation Committee will also consider the location of each application in order to ensure a balanced representation of projects across the province and funding decisions will be made on a provincial priority basis.

All application materials will be shared with the Province of BC
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9. Grant Management & Applicant Responsibilities

Please note that grants are awarded to eligible applicants only and, as such, the applicant is responsible for completion of the project as approved and meeting reporting requirements.

Applicants are also responsible for proper fiscal management, including maintaining acceptable accounting records for the project. UBCM reserves the right to audit these records.

Notice of Funding Decision & Payments

All applicants will receive written notice of funding decisions. Approved applicants will receive an Approval Agreement, which will include the terms and conditions of any grant that is awarded, and that is required to be signed and returned to UBCM.

Please note that in cases where revisions are required to an application, or an application has been approved in principle only, the applicant has 30 days from the date of the written notice of the status of the application to complete the application requirements. Applications that are not completed within 30 days may be closed.

Grants are awarded in two payments: 75% at the approval of the project and when the signed Approval Agreement has been returned to UBCM and 25% when the project is complete and UBCM has received the required final report and a financial summary.

Changes to Approved Projects

Approved grants are specific to the project identified in the application, and grant funds are not transferable to other projects. Approval from the Evaluation Committee will be required for any significant variation from the approved project.

To propose changes to an approved project, approved applicants are required to submit:

- A revised application package, including an updated, signed application form, and an updated Council or Board resolution; and
- Written rationale for the proposed changes to activities and/or expenditures.

The revised application package will then be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee.

Applicants are responsible for any costs above the approved grant unless a revised application is submitted and approved prior to work being undertaken.

Extensions to Project End Date

All approved activities are required to be completed within one year of approval and all extensions beyond this date must be requested in writing and be approved by UBCM. Extensions will not exceed six months.

10. Final Report Requirements & Process

Applicants are required to submit an electronic copy of the complete final report package, including the following:

- Completed Final Report Form;
- Completed community child care space inventory (using the required Excel template);
- Completed community child care space creation action plan, including the required content outlined in Appendix 2;
- Financial summary;
- Optional: photos of the project, media clippings and or any reports or documents developed or amended with grant funding.

Submission of Final Reports

All final reports should be submitted to:

Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities

E-mail: lqps@ubcm.ca

Mail: 525 Government Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8

Review of Final Reports

UBCM will review final reports to ensure that all of the required report elements (identified above) have been submitted.

Following this, all complete final reports and deliverables will be submitted to the Ministry of Children and Family Development for review before final payment of the grant is issued.

All final report materials will be shared with the Province of BC

The Community Child Care Planning Program is funded by the Province of BC. Under Section 85 of the *Financial Administration Act*, all information collected by UBCM on behalf of the Province in relation to disbursement of the funding is provided to the Province. All information will be stored and retained in accordance with Ministry of Children and Family Development records management policies and procedures. This information could be subject to Freedom of Information requests.

11. Additional Information

For enquiries about the application process or general enquiries about the program, please contact:

Union of BC Municipalities
525 Government Street
Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8

E-mail: lgps@ubcm.ca

Phone: (250) 952-9177

In addition, the following resources are available:

- Regional Health Authorities are responsible for child care licensing in BC, and for the health and safety inspection of licensed facilities. For more information, please [contact your regional Health Authority](#).
- For information on the child care spaces licensed by your regional health authority, you may consult the following resources:
 - [Fraser Health Authority](#)
 - [Vancouver Island Health Authority](#)
 - [Vancouver Coastal Health Authority](#)
 - [Interior Health Authority](#)
 - [Northern Health Authority](#)
- [BC School Districts](#) are responsible for K-12 capital planning in their districts.
- [BC Child Care Resource and Referral Centres \(CCRRs\)](#): CCRRs offer quality child care and community referrals, resources and support to child care providers and families in every community across the Province of British Columbia.

Appendix 1: Requirements of Funding

As outlined in Section 5, approved applicants are required to develop, undertake, and complete their approved project in accordance with the following requirements:

1. The funding is to be used solely for the purpose of the approved project and for the expenses itemized in the project budget.
2. Any unused funds or funds expended on ineligible costs and activities must be returned to UBCM within 30 days following the project end date.
3. All expenditures must meet eligibility requirements as defined in the Community Child Care Planning Program & Application Guide.
4. All project activities may commence on the date that the application was submitted and must be completed within one year of project approval.
5. The final report is required to be submitted to UBCM within 30 days of project completion.
6. The approved applicants are required to comply with all applicable privacy legislation. Without limiting the foregoing, the approved applicant and their child care operator(s) must ensure that any personal information they collect, use or disclose about an identifiable individual as part of the approved project is disclosed only in Canada and only in accordance with the following legislation, as applicable: *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the *Child Family and Community Service Act*, the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, the *Personal Information Protection Act* or other applicable legislation.

Appendix 2: Required Content for Community Child Care Space Creation Action Plans

In order to be eligible for funding, community child care space creation action plans **must** include the required process elements and required content outlined below.

