

Waste Collection - Yellow Bag Program for Licensed Home Child Care Providers

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Type:	Managers' Reports
Prepared by:	Nataly Wissell Environmental Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure

Report Summary

This report provides a recommendation regarding the development of a Yellow Bag program with weekly diaper collection for licensed home child care providers who are eligible to participate in Yellow Bag non-residential garbage collection as requested by the Operations Committee on May 17, 2021 (OP2021-08).

Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves the Yellow Bag Program for Licensed Home Child Care Providers as outlined in the report entitled "Waste Collection - Yellow Bag Program for Licensed Home Child Care Providers", from the General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure, presented at the Operations Committee meeting on June 21, 2021.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to operational matters.

Financial Implications

If approved, the Yellow Bag Program for Licensed Home Child Care is anticipated to cost \$15,147 annually (2021) to deliver services to twenty-five (25) licensed home child care providers. The cost to deliver the program will be recovered through provincial grants received and managed by Children's Services and provided to the licensed home child care agency managing these providers.

Background

In October 2016, a special support program for children's disposable diapers was created to assist families with children under 4 years of age to meet the garbage bag limit when it was reduced from three (3) to two (2) bags and then from two (2) to one (1) bag in October 2019.

In February 2021, roadside garbage and leaf & yard collection changed from weekly to every other week collection. At the same time, the support program for children's disposable diapers was enhanced to provide

the option of a weekly diaper collection. As of April 30, 2021, 431 families have registered for the weekly diaper collection program. Home child care establishments are businesses and do not qualify for the children's disposable diaper support program.

Licensed home child care providers offer a valuable service to the community. Parents with children enrolled in these services can attend work and school while their children benefit from receiving regulated quality child care in a small group setting. The Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, provides funding to municipalities to support licensed home child care providers. This funding is not available to unlicensed home child care providers. Funding provided to Jubilee Heritage Family Resources (which is the licensed home child care agency in the City) creates an incentive for home child care providers to become licensed and work under a set of defined regulations that ensure the quality and well being children within their care. It also provides them with resources supporting professional development and quality programs, according to established provincial guidelines.

Unlicensed (independent) home child care providers also provide a valuable service to the community albeit, not in a regulated setting and therefore, they are not eligible for access to provincial funding.

Most home child care providers are located in low density residential homes that receive residential roadside waste collection services and would be eligible for the fee based Yellow Bag non-residential roadside garbage collection program every other week. The Yellow Bag program is a convenient, low cost waste management option for non-residential establishments that generate no more than six (6) bags of garbage every other week. Registered participants are required to pay a \$100 refundable deposit at the time of registration and purchase the required yellow bags displaying the City logo at a cost of \$31 per package of 10 bags. The Yellow Bag program does not provide an option for weekly collection.

Home child care providers currently have the following options for the management of diaper waste generated from their business:

- Store the diapers over 2 weeks.
- Deliver them directly to the landfill.
- Hire a private waste collection service.
- Return the used diapers home with the child's parents at pick-up.

Analysis

Many Ontario municipalities have already made the change to every other week garbage collection. As shown in Appendix 'A', a review of thirty-six (36) of these municipalities reveals that only one (1) provides a special diaper collection program to home child care providers. There are however eight (8) municipalities that accept diapers in their green cart organics collection program. The acceptance of diapers in a green cart organics program is typically done when the waste is processed in an anaerobic digester system which is capable of shredding and skimming the non-compostable components of diapers. Greater Sudbury's organics processing is done in an open (i.e. aerobic) windrow system that is not capable of accepting diapers.

Disposable diapers are considered odourous and may cause storage concerns especially in the summer months. Most concerns can be addressed by ensuring the bag(s) of diapers are tightly closed and stored safely. However, if a home child care provider is unable to store the diaper waste, a Yellow Bag program with weekly collection for licensed home child care providers could be developed by Environmental Services and funded by Children's Services.

Children's Services receives its funding through the Province of Ontario (Ministry of Education) and a municipal tax levy. Through its provincial service agreement, Children's Services has the flexibility, through operating grants, to support licensed home child care agencies who contract with individual licensed home child care providers. These operating grants can be used to offset the cost of operating licensed home child care programs, thereby reducing parent fees. The Province of Ontario has committed to supporting licensed home

child care as an option for parents to access quality child care. As of April 2021, Children's Services has a purchase of service agreement with Jubilee Heritage Family Resources (Jubilee) for licensed home child care. Jubilee contracts with a maximum of 25 licensed home child care providers, based on their current license from the Ministry of Education. That number could expand to 50 licensed home child care providers based on available funding provided through Children's Services within their child care expansion plans. Operating grants would be extended to support any new licensed home child care providers should Children's Services agree to an expansion of an additional 25 providers.

