

REGION OF OTTAWA CARLETON
 RÉGION D'OTTAWA CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.
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DATE 1 February 1999

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Social Services Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **REQUEST FOR CHILD CARE CAPITAL FUNDING: EARLY BEGINNINGS MULTICULTURAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That Community Services Committee recommend Council approve a capital grant to Early Beginnings Multicultural Child Development Centre comprising 50% of the total renovation costs up to \$135,000.

BACKGROUND

Early Beginnings Multicultural Child Development Centre is a 42 space licensed child care program for toddlers and preschoolers. The program has been operated by the Jewish Community Council since 1989 and occupies a site in a former school building on Broadview Avenue. The program has a multicultural focus and 64% of its spaces are subsidised. The centre's waiting list substantiates a continuing need in the area.

CURRENT SITUATION AND PROJECT COST

The Early Beginnings Multicultural Child Development Centre is situated within a large block of land on Broadview Avenue which is owned by the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa. The site is currently being developed as a large community campus which will provide a central access point for a number of services including a recreation complex and a long term care facility with 100 beds. In September 1998, the Region approved a \$1.6 million grant towards the cost of construction of the long term care facility. Plans for that facility resulted in the need to relocate the child care program to another building on the same campus.

In anticipation of this move the centre's playground was relocated and architectural plans prepared for the renovation of the new space to meet the needs of the child care program. These plans were approved by the Ministry of Community and Social Services who license all child care programs. Total cost of renovating the new space is estimated at \$270,000 and the request of the Region is for \$135,000 or 50%.

CHILD CARE CAPITAL FUNDING POLICY

The Region's Child Care Capital Funding Policy was originally approved by Council in 1987 and was last amended in 1997. The 1997 amendment provided for major capital grants to non-profit operators for projects which preserve existing child care facilities or enable development of new facilities in under served areas of the Region. The policy states that Regional grants shall be a sum ranging from 50% to 80% of the total cost of the project. The number and size of grants in any one year is limited by the availability of funds in the child care capital reserve fund.

STATUS OF CHILD CARE RESERVE FUNDS

The Child Care Capital Reserve Fund has an estimated, December 31, 1998, uncommitted balance of \$2.0 million. Included in this balance is a \$1.5 million contribution which was originally included in the 1999 draft estimates. The joint report from the Chief Administrative Officer and Finance Commissioner entitles "1999 Draft Estimates - Budget Reductions and Adjustments Options" recommended that this contribution be made in 1998.

As of December 1998, the Child Care Contingency Reserve Fund which is made up of past year operating surpluses contains \$1,773,635. These funds are intended to provide for ameliorating significant increases in any one year. In past years Council has approved the transfer of funds from this source to the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund, if necessary.

ANTICIPATED REQUESTS FOR CAPITAL FUNDING

Social Services is currently aware of several major capital funding requests which could be coming forward within the next year. In addition, the impending closure of several schools will have a significant impact on the child care programs located in these facilities. At present 12 child care programs are located in schools recommended for closure (see list in Annex A). Social Services has estimated that if all of these programs were relocated the total cost of new construction would be roughly \$7.25 million. However, the actual need to relocate these programs will not be clear until later in the year.

Although it is impossible to put an accurate figure on the number of requests coming forward this year it is quite likely that the funds required will exceed the dollars available and some prioritizing and possible delay of projects will be required. In addition, some funds need to be protected for minor capital and health and safety request (under \$40,000) which have to be funded from this source. Minor capital requirements in 1998 were only \$12,400. However, not all programs were familiar with the Region's Capital Funding policies which was approved late in 1997.

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

The Early Beginnings Multicultural Child Development Centre renovation project will result in a greatly improved physical plant for the child care program and is being done in as cost effective a manner as possible by using whatever materials can be salvaged from the existing site. Relocation of the program is also necessary to enable construction of the long term care facility which is proceeding immediately. The project meets all of the criteria in the Capital Funding Policy. Social Services consequently recommends that Community Services Community and Council approve a grant of \$135,000 for this project in order to ensure the continuing existence of this program.

*Approved by
Dick Stewart*

FINANCE DEPARTMENT COMMENT

Funds are available in the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund as indicated.

*Approved by T. Fedec
on behalf of the Finance Commissioner*

ANNEX A

**CHILD CARE PROGRAMS LOCATED
IN SCHOOLS RECOMMENDED FOR CLOSURE**

School Board		School	Child Care Program	Capacity	Subsidized Spaces
OCDSC	1	McNabb Park Public 160 Percy, Ottawa	Centretown McNabb	18	16
	2	Riverview Public 2620 Market, Cumberland	Cumberland Co-op Nursery School	12	0
	3	Riverview Alternative School 260 Knox, Ottawa	Riverview School Age	30	6
	4	Whitehaven School 920 Parkhaven, Ottawa	Whitehaven School Age	50	23
			Total	110	42
OCCSB	5	St. Margaret Mary 88 Bellwood Street, Ottawa	Bytown Co-op	42	9
	6	St. Agnes 18 Louisa Street, Ottawa	Dalhousie Parents	57	57
	7	Jean XXIII 1002 Karen Way, Ottawa	Fairview	64	57
	8	Barrette 50 Vaughan Street, Ottawa	Fernhill (Private School/Child Care)	94	1
	9	St. Agnes 18 Louisa Street, Ottawa	Thursday's Child	9	9
	10	Sacre Coeur 19 Melrose Avenue, Ottawa	Youville	25	25
			Total	291	158
CECLF	11	St Francis d'Assissi 35 Melrose Avenue, Ottawa	Le Carrefour	32	27
	12	St. Pie X 150 Mann Avenue, Ottawa	Quatre Saisons*	50	40
			Total	82	67

* Operated by the Region