

Our Children, Our Future (OCOF) - Building Strong Foundations - Integrated Child Care Services and Programs

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Emergency Services
Committee

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Report Summary

This report and presentation provides information regarding the specialized child and family services delivered by Our Children, Our Future as a non-profit organization serving Greater Sudbury.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

This report refers to the City of Greater Sudbury's Strategic Plan 2019-2027 objective 5.0 Create a Healthier and More Vibrant Community through the advancement of City-led goals from Population Health, A Call to Action 2018-2028, more specifically achieving Compassionate City Designation, implementing an Age Friendly Strategy, building Resiliency, and creating Play Opportunities as well as Investing in Infrastructure to Support Community Recreation with a Focus on Quality of Life.

The information in this report has no relationship to the Community Energy & Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated to this report.

Background

Our Children, Our Future (OCOF) is a long-standing non-profit child and family organization that has served Greater Sudbury and surrounding communities since 1995. Over the past three decades, OCOF has grown into a key regional provider of early learning, family support, and licensed child care. In addition to its core early learning and family resource services, the organization operates multiple licensed child care centres offering infant, toddler, preschool, and school-age programs.

OCOF's programs and services are deeply embedded within both urban and rural communities, operating from major hubs in Sudbury, Valley East, Sudbury East (Noelville), and LaCloche communities (Espanola, Massey, Webbwood), as well as several smaller rural locations. Programs are delivered in both English and French, and facilities are designed to be accessible and responsive to the diverse needs of families across the region.

One of OCOF's most significant recent achievements is the opening of Place Hurtubise, a new integrated EarlyON Child and Family Centre located at 1978 Lasalle Boulevard. This location was intentionally selected to align with the City's nearby housing developments, ensuring that enhanced family services are available to the children and families living in and around these new builds. Place Hurtubise represents the City of Greater Sudbury's first fully serviced, human-services-integrated site, bringing together early learning, child and family programs, and community supports under one roof. The project reflects a strong partnership between OCOF and multiple City departments, including Parks and Recreation, which collaborated on the design and planning of outdoor and community-facing spaces. The center was made possible through investments from municipal, provincial, and federal partners, with the City contributing both operating funds for children's services and capital support to bring this integrated hub to life.

Programs for Families and the Community

OCOF delivers a broad suite of programs for children up to age twelve and their caregivers, offering both free EarlyON services and fee-based licensed child care. Services are available in English and French, with interpretation provided upon request, ensuring families can access supports in the language that best meets their needs.

Licensed child care is available for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children up to age 12, delivered through a network of licensed sites across Greater Sudbury and surrounding areas. Complementing child care, OCOF also offers a range of specialized family and community programs. Dad's Night provides a dedicated space for fathers and male caregivers to participate in supportive, skill-building activities. Creating Healthy Babies offers federally funded prenatal nutrition support, while the Getting Healthy with OCOF program encourages wellness and healthy lifestyle habits for families.

Food security is a cornerstone of OCOF's community programming. Collective Kitchen sessions help families develop skills in budgeting, meal planning, and preparing nutritious, cost-effective meals, with shared cooking sessions and take-home meals incorporated into each program cycle. The Infant Food Cupboard addresses urgent needs by supplying diapers, formula, and essential infant supplies, supported by a 24/7 warm line for families seeking assistance.

Across Sudbury, Espanola, Webbwood, Massey, Noelville, Markstay-Warren, and St. Charles, OCOF's partnership-driven model brings coordinated nutrition education, emergency food supports, and family-focused skill building to both rural and urban communities. These programs collectively aim to reduce food insecurity while strengthening family resiliency and community connection.

Next Steps

As OCOF continues to evolve its role in supporting children and families, the organization's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan sets out a clear framework aligned with municipal priorities for early learning, family well-being, poverty reduction, and community development. Between 2025 and 2027, several focus areas will guide this work.

First, OCOF will deepen its community partnerships, working more closely with municipal, health, education, and social service sectors to reach underserved families and embed equity, diversity, and inclusion across all programs. The organization is also committed to sustainable growth through diversified funding, stronger operational systems, and innovative program enhancements such as outdoor learning and strengthened inclusion supports developed in collaboration with the City.

Another priority is workforce development—ensuring the organization can recruit, retain, and support qualified staff through competitive compensation, ongoing training, and a collaborative workplace culture. Building on the successful launch of Place Hurtubise, OCOF will also explore opportunities for additional community hub models that integrate EarlyON, child care, and family services in single accessible locations.

Finally, OCOF will expand its food security initiatives, further investing in nutrition education, emergency supports, and food rescue partnerships to continue addressing the rising and ongoing issue of food insecurity among families.

Resources Sited

[CanadaHelps – Our Children, Our Future: Family Resources Charity Profile.](#)

[Ministry of Education – Early Years and Child Care Division \(EarlyON Child and Family Centres\)](#)

[Our Children, Our Future \(OCOF\) – Family Services](#)