Regina Open Door Society Inc.

CHILD CARE

Program Update-$10/day child care

January 2024

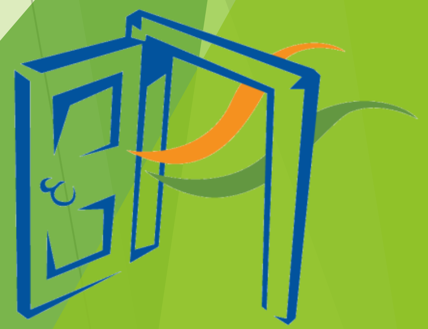
Current Initiatives

- Parents pay $10 per day for care. This mean a fee of $217.50 per month, regardless of the age. The savings for parents is about 65% – 75%, depending on the age of the child. LINC/IRCC pays this parent portion for RODS clients
- The remaining 65% - 75% of the fees comes to the daycare in a monthly "Parent Fee Reduction Grant" that is adjusted/reconciled every 3-4 months based on information that is inputted by the daycare into an Enrollment Portal
- All ECE-certified staff are receiving wage enhancements/top-ups through the Ministry. 11/14 staff are eligible. The top-up ranges from a 5% - 25% increase, with ECE level 3's receiving the most
- FREE ECE training initiatives/courses for educators through SK Poly
- We also currently have approx. $175,000 in reserved grant funding for specified maintenance projects, staff incentives, winter programming and operational costs

Regina Open Door Society Inc.

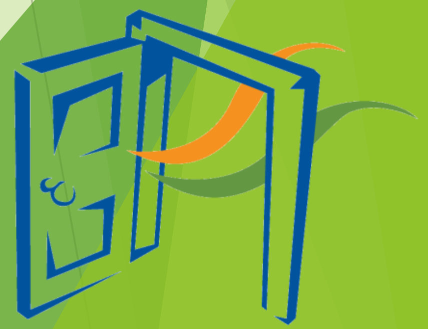
Benefits:

- Parents are paying 65% - 75% LESS for daycare
- Daycare revenue has increased due to our shared part time LINC spaces getting funded as full time spaces because they are Mon-Fri spaces. Our current enrollment with shared spaces is at our set capacity
- Educators are getting significantly higher wages. All but 3 staff receive a top up enhancement
- Free training for staff to increase certification and skills. We currently have 2 staff upgrading certification
- Grant funding for maintenance/reno projects, increased overhead costs, staff incentives etc. Its nice to have a "cushion"
- The Ministry is definitely responding to concerns of the sector with how the new initiatives are impacting us and they are working to minimize/remove any negative impact



Challenges:

- Increased workload with reporting to the Ministry and additional paperwork to track/record grants, fees, wage enhancements etc
- Increased demand for daycare spaces with the reduced fees has resulted in many more calls/emails for space requests, longer waiting waitlists and frustrated families who can’t find care. We have created a priority waiting list for client/external agency referrals, returning clients and other RODS program clients
- Waiting for answers/timelines from the Ministry on permanent changes to the funding model in order to make plans for the future: staffing, overhead costs etc. We remain in “limbo” dealing with one-off grants
- Providing support to children with additional needs continues to be a struggle due to long waiting lists for external agencies. Current initiatives are not addressing this need at all



What's Next:

- RODS has agreed to separate the Child Care staff wages from the RODS wage grid starting the 2024-35 fiscal year in order to give us the flexibility we need to deal with the current initiatives and anything that comes from the Ministry moving forward
- The Ministry is currently working on a wage grid for the sector to work with. We are hoping for this by the end of this fiscal year
- The Ministry is currently working on a new funding model but this is not expected for several months due to the complex nature of child care operations and all of the feedback coming from the sector of things to consider in the model
- Our 2024-2025 budget will possibly require some carry-over of surplus general budget funds to deal with possible delays in reconciliation of the Parent Fee Grant just in case there is overpayment situations. We are planning to spend some of the reserved special grant funding in the upcoming fiscal year as well: reno/maintenance projects and additional part time staff position are on the top of our list for now