

A ROADMAP TO UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE IN ONTARIO: ESSENTIAL FOR OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY

ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE 2022 ONTARIO PRE-BUDGET BRIEF

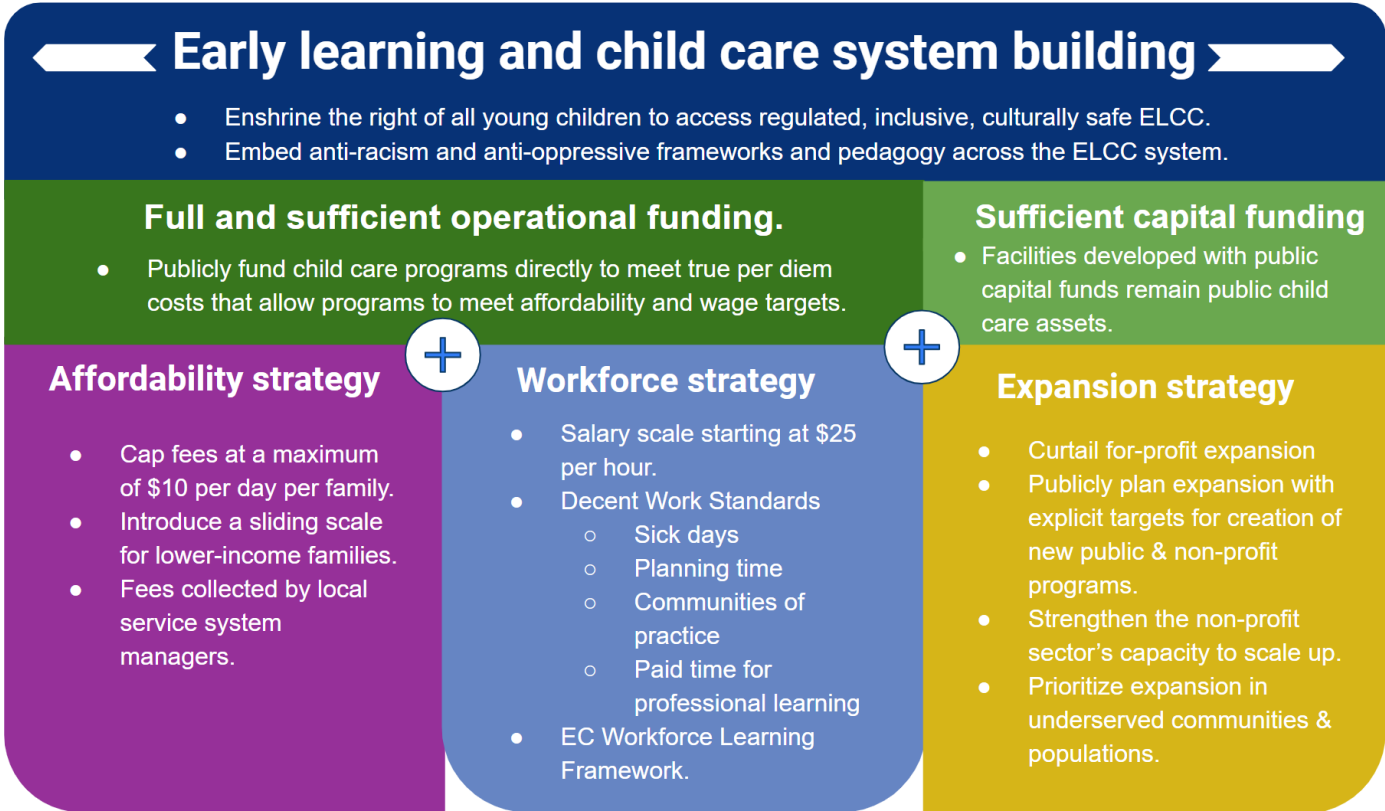
The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care is a member organization that brings the community together to campaign for a universal, affordable, high-quality system of early childhood education and care.

THE OPPORTUNITY

A strengthened child care system will support: parents in the workforce; children’s well-being, learning and development; decent work for educators; the Ontario economy. With more than \$10 Billion in federal funding available to meet this opportunity, Ontario must act now.

ONTARIO 2022 BUDGET PRIORITIES

1. Sign the federal child care agreement and commit to the child care community’s Roadmap to Universal Child Care in Ontario.
 - The federal child care plan offers Ontario \$10.2 Billion to help address current child care challenges and to move to an affordable, universal child care system.
 - When the federal funding was announced, the OCBCC and our members and allies consulted families and the child care sector to develop a [Roadmap to Universal Child Care in Ontario](#). Our Roadmap details 30 policy interventions and strategies to move Ontario from the current market-based patchwork to a universal system.



2. Immediately reverse \$49 million in planned cuts to child care
 - Child care currently is facing at least \$49 million in annual provincial funding cuts. Originally planned for January 2020, then delayed until January 2021. Now these cuts are being offset once again with a one-time “transitional grant”. It’s time to admit these cuts were ill-conceived when they were announced last year, and in the face of a pandemic they must be permanently reversed.
3. Increase provincial funding by \$500 million to stabilize the sector
 - Even with a federal child care plan, it is important to remember that, constitutionally, child care remains provincial jurisdiction and that the province has a responsibility to provide adequate funding.
 - More than 200 child care centres have closed since the onset of the pandemic. The province has largely relied on federal pandemic funding, including the Safe Restart Agreement, to temporarily stabilize the child care sector. But new health and safety standards, combined with low enrolment during the pandemic, means that child care programs face increased costs and reduced revenues and remain in a very precarious financial position. General operating funding should be increased to ensure that child care programs remain operational to support reopening and recovery.

For further details, read our report: [The Roadmap to Universal Child Care in Ontario](#): <https://www.childcareontario.org/roadmap>