Unlicensed home child care providers are not supported by provincial operating grants however, consideration may also be given the development of a Yellow Bag program for unlicensed home child care providers that includes a weekly collection for diapers.

While the exact number of unlicensed home child care providers is unknown because they are not tracked, a review of social media groups indicates that there is an estimated ninety (90) unlicensed home child care providers within Greater Sudbury, although the actual number is expected to be much higher.

Options

Yellow Bag Program for Licensed Home Child Care Providers

In consultation with current licensed home child care providers, it has been determined that two (2) bags per week, each weighing no more than 40 lbs/18kg, would be sufficient to manage disposable diaper waste generated by their business. Jubilee, the licensed home child care agency, will purchase the Yellow Bags from the City and distribute them to licensed home child care providers who have registered for the Yellow Bag Program for Licensed Home Child Care Providers.

The program will be administered by way of application. The application will be reviewed to confirm that the applicant is currently registered as a licensed home child care provider with Jubilee. To qualify, the establishment must be located on a residential waste collection route and within a property eligible to receive residential roadside waste collection services. Once registered, participants will receive Yellow Bags displaying the City logo from Jubilee.

Registered participant addresses will be entered as a stop in the collection vehicle's onboard automated vehicle locator routing system. Each registered address will receive weekly roadside collection limited to two (2) Yellow Bags of diapers.

Registered participants who cease to be licensed or provide child care services altogether will be removed from the collection routing system and the collection of Yellow Bags will be discontinued. Any unused Yellow Bags should be returned to Jubilee.

The estimated annual cost to provide weekly roadside collection of two (2) Yellow Bags per week to twenty-five (25) licensed home child care providers is approximately \$15,147 annually (2021 pricing). This cost will fluctuate (increase/decrease) based on program registration. If registration rates double, the cost would also double. The cost to provide the service will be funded through Children's Services' operating grants.

Yellow Bag Program for Unlicensed Home Child Care Providers

A Yellow Bag Program for Unlicensed (Independent) Home Child Care Providers could be developed and administered by way of application. Applicants would be required to provide documentation to prove that income is generated through child care. Documentation to support the application could include a statement of business of professional activities from income tax returns or copies of client receipts with personal information redacted. To qualify, the establishment must be located on a residential collection route and within a property eligible to receive residential roadside waste collection services.

Once registered, participants would receive 104 Yellow Bags displaying the City logo. Registered participant addresses will be entered as a stop in the collection vehicle onboard automated vehicle locator routing system.

Each registered address will receive weekly roadside collection limited to two (2) Yellow Bags of diapers. Applicants would be required to reapply on an annual basis in order to receive more Yellow Bags and continue receiving service.

Registered participants who cease to provide child care services will be required to cancel their registration and collection of Yellow Bags will be discontinued. Any unused Yellow Bags should be returned to the City.

The estimated annual cost to provide weekly roadside collection of two (2) Yellow Bags per week for ninety (90) unlicensed home child care providers is approximately \$138,727. This cost would fluctuate (increase/decrease) based on program registration. If registration rates double, the cost would also double. Since there is no funding available for unlicensed home child care providers, any cost to provide services to unlicensed home child care providers would increase the Environmental Services base operating budget.

Conclusion / Next Steps

Families with children depend on child care services in order to contribute to the community when attending work or school. Licensed home child care provides parents with an essential service that allows them to fully contribute to the community with the confidence of knowing that their children are being cared for in a regulated and quality establishment in a small group setting.

Children's Services has the flexibility within its provincial funding to provide operating grants to Jubilee Heritage Family Resources to support licensed home child care providers.

As requested by the Operations Committee on May 17, 2021, Staff have provided an option for the development of a Yellow Bag program with weekly diaper collection for licensed home child care providers and funding provided by Children's Services. Additionally, Staff have provided an option for unlicensed home daycares for the Committee's consideration.

Staff recommend that the Yellow Bag Program for Licensed Home Child Care Providers be approved.

Resources Cited

City of Greater Sudbury, Operations Committee, Resolution OP2012-08, Funding and Program Options for Diaper Collection May 17, 2021

Accessed online: <https://pub-greatersudbury.escibemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=40033>