

CHILDCARE IN VICTORIA: Implementation Plan


2021





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Purpose

To provide Council with recommendations for implementing actions from the Childcare in Victoria report that are within municipal jurisdiction.



Prepared By:
Jen Casorso
Community Well-Being Lead - Urban Matters CCC
and
Sarah Ravlic
Community Well-Being Practitioner - Urban Matters CCC



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Background

- Mayor's Child Care Solutions Working Group was awarded a grant to develop a community childcare space creation action plan.
- Findings show there is a gap of approximately 4,233 childcare spaces in Victoria (based on 2019 data).
- Childcare in Victoria Report considered by Council in October 2020 with direction to:
 - Report back with resource implications to implement the actions in municipal jurisdiction.
 - Bring forward advocacy motions for consideration at a future Council meeting.



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Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan (Appendix B) speaks directly to the recommendations from the Childcare in Victoria Report under 5 themes and includes:

- ✓ Costs & Considerations
- ✓ Timeframe: short, medium and longer-term
- ✓ Internal lead and support
- ✓ External partners



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Theme 1: Process

1. Streamline Regulatory Processes

- Reduce complexity
- Review City's Zoning Bylaws
- Determine amendments needed to make it easier to provide childcare spaces in city

2. Implement childcare planning best practices and maintain access rate and childcare needs data

- Update relevant data from 2019
- Help inform future policy initiatives and processes
- Encourage co-location opportunities with other uses such as affordable housing projects



Theme 2: Policy

Aligns directly with process improvements.

1. In the medium-term, childcare will be embedded into community planning activities

- Once data and space targets have been updated

2. In the short-term, improving of regulatory tools captured under process actions

3. Creating incentives is underway as part of OCP updates

- Includes consideration for bonus density



Theme 3: Partnerships

1. Strengthening partnerships with agencies and municipalities
 - Already started through working group
 - Abundance of existing assets and partnerships
2. Demonstrating leadership in childcare provisioning
 - Start to be addressed progressively
 - As other actions in Implementation Plan are undertaken



Theme 4: Advocacy

Advocacy recommendations included:

1. Advocate for changes to the School Act to better support childcare space creation in the province.
2. Advocate to Senior government for additional capital funding for childcare projects.
3. Support and encourage employers to share responsibility for childcare within their communities.
4. Address gaps in equity and promote poverty reduction.
5. Advocate for childcare as a social determinant of health.

Staff will report back in Q2-Q3 2022 with recommendations on their advancement.



Theme 5: Education & Training

1. Childcare Start-Up Support

- Implementation proposed in short-term
- Develop communications to navigate regulatory processes
- Website updates
- Determine if complementary workshops on navigating City processes are needed in the future

2. Enhanced Training for Local Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)

- Outside municipal jurisdiction
- To be led by community partners



Recommendation

1. Commence the proposed short-term actions in 2022:

- Consider amendments to the City's Zoning Bylaws to streamline municipal approval processes and report back to Council with bylaw amendments;
- Create communications to help navigate City processes and inform childcare space creation and licensing requirements;
- Update the Childcare in Victoria report to include more recent data and childcare space targets;
- Consider childcare operations as part of co-location opportunities in future developments.

2. Report back with recommendations on advancing Childcare in Victoria advocacy actions in Q2-Q3 of 2022

