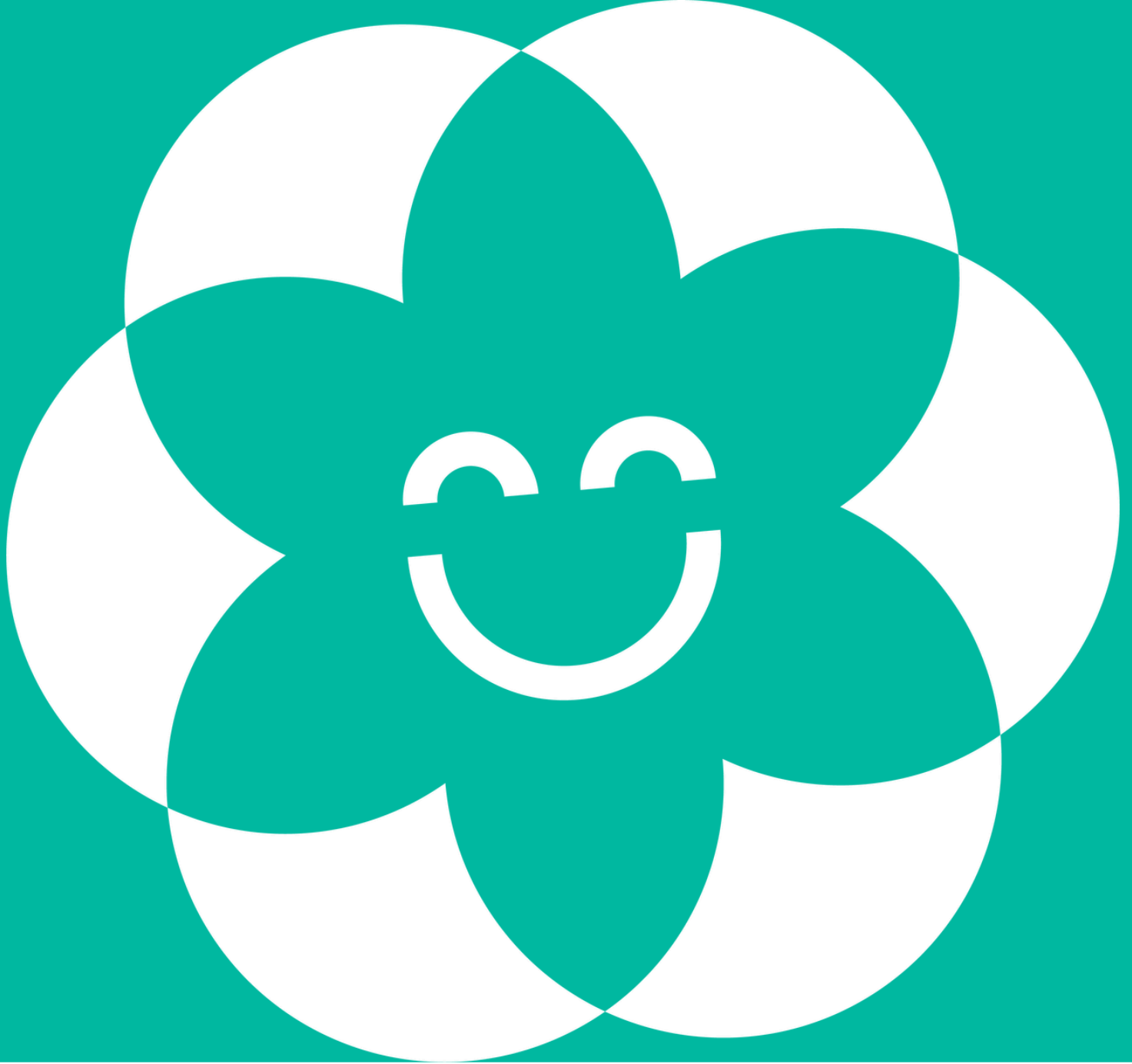




Local Office. District Impact.

