



## Human Services Committee Agenda

Thursday, March 1, 2018  
Council Chambers  
County Administration Centre, Walkerton

### 1. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

### 2. Action Items

- A. Discretionary Benefits Allowable Expenses (attached)
- B. 2018 Child Care Allocation - Budget Amendment (attached)

### 3. Closed Meeting

- A. That the Committee move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 (3.1) of the Municipal Act for the purpose of educating or training the members
- B. Approval of Minutes - October 19, 2017

### 4. Next Meeting

April 5, 2018

### 5. Adjournment



## Committee Report

**To:** Warden Paul Eagleson  
Members of the Human Services Committee

**From:** Christine MacDonald  
Director of Human Services

**Date:** March 1, 2018

**Re:** Discretionary Benefits Allowable Expenses

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### Recommendation:

**That the County of Bruce Discretionary Benefits Allowable Expenses, be approved effective April 1, 2018.**

### Background:

Discretionary Benefits are provided to all Ontario Works recipients and members of the benefit unit to cover the cost of health and non-health related items that would not be covered by general benefits. Discretionary Benefits are extended to persons in receipt of the Ontario Disability Support Plan at the discretion of the Ontario Works Administrator. The amount provided for Discretionary Benefits is determined by the Administrator.

Effective January 1, 2018, Discretionary Benefits are funded 100 percent by the Ministry of Community and Social Services with the completion of the provincial upload. Funding is based upon caseload size including Ontario Works, the Ontario Disability Support Plan, and Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities caseload. The average monthly caseload for the three program areas is 2348. The funding is calculated at \$10.00 per case, with an average monthly expenditure of \$23,480.00. It is recommended that the allowable expenditures for discretionary benefits be approved as indicated in the attached Discretionary Benefits Allowable Expenses table. To ensure fair and consistent application of the benefits, a rate table has been established for cost of items. Previously benefits for dentures was limited to Ontario Works recipients, however it is recommended that this service be expanded to include those in receipt of the Ontario Disability Support Plan benefit to ensure health equity across both programs.

To ensure that costs remain within the allocated funding envelope, expenditures will be reviewed monthly. Approvals for all expenditures will be dependent on available funding. It is recommended that the Discretionary Benefits Allowable Expenses be approved effective April 1, 2018.



**Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

Discretionary Benefits are funded 100 percent by the Ministry of Community and Social Services with the completion of the provincial upload.

**Interdepartmental Consultation:**

There is no interdepartmental consultation in the writing of this report.

**Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

Goal #3 - Find creative ways to engage our public

Goal #6 - Explore alternate options to improve efficiency and service

Written by: Nancy Reinhart, Income and Employment Supports Manager

**Approved by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelley Coulter', is written over a light grey horizontal line.

Kelley Coulter  
Chief Administrative Officer

**COUNTY OF BRUCE  
DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS ALLOWABLE EXPENSES  
April 2018**

ITEMS	CURRENT MAXIMUMS	WHO CAN APPLY	
		OW	ODSP
Fire or Flood (if no content insurance for replacement or clothing)	Single - \$500 Couple - \$800 Family - \$1200	YES	YES
Fridge or Stove	\$150 per each	YES	YES
Dentures	Up to \$1000 or 50% of cost, whichever is less for medical or employment purposes.	YES	YES
Smiles 4 Canada Administrative Fee (Braces for kids under 14 years)	Maximum of \$500.00	YES	YES
Dental Reline	\$150.00	YES	YES
Car Seats (for first child or expired car seat)	\$150 (maximum)	YES	YES
Crib (for first child) or a Junior bed	\$150 (maximum)	YES	YES
Crib Mattress or Junior Mattress	\$50 (maximum)	YES	YES
Prosthesis	\$500.00 (maximum)	YES	YES
Cost of Mattress (due to move if previously considered homeless or for a medical condition)	\$500 (maximum)	YES	YES
Limitations to Participations Letter (letter to physician to confirm length of time to defer a client from participation in employment supports)	Actual cost to complete	YES	NO

ITEMS	CURRENT MAXIMUMS	WHO CAN APPLY	
		OW	ODSP
Lifeline (a personal emergency response system)	\$250 for initial installation \$30 per month	YES	YES
Bath Stool	\$90.00	YES	NO (covered under Mandatory Special Necessities (MSN) if recommended by physician)
Breast Pump	\$225.00 ***For Medical reasons and supported by Physician or other Health Practitioner	YES	YES
Orthotics	\$450.00 Maximum ***Once every 3 years and must be necessary for relief of a medical condition	YES	YES
Hearing Aids	\$1800.00 ***Once every 5 years with verification provided for portion covered by ADP	YES	YES
Hearing Tests for Adults	\$75.00	YES	YES
Hearing Tests for Dependents	\$75.00	YES	YES
Crutches	\$30.00	YES	NO **Covered under Mandatory Special Necessities
Walkers / Rollator	\$175.00 (purchase) \$ 15.00 / month (rental)	YES	NO **Covered under Mandatory Special Necessities