The information gathered through these plans will be shared with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, and may inform future investments in child care space creation that the Government of British Columbia may provide your community through programs such as the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund. Please note that completion of a community child care space creation action plan does not guarantee future space creation funding.

Recipients of the Community Child Care Planning Program are not authorized under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) to collect, use, or disclose personal information while conducting funded activities. [Personal information](#) is any recorded information about an identifiable individual other than their business contact information. This includes information that can be used to identify an individual through association or inference. To ensure that personal information is not inadvertently collected, funding recipients must ensure any information collected cannot be used to identify individuals. For instance, when collecting information from stakeholders, any information that is collected and distributed should be composed of aggregate/summative data collected from a sufficiently large sample to ensure no individual(s) can be identified. In these cases, the information should be collected and presented in a manner such that a person should not be able to extrapolate or guess who the information is concerning.

Required Process

The completion of the action plan requires (but is not limited to) the following:

- Completing the required community child care space inventory (using the required Excel template) to record details regarding the child care facilities and spaces in your plan area. Recommended resources include:
 - The following resources from BC Stats:
 - [Sub-provincial Population Estimates](#): Population estimates sorted by region, year, sex, and age.
 - [Population Estimates for Municipalities, Regional Districts, and Development Regions, 2011-2017](#)
 - [P.E.O.P.L.E. household projections](#): Each year BC Stats prepares an updated set of sub-provincial household projections after the population projection for the current year has been created using P.E.O.P.L.E. (Population Extrapolation for Organization Planning with Less Error).
 - Custom detailed regional population projections by age are available for purchase. For details, please contact the demographic analysis section at 250-216-2291.
 - [Statistics Canada Age \(in Single Years\) data tables](#)
 - [Regional Health Authorities](#) are responsible for child care licensing in BC. For information on licensed child care facilities in your area, please consult your Health Authority.

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development collects data on the licensed child care facilities that receive ministry operating funding. To review this data, you may:
 - Refer to the [BC Child Care Map](#); or,
 - Download child care facility location data from the [BC Data Catalogue](#) (search “Child Care Map”).
 - Note that “Multi-Age Child Care Programs” may be separated as “Family Multi-Age” and “Group Multi-Age” in these sources of data; simply combine these two categories for a full list of Multi-Age Child Care Programs.
 - Note that the Child Care Map and child care facility location data do not provide complete lists of licensed child care facilities in BC, as they only detail licensed child care facilities in receipt of government operating funding. Cross-reference any information with information from your Health Authority to gather a complete list of all child care facilities
- Engaging with local child care stakeholders, particularly parents and child care providers (including Indigenous providers).
 - Recipients are also encouraged to engage with their local school district(s), other local governments, local First Nations, Métis Nation BC, and local Indigenous organizations.
 - Community engagement activities must include at least one of the following:
 - A survey targeting child care providers in the community;
 - A survey targeting parents in the community and/or parents from a neighbouring community accessing child care in the plan area;
 - A community town hall or open house on child care issues;
 - Visits to local child care centres.
 - Community engagement activities must gather information regarding the needs of under-served populations in child care—including children with extra support needs, Indigenous children and families, low-income children and families, young parents under the age of 25, children and families from minority culture and language groups, immigrant and refugee children and families, and francophone children and families.
- Developing (or updating) an action plan, including the required content outlined below.

Required Content for the Action Plan

Using the results of the inventory and community engagement process, the completion of the action plan requires (but is not necessarily limited to) the following content:

Current State of Child Care in Community

- The child care space utilization rate in your [Service Delivery Area](#)¹. Information on utilization rates is available from the [Ministry of Children and Family Development](#).

¹ Utilization rates are an indicator of the degree to which families may be able to access a child care space. Generally, higher utilization rates correlate with lower accessibility. Utilization rates above 80 percent indicate

- Child care utilization patterns and concerns that stakeholders indicate regarding:
 - How many families use child care in your community, and how many use [licensed versus license-not-required](#) care;
 - Whether there is a sufficient number of spaces to meet demand;
 - Whether spaces are in convenient locations for families, including whether these spaces are located close to parents' home, work, or school;
 - Whether enough spaces are co-located with organizations offering other services benefiting children and families (such as those offered through schools, post-secondary institutions, libraries, recreation facilities, and family support programs) and/or facilitating a seamless transition for children between such programs, and what kinds of services families would like child care to be co-located with; and
 - Whether child care is offered at convenient times for families, including whether there is a sufficient number of "flexible" child care spaces offered outside of regular business hours.
- Information on the programs and services that currently exist in your community to meet the child care needs of underserved populations and/or provide additional support services as required.
 - Underserved populations include, but may not be limited to, children who have extra support needs, Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) children and families, low-income families, young parents under the age of 25, children and families from minority cultures and language groups, immigrant and refugee children and families, and francophone families.
 - In completing this required content, you may wish to consider whether there are any of the following organizations, programs, or services in your community:
 - Supported Child Development Programs;
 - [Aboriginal Supported Child Development Programs](#);
 - Cultural safety training for child care staff;
 - Child care offered by Indigenous providers;
 - Child care offering minority language and/or culture programming;
 - Child care offering Francophone programming;
 - Programs to assist low-income families with child care fees;
 - [Young Parent Programs](#); and/or
 - Social "wrap-around" supports for children and families offered in conjunction with child care (such as meal assistance, health supports, housing supports, counselling, transportation supports, and referrals).

difficulty finding a child care space and utilization rates of approximately 90 percent would indicate that a region has poor accessibility where provider waitlists are likely commonplace.