Understanding the Role of CDSB for Future Municipal Leaders

Children's Services

CDSB • CSDC 

Cochrane District
Services Board

Conseil des services
du district de Cochrane

UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN'S SERVICES

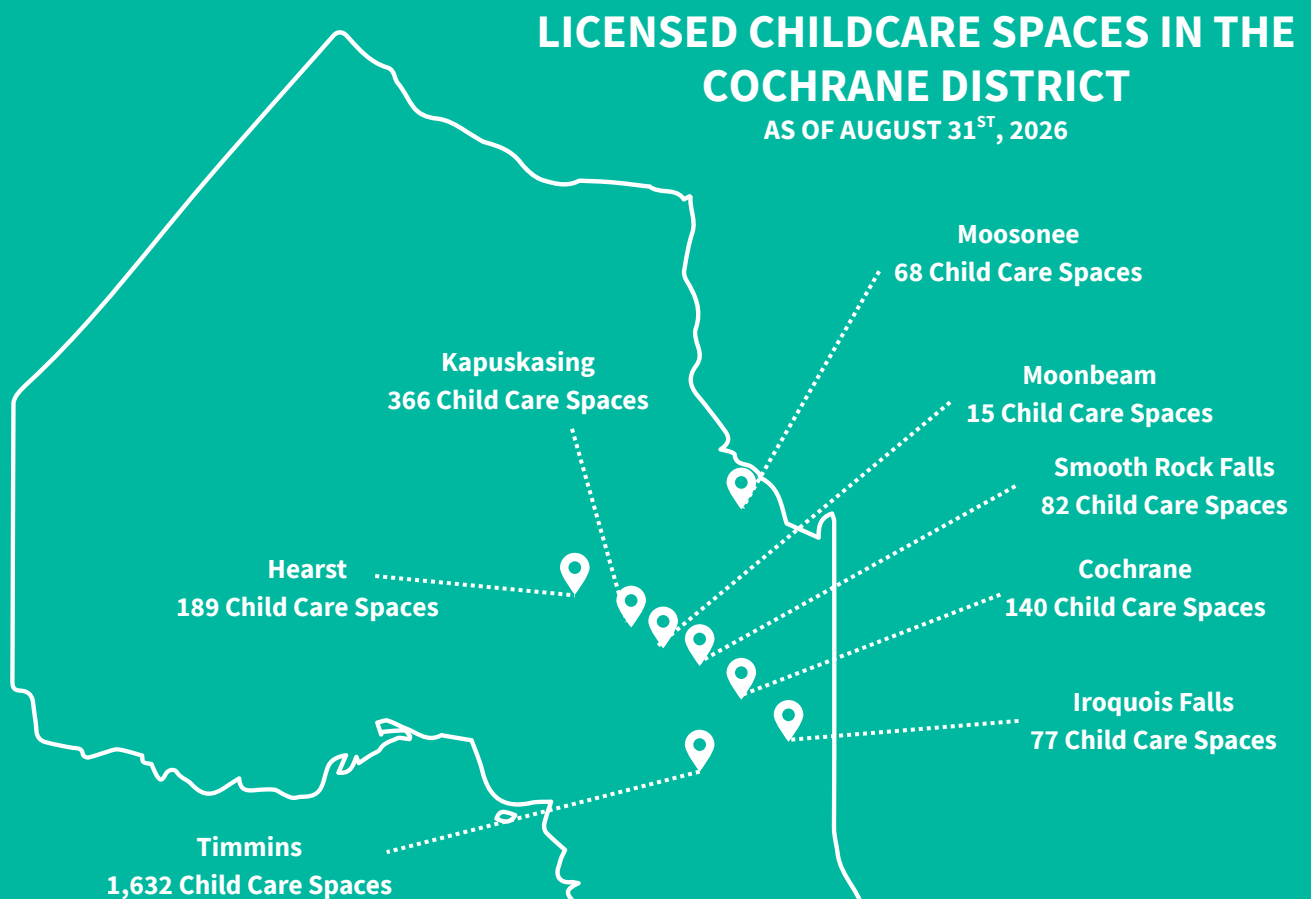
RESPONSIBILITIES

The CDSB is the designated service system manager for child care within the Cochrane District. The core responsibilities include:

- Coordination of child care services
- Coordination of EarlyON Family Centres
- Planning and funding child care and early years programming
- Coordination of provincial child care funding including the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Program and Local Priorities
- Providing support and continuing education for early childhood educators

THE CANADA-WIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE PROGRAM (CWELCC)

CWELCC is a federal-provincial initiative designed to reduce child care fees for families and increase access to licensed child care spaces. The CDSB is responsible for administering CWELCC funding locally and working directly with licensed child care providers. Additionally, the CDSB is responsible for ensuring compliance with CWELCC requirements.