ITEMS	CURRENT MAXIMUMS	WHO CAN APPLY	
		OW	ODSP
Canes	\$35.00 Maximum	YES	NO **Covered under Mandatory Special Necessities
Splints	\$40.00 Maximum ***Prescribed by Physician or Occupational Therapist	YES	NO **Covered under Mandatory Special Necessities
Vision Care for Adults	Ministry Approved rates plus actual cost of lenses	YES	NO
Burials / Cremations	See the Burial & Cremation Rate	YES	YES
Identification Replacement	Actual Cost to replace Birth Certificate	YES	NO

**Notes:**

**Approval for all expenditures is dependent on available funding.**

**\*\*\* Any other Health Related or Non-Health Related costs approved at the discretion of the Administrator**



## Committee Report

To: Warden Paul Eagleson  
Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Christine MacDonald  
Director of Human Services

Date: March 1, 2018

Re: 2018 Child Care Allocation - Budget Amendment

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### Recommendation:

That approval is granted for the authorization of the budget amendments as outlined in the 2018 Child Care Allocation - Budget Amendment report.

### Background:

The Ministry of Education released the 2018 Preliminary Child Care Allocations on December 4, 2017. Funding allocations reflect service directives outlined in the "Ontario Child Care and Child and Family Programs Service Management and Funding Guideline". The Guideline and Data Elements are updated annually and used to determine budget allocations for municipalities across Ontario.

The updated Data Elements for 2018 are outlined in the chart below:

#### Data Element Updates

The following data elements were updated for the 2018 allocations:

Data Element	Source
LICO (Low Income Cut-Off) <sup>22</sup>	2011 Survey of Household Spending
Cost of Living	Ministry of Finance population estimates
0-12 year olds living in large municipalities	Ministry of Finance population estimates
Weighted number of 0 – 3.8 year olds	Ministry of Finance population estimates
Number of 4 and 5 year olds	Ministry of Finance population estimates
Number of 3.9 – 12 year olds	Ministry of Finance population estimates
Number of un-weighted 0 – 12 year olds	Ministry of Finance population estimates
Ontario Works Caseloads	Ministry of Community and Social Services

Note: Ministry of Finance population estimates are based on Statistics Canada's 2011 Census data.



To support ongoing expansion, the government is investing approximately \$1.58 billion in child care in 2018 which includes:

- \$1.26 billion general child care funding including the ongoing Year 1 Child Care Expansion Plan funding of \$200 million
- Details of Year 2 Child Care Expansion Plan investments and targets will be shared in 2018 \$100 million Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement funding
- \$203 million ongoing Wage Enhancement/Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding, and
- \$12.5 million for Fee Stabilization Support (January to March 2018).

After calculations using the updated 2018 Data Elements, the Bruce County Preliminary Child Care Funding Allocation had been decreased by \$111,708. The total child care operating allocation has decreased by from \$3,761,937 in 2017 to \$3,650,230 in 2018. There are other allocations that are type specific that have changed as outlined in the following table.

Allocation Type	2017 Calendar Year Allocation	2018 Calendar Year Allocation	Increase/ (Decrease)
Small Water Works	\$44,729	\$32,518	(\$12,211)
Wage Enhancement Grant	\$691,163	\$745,743	\$54,580
Wage Enhancement Administration	\$39,763	\$39,763	
Fee Stabilization Support	-	\$48,582	\$48,582
Expansion Plan	\$441,086	\$735,143	\$294,057
Early Learning Child Care Agreement (ELCC)	\$275,815	\$367,754	\$91,939

Program specific funding for various ministry directives have increased to parallel service requirements in 2018. The reduction in funding for Small Water Works reflects historical usage. Staff will monitor this expenditure and make adjustments as necessary to ensure compliance.

#### Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

The 2018 County budget was approved prior to the release of the 2018 Preliminary Child Care Funding Allocation. As such, the approved budget reflects the 2017 allocation detail and a budget amendment will be required to compensate for this decrease.

The \$111,708 reduction will be managed by reallocating funds from the Special Needs Resource and Child Care Fee Subsidy Programs. In doing so, staff do not anticipate a





# BRUCE county

reduction in service as service levels will be sustained by utilizing additional dollars available through the Expansion Plan and the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care funding (ELCC). The revised provincial allocation will be reallocated within the program as described and as such will not result in an adjustment to the tax rate.

There are no staffing or IT considerations associated with this report.

### **Interdepartmental Consultation:**

Departmental Staff will work the Finance staff to amend the necessary budget details based on the funding allocation.

### **Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

Goal #5 - The Elimination of Red Tape.

Element # E - Focus on the internal and external customer/client needs first through providing community based services.

Written by: Andrea Riley, Children's Services Manager

**Approved by:**

Kelley Coulter  
Chief Administrative Officer