

Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Program Update

Public Health and Social Services Committee – April 9,
2024

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Purpose

1. Update on the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Program
2. Update on the CWELCC Child Care Expansion Plan

What is CWELCC?



Reduce fees to an average of \$10/day



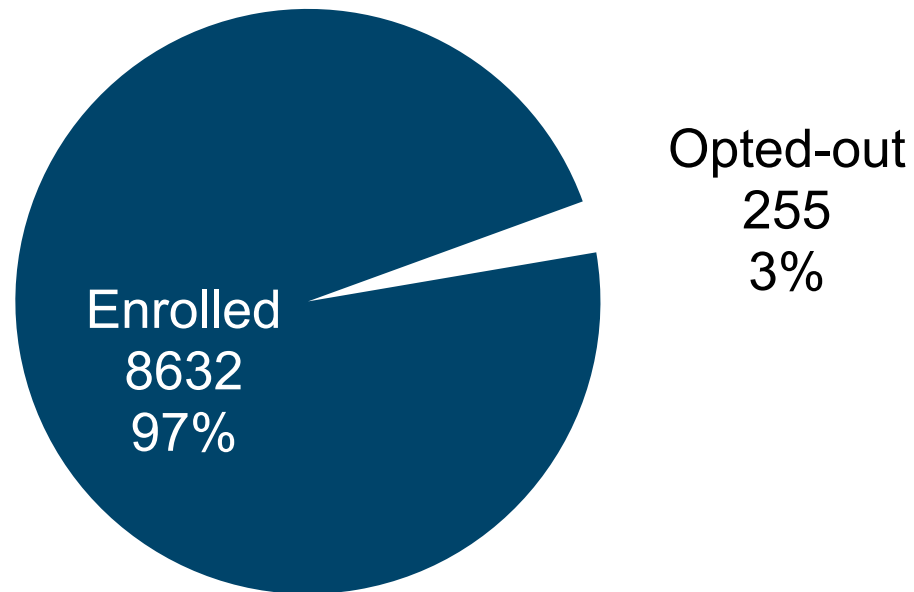
Increase workforce compensation of RECEs



(RECEs are Registered Early Childhood Educators)

