

Social Services

Middlesex County Council
Update March 2025

Joe Winser – Manager Social Services
Cindy Howard – General Manager, Finance and Community Services



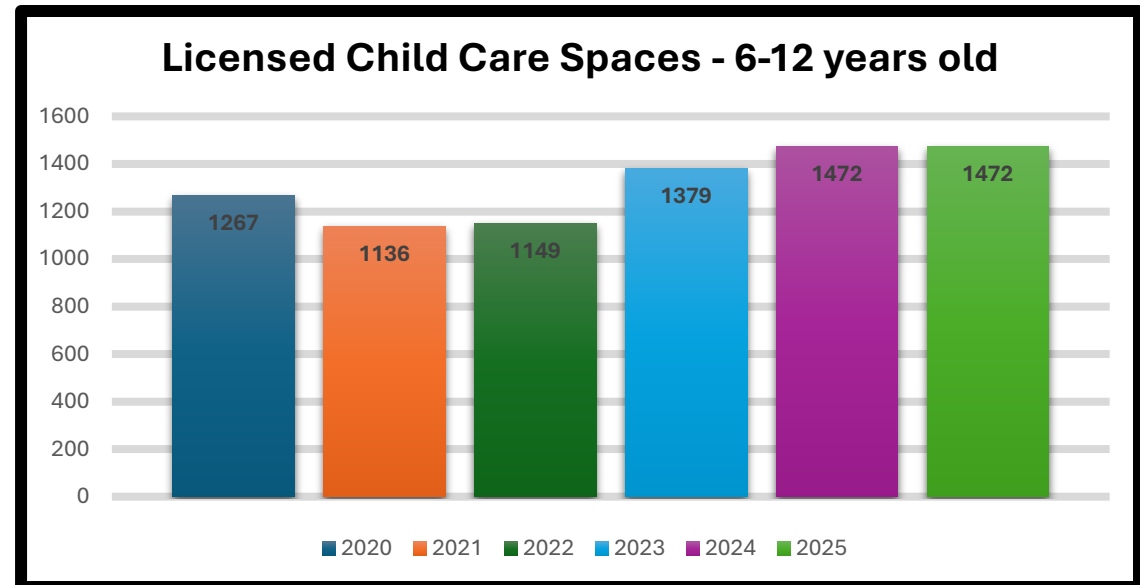
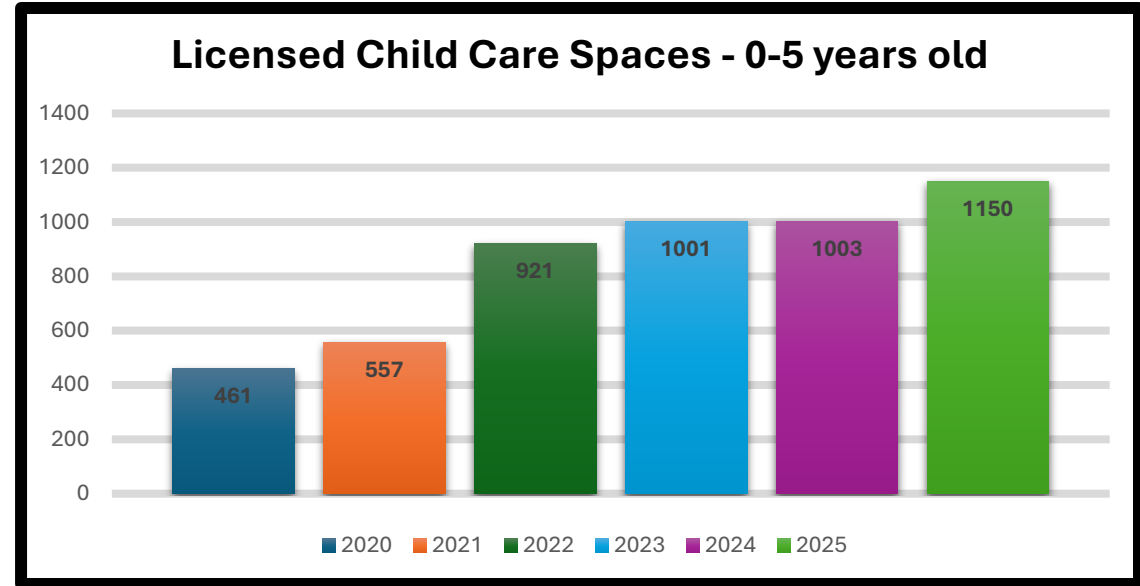
Children's Services

Canada Wide Early Learning and Childcare Agreement (CWELCC)

- Budget is up to \$17.5 million
- Provincial Funding Framework:
 - Major changes in how child care centres are funded
 - Cost based funding approach
 - New funding agreements
 - Increase in administrative work for child care centres and County staff
- Daily family fees reduced to a max of \$22 (\$10 day by 2026)

Children's Services

- 165% increase in licensed spaces since 2020
- Since 2020 four new centres have opened
- Two new 88 licensed child care spaced centres coming in 2026
 - Kilworth
 - Lucan
- Fee Subsidy – 109 Children



The logo for Ontario Works is a large, stylized shape on the left side of the slide. It consists of several overlapping, rounded rectangular bands in shades of light blue and green, creating a sense of depth and movement. The text "Ontario Works" is centered within this graphic.

Ontario Works

- 21% reduction in clients who have been accessing Ontario Works for more than 5 years since 2020
 - 11% in 2024 alone
 - 7% increase in clients under 5 years
- 5% increase in caseload size from January to December 2024
- 114 individuals found employment
 - 59 Full Time
 - 53 Part Time
- Social Assistance Modernization
 - Digital Service Delivery
 - Integrated Employment Services
 - Centralized intake
- Training for staff to support Life Stabilization Role
 - Mental Health First Aid
 - Trauma Informed Care
 - Motivational Interviewing



Homelessness Prevention

Provincial Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) supports the following:

- Wraparound supports
- Middlesex Homeless Action Committee
 - 14 Community Partners
- 2 Community Navigator positions
- Expansion of Middlesex Accommodations Program from 9 to 11 rooms
- Collaboration between Organizations
- Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit
 - 11 in 2024
- Outreach supports in the community
- Food bank and Meal Program supports
- Winter Response
- Community Education
 - Sharing of information and resources
 - Website updates
- Housing Stability Action Plan



Homelessness Prevention

Middlesex Accommodations Program

- 77 Individuals Supported - 2024
 - 12 Children 0-17
 - Head of household – 32 Female, 30 Male
 - Income Source
 - 34% Ontario Works
 - 16% Ontario Disability Support Programs
 - 10% Employed

Whatever It Takes Fund

- Over 250 individuals and families supported
 - Last months rent
 - Rental arrears
 - Utilities arrears

Winter Response

- 26 individuals provided hotel/motel
- Community Outreach



Questions?