While lower utilization rates indicate improved accessibility, local conditions may differ to that in the region overall; families may still encounter challenges finding care to meet their individual preferences and needs. It is important to engage with community stakeholders to learn more about some of the factors influencing the utilization rate in your area.

- Description of the programs and services that are most needed in your community to meet the child care needs of underserved populations and/or provide additional support services as required.

Interpreting Trends

- Identification and interpretation of trends related to the number, location, and care types of licensed child care facilities and spaces in your community, including:
 - Whether the number and type of licensed spaces in your community is sufficient to meet the needs of your ages 0-12 population, and what age groups are in most need of more child care spaces;
 - Whether licensed facilities are located in areas of high need, including high density areas and areas where parents attend work and school;
 - What locations in your community present the highest unmet demand for licensed child care spaces;
 - Whether there are a sufficient number of “flexible” licensed child care spaces offered outside of regular business hours;
 - Whether there are a sufficient number of licensed child care spaces and services providing child care for underserved populations; and
 - Whether there are a sufficient number of care facilities that are co-located with other organizations offering services benefiting children and families to meet the community’s needs.

Plan, Bylaw, and Policy Review

- Review of local plans, policies, and bylaws. This review may include only your local government’s documents, but it is recommended that it extend to other local governments as well (e.g. a review of policies in a municipality’s regional district and/or in adjacent municipalities).
- Analysis of local plans, policies, and bylaws to identify any aspects that may create barriers to the creation of licensed child care spaces in your community, and what actions can be taken to eliminate these barriers and encourage the creation of child care spaces and growth of services.

Action Plan Targets and Goals

- Identify short-term (one to two years), medium-term (two to five years), and long-term (five to ten years) space creation targets that will meet the licensed child care space needs identified above. Considerations must include, but are not limited to:
 - The number of licensed child care spaces that are required to meet the identified need.
 - The child care age groups and license types that are most in demand, and how many licensed spaces in each age group and license type are needed to meet this demand.
 - Where new spaces need to be located to best meet families’ needs. Consider any opportunities for co-locating child care facilities with organizations offering other

services and programs benefiting children and their families, such as schools, post-secondary institutions, libraries, recreation facilities, and family support programs. If possible, include an estimate of the number of spaces that can be co-located with each type of facility.

- The number of new spaces that need to be flexible (i.e. offered outside of regular business hours).
- The number of spaces that can be created using public assets.
- Identify short-term (one to two years), medium-term (two to five years), and long-term (five to ten years) actions that the local government and community will take to meet licensed space creation targets and improve access to child care services within the community. Considerations must include, but are not limited to:
 - What actions your local government will take to meet the targets identified above. Please be specific; you may wish to categorize what actions will be taken in each neighbourhood.
 - Specifically, how your local government will meet the targets identified for flexible child care.
 - Specifically, how your local government will ensure that the new child care spaces in your community meet the needs of underserved populations in child care, including children who have extra support needs, Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) children and families, low-income families, young parents under the age of 25, children and families from minority cultures and language groups, immigrant and refugee children and families, and francophone families.
 - Which organization(s) will be responsible for leading the creation of which child care spaces in which years.
 - Which public assets can be leveraged to expand publicly-owned child care in your community.
 - What community partners your local government will work with to meet the identified targets.
 - How your local government will increase the number of child care spaces co-located with organizations offering other services benefiting children and their families, and which community partners will you work with to increase the number of co-located spaces.
 - What plans, policies, and bylaws your local government will amend or create to reduce barriers to child care space creation.
 - What internal resources and capacity your local government will require in order to implement this plan (e.g. staff resources, funding, time, etc.).
 - What supports your local government will require from external organizations, including the BC Government, to achieve your space creation targets.
 - How your local government will continue to engage with stakeholders, including parents and child care providers, in meeting your space creation targets.

Optional Considerations for Further Planning

Please note that recipients of the Community Child Care Planning Grant are encouraged but not required to identify the following in their child care planning:

- Child care human resources available in the community (i.e. number of early childhood educators and other child care facility staff);
- How your community may help to increase the number of early childhood educators and child care facility staff serving the community in coming years;
- Trends related to the affordability of child care in your community;
- Trends related to the quality of child care in your community;
- Existing children and family services in your community, in addition to child care and how these services can be expanded in the coming years.