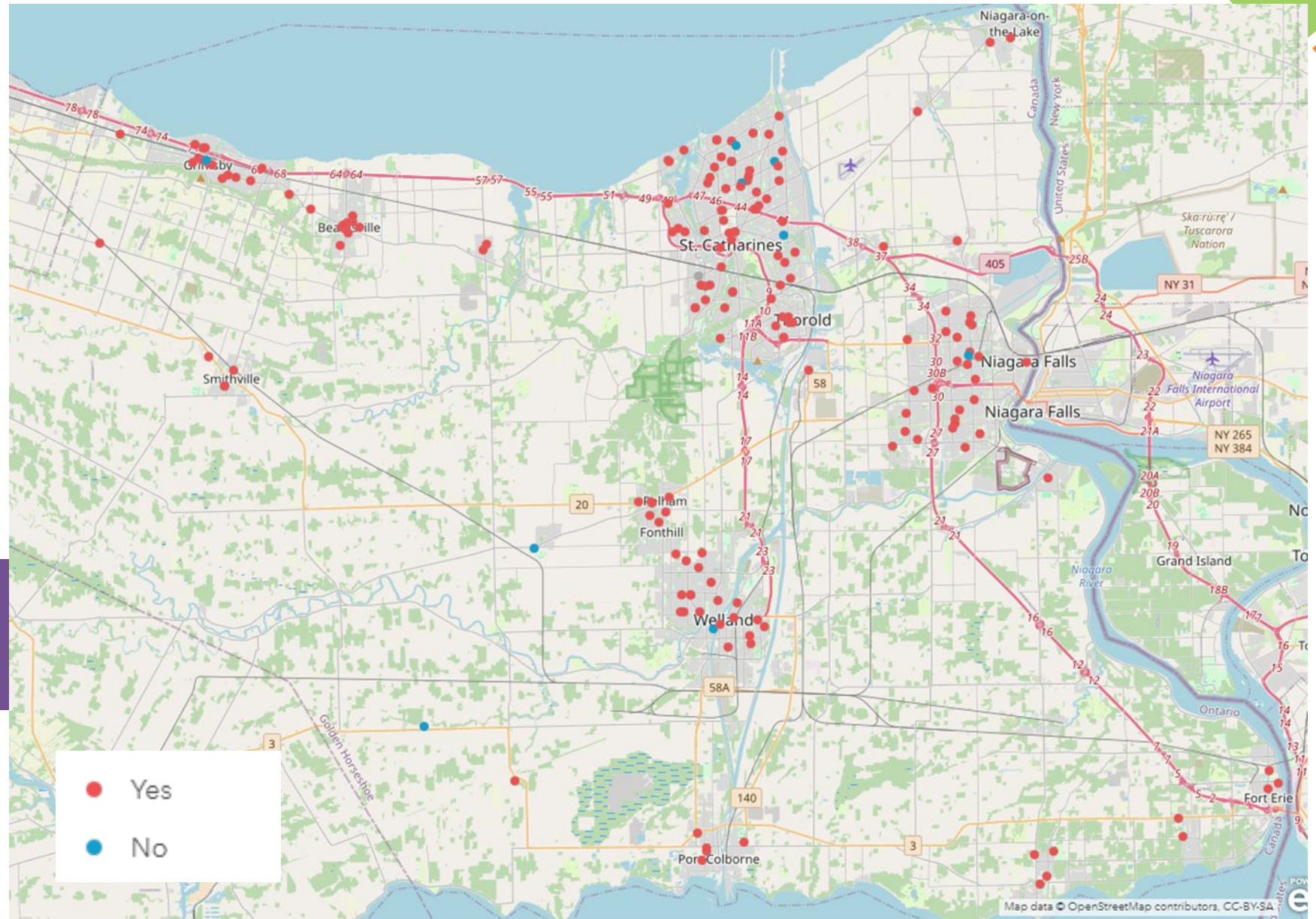
CWELCC Impacts – Child Care Spaces

Licensed Spaces



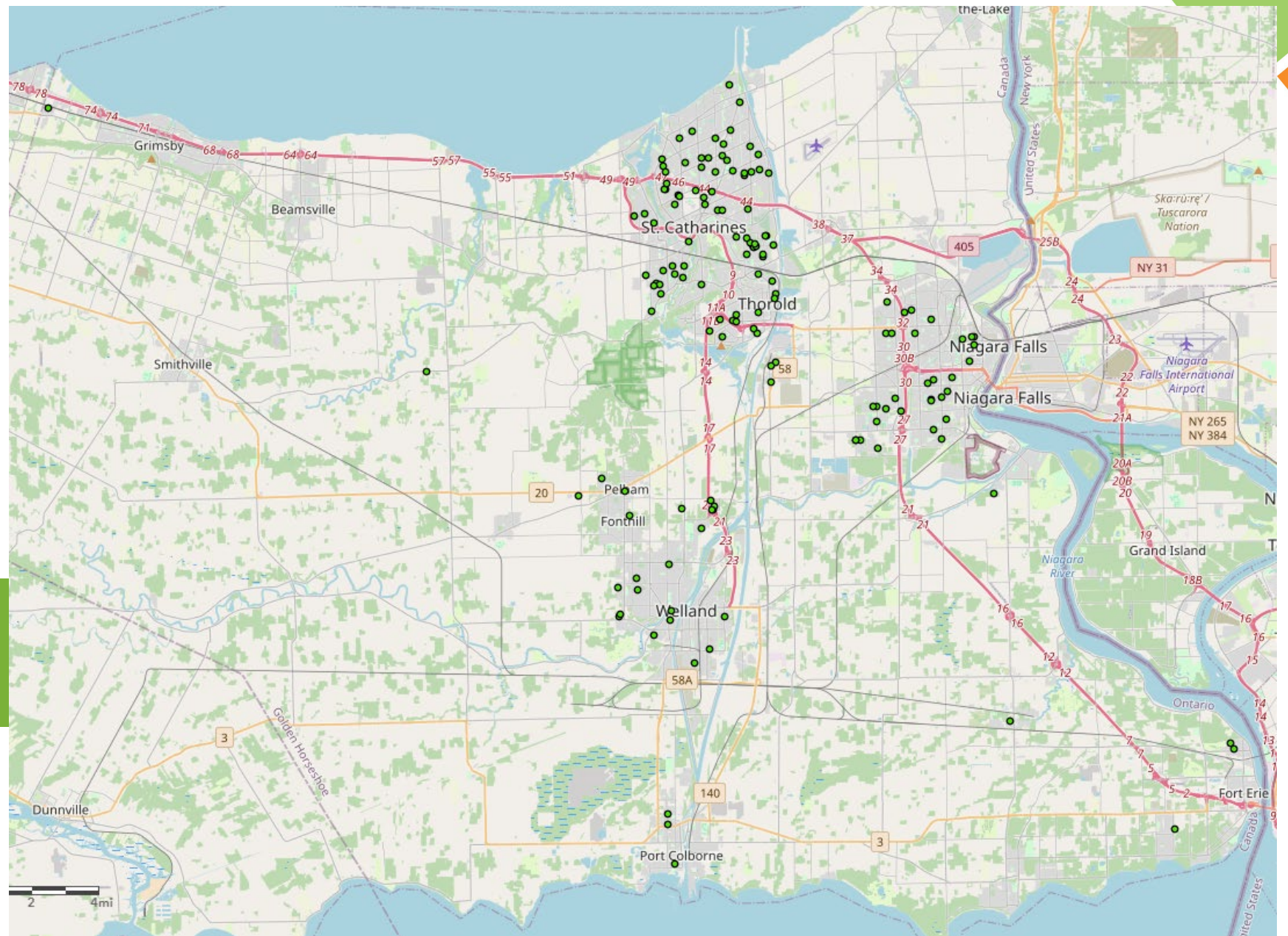
CWELCC Impacts

Centre Enrollment

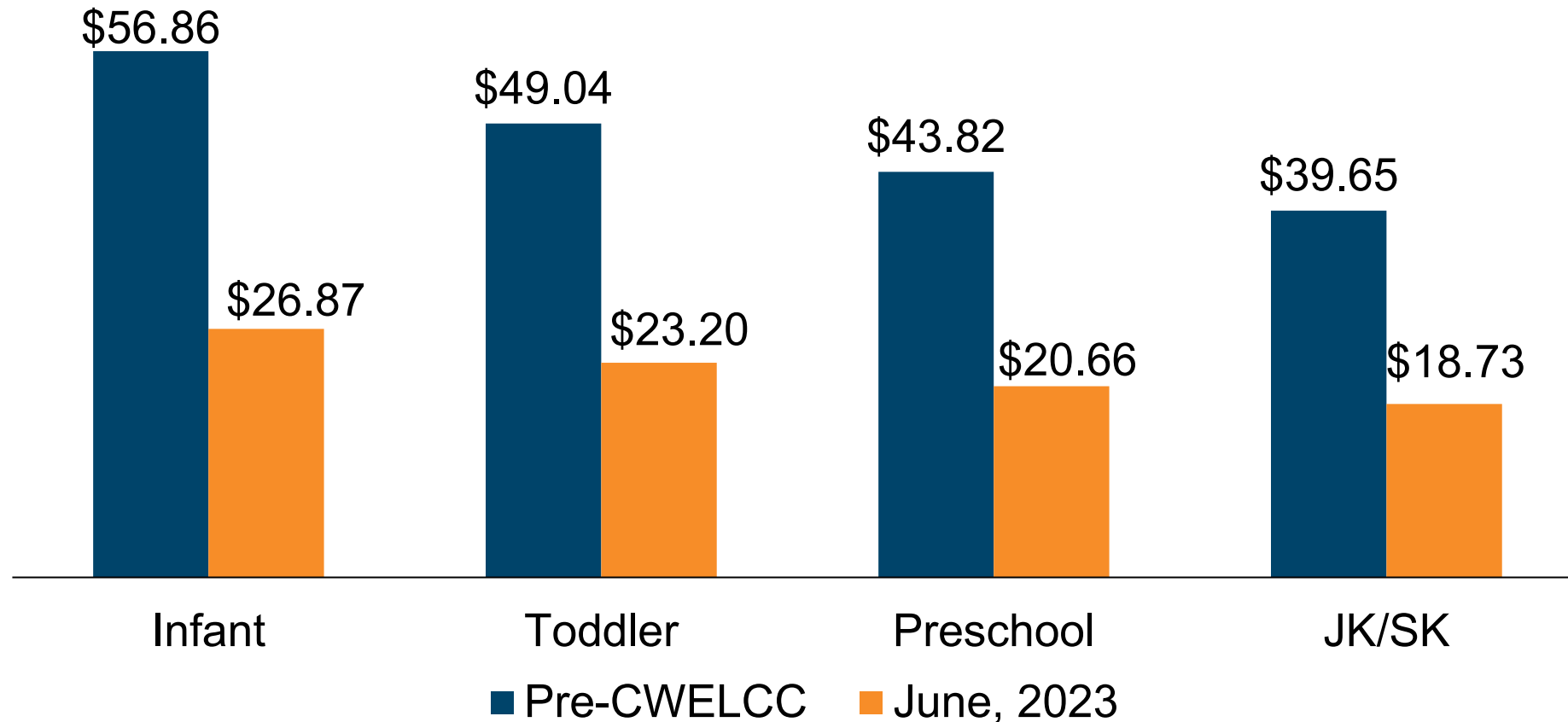


CWELCC Impacts

 Home
Enrollment