CHILD CARE CAPACITY IN THE DISTRICT



17

Licensed Childcare Centres
Operating in Cochrane
District

11

Home-based Child Care
Providers through CDSB-
operated Northern
Treasures program



2,535

Licensed Community-Based and School-Based Child Care spaces across the Cochrane District. In 2025, 63% of those spaces were utilized, an increase of 14% since 2024.



111

CDSB’s Program Quality Consultant team responded to 111 requests for service from child care centres across the District. Travelling over 21,000 km, this team provided in-room coaching, meeting with parents, and assistance in creating/reviewing Individual Support Plans.



11

CDSB operates Northern Treasures, a home-based child care program. In 2025, there were 11 Northern Treasures providers, who served 69 families and 75 children in the Cochrane District.

WHY AREN’T 100% OF CHILD CARE SPACES BEING USED?

In the Cochrane District, a shortage of Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECE) and Early Childhood Educators (ECE) is the main factor in unused child care spaces. This is felt even more with French-speaking or bilingual RECE and ECEs.

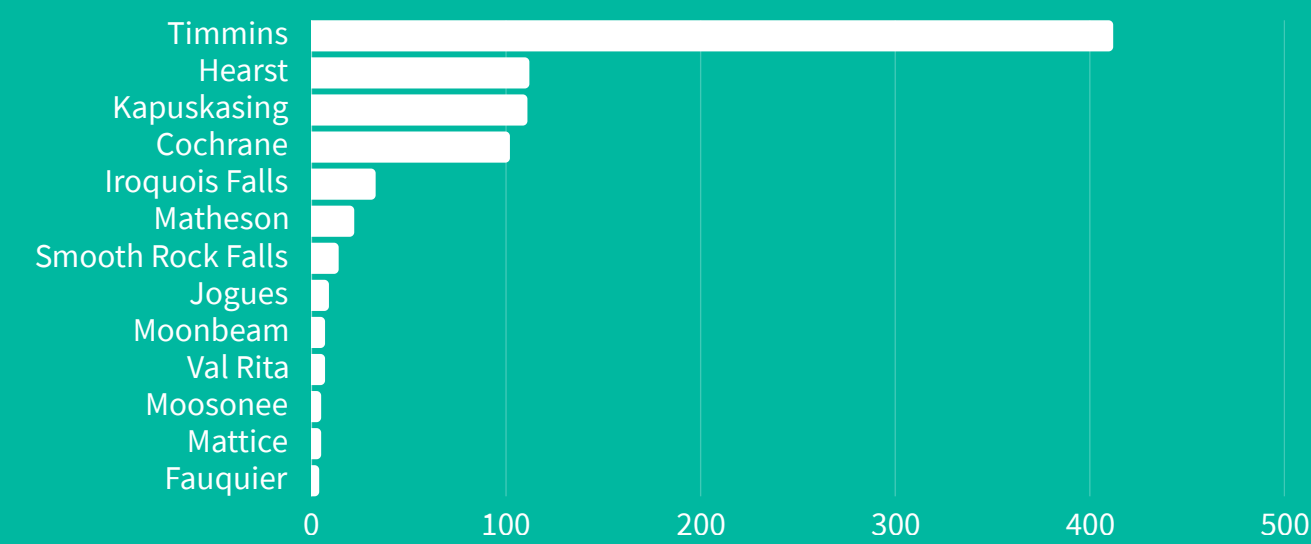
To support ongoing recruitments the CDSB provides Wage Enhancement Grants for licensed child care centres, free professional development and training, and continues to advocate and build affordable housing for new RECE and ECEs.

