



Algoma District Services Administration Board
Conseil d'administration des services du district d'Algoma

Child Care Directed Growth Plan 2022 to 2026



Algoma District Social Services
Services Sociaux du district d'Algoma

Revised August 2025

Algoma District Services Administration Board's (ADSAB) direct growth plan aligns with the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) vision of ensuring that more families in Ontario have access to high quality inclusive early learning and child care no matter where they live.

Our plan has been developed by examining the latest data, including current child care capacity, waitlists, demographics and consultations with community partners. Revisions will be made as the plan is implemented and re-evaluated.

Background

On March 27, 2022, the Government of Ontario and Canada signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement. Funding under the CWELCC Agreement has and will be used to build on and leverage the success of existing child care funding and associated initiatives. The goals for the CWELCC system include:

- a. Providing a reduction in average child care fees for licensed child care for children under the age of 6
- b. Creating more high-quality, affordable licensed child care spaces
- c. Addressing barriers to provide inclusive and flexible licensed child care
- d. Strengthening the early childhood workforce through enhanced compensation, training, and professional learning opportunities

Space Creation Targets

The overall focus of the CWELCC Directed Growth Plan is to improve access to inclusive licensed child care services by working towards a common provincial access to care ratio of 37%. Access to care refers to the number of licensed child care spaces available to children from 0 – 5 years of age in proportion to the total number of children 0-5 years who live in the district.

In May 2023, space creation targets were released to Service System Managers under the Directed Growth Plan supporting Ontario's commitment to create 86,000 new child care spaces by December 31, 2026. This provided Service System Managers across the province with a notional space allocation for the expansion of licensed child care services within schools as well as community-based services for 2022-2026.

Recalibration

In early 2025, the Ministry of Education completed a recalibration exercise. The recalibration was based on information submitted by Service System Managers in October 2024. This exercise resulted in adjusted auspice targets for many Service System Managers to support Ontario in achieving the overall space creation target of 86,000 spaces. The recalibration had a net impact for the ADSAB, resulting in the target of 248 spaces between 2002 – 2006 remaining in place.

Directed Growth Plan

ADSAB received a mandate from the Ministry of Education to expand the CWELCC system by 248 spaces in school and community-based locations between 2022-2026, as follows:

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Expansion Targets	5	18	54	40	131	248
Community Based	5	18	54	40	67	184
School Based					64	64

The breakdown by age grouping is as follows:

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025 (Projected)	2026 (Projected)	Total
Infant			10		20	30
Toddler		10	15		30	55
Preschool		8	16	8	48	80
Kindergarten	5		13	26		44
School Age					15	15
Home Child Care				6	18	24
Total	5	18	54	40	131	248

Spaces Created (2022 – 2024)

City of Elliot Lake - Community Based

An increase of 77 licensed child care spaces were created within the City of Elliot Lake.

- 36 new spaces created at All Star Children's Services, and
- 41 new spaces at Claire Dimock Children's Center.

Access, Inclusion, and Priority Populations

This plan adheres to the expectations outlined in [Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework 2023](#), developed by the Ministry of Education. The vision for the CWELCC System is to enable children of all abilities and social-economic backgrounds in Ontario to actively and meaningfully participate in child care, fostering authentic and caring relationships with peers and educators. The plan has been developed through the lens of supporting access for:

- Children living in Low Income families
- Vulnerable Children
- Children with Exceptional Needs
- Children from Diverse Communities
- Francophone Children
- Indigenous Families
- Children of Newcomers to Canada

Workforce Challenges

Providing high-quality child care staffed by qualified early childhood professionals is vital to both economic stability and family well-being. It is widely recognized that there is a shortage of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), not only within the Algoma District but across Ontario and throughout the country. To accommodate future growth, the current childcare workforce will need to expand. Children's Services remains dedicated to supporting and strengthening our local childcare workforce.