UNDERSTANDING THE WAITLIST BY COMMUNITY

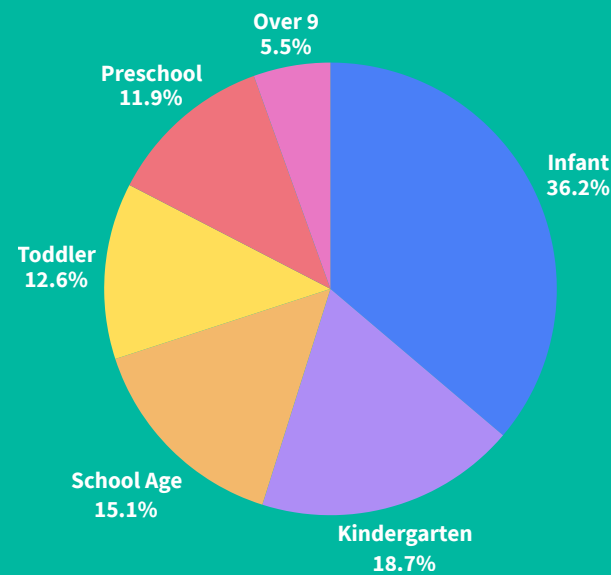
In 2026, the CDSB launched a Centralized Waitlist for Child Care in the Cochrane District. Previously families would have to apply to each childcare centre, making it near impossible for current and future needs.

873 CHILDREN ON THE WAITLIST
August 2026

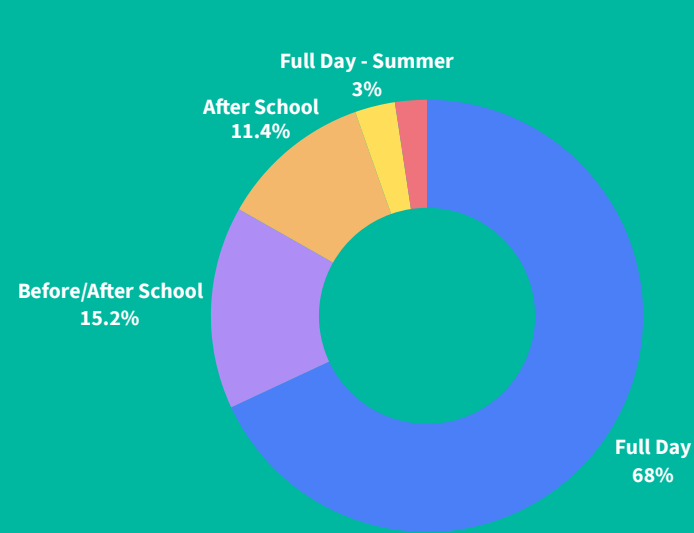
WAITING LIST BY COMMUNITY



AGE PROFILE



TYPE OF CARE



EARLYON IN THE COCHRANE DISTRICT

EarlyON Child and Family Centres provide welcoming, high-quality programs for children aged 0 to 6 and their families. Through play-based learning, hands-on activities, children build important literacy, numeracy, social, and development skills while parents, guardians and caregivers connect with valuable resources and support.

In 2025, 11 EarlyON Centres operated across the Cochrane District in Moosonee, Hearst, Kapuskasing, Smooth Rock Falls, Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, Matheson, Timmins and South Porcupine (Timmins).

**There were 33,253 visits to EarlyON Centres
in the Cochrane District in 2025**

CDSB-OPERATED EARLYON CENTRES

In 2025, the CDSB directly operated the Spruce Hill Lodge (SHL) EarlyON Centre in Timmins. The SHL Centre is unique, located in a retirement home that offers intergenerational programming with senior residents a Summer Mobile Outreach Program. As of September 1st, 2026, the CDSB began directly operating the Matheson and Cochrane EarlyON Child and Family Centres.

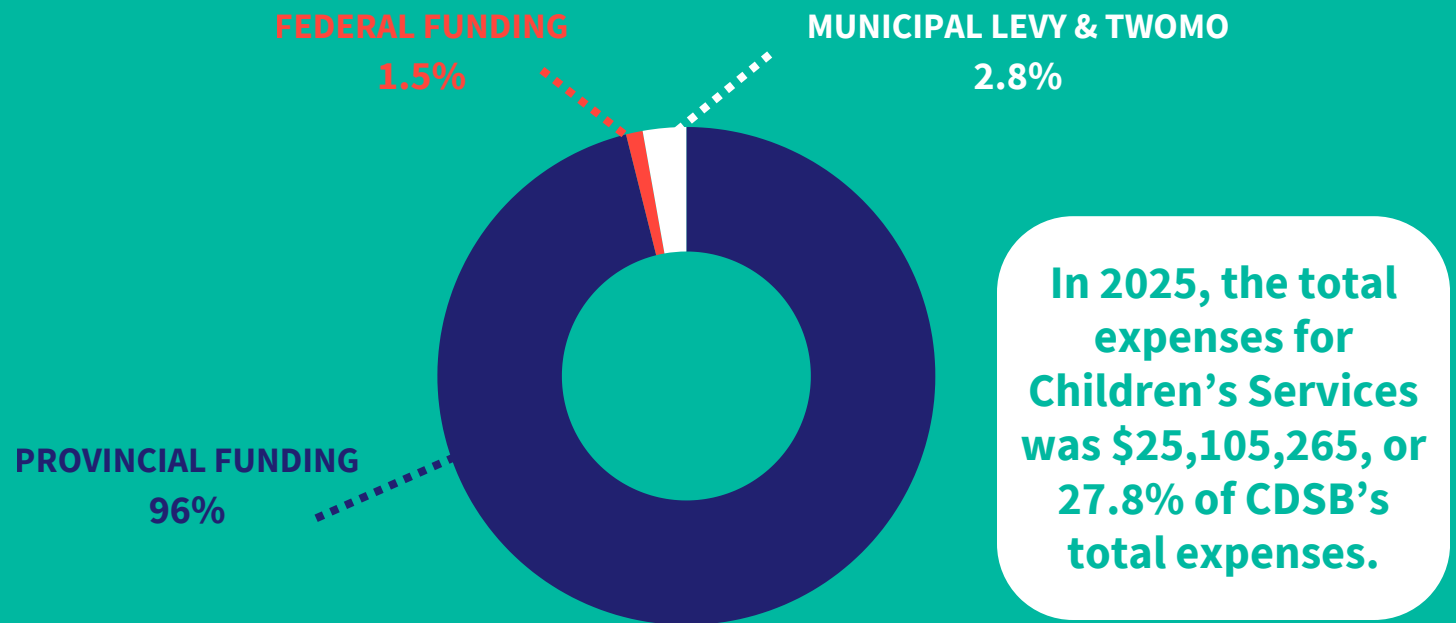


**In 2025, the SHL
Centre had 9,249 visits.**



UNDERSTANDING FUNDING & CHALLENGES

HOW CHILDREN'S SERVICES IS FUNDED



CHALLENGES

Workforce Recruitment & Retention of RECEs and ECEs:

- Attracting qualified RECEs and ECEs remains one of the most significant barriers to expanding child care services across the Cochrane District. Staffing shortages, especially in French Centres, limit the number of spaces that can be offered, even when centres have capacity.
- A shortage of affordable housing across many Cochrane District communities has become a barrier for recruiting and retaining child care professionals. Workforce development and child care are increasingly dependent on the availability of local housing options.
- The average wage for ECEs in Northeastern Ontario is \$23.15 per hour, with providers continuing to compete with opportunities in education, health care, mining, and other sectors that often offer higher wages, stronger benefits, and stable career progression.

CWELCC Funding Formulas and Northern Realities:

- While CWELCC has significantly improved affordability for families, the funding framework can create financial pressure for operators. Funding formulas don't always reflect the true cost of delivering child care in Northern and rural communities.
- The current CWELCC funding model creates barriers for capital funding usage, leaving limited funding opportunities for capital funding for child care operators.

Geographic Size & Rural Service Delivery:

- The Cochrane District covers more than 140,000 km², creating unique challenges in delivery consistent, high-quality services.

CONTACT US



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