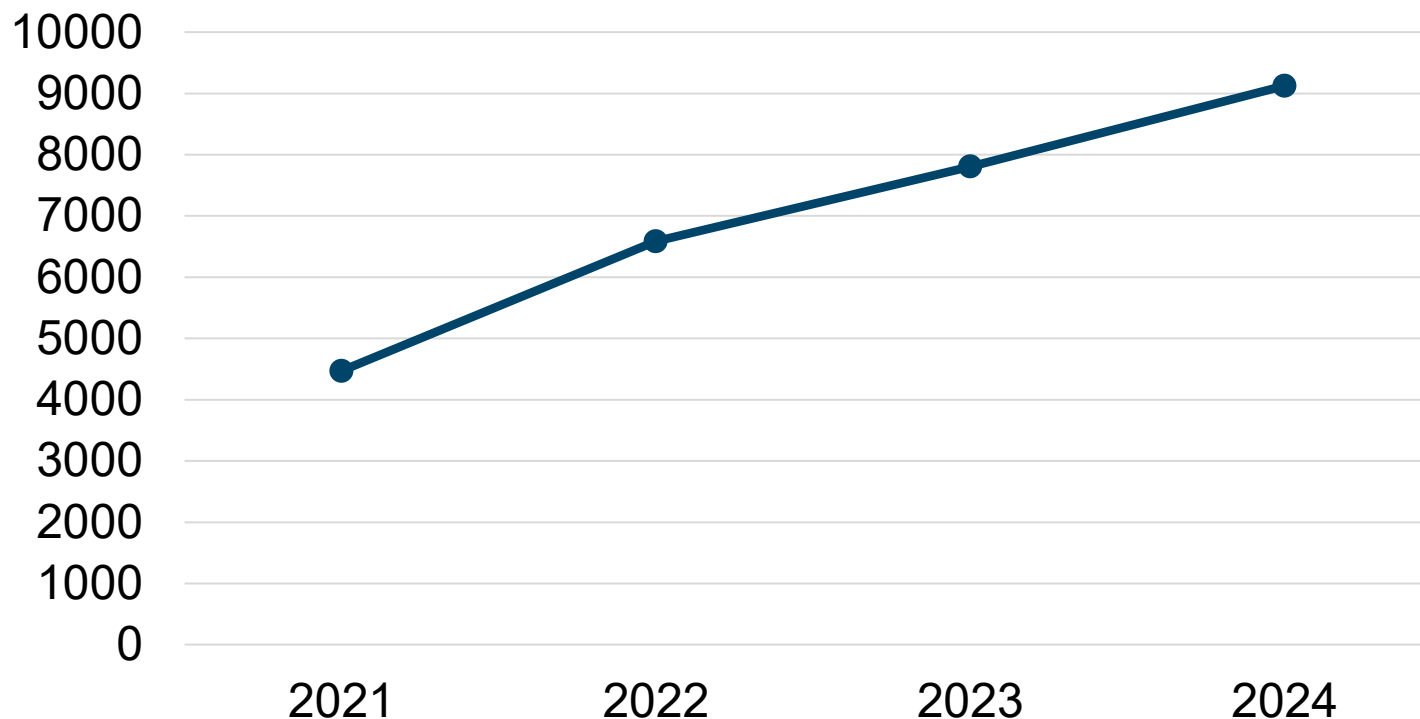
CWELCC Impacts – Average Child Care Fees



CWELCC Impacts – Increasing Demand



**CWELCC-Eligible Children on Child Care Waitlist
(OneHSN)**



**104%
increase**

CWELCC Impacts – Staffing

\$2 million Invested into the salaries of Early Childhood Educators in 2023

841 Educators benefiting from CWELCC workforce compensation



CWELCC Targeted Expansion

- CWELCC target expansion plan introduced in late 2022
- Child care expansion is targeted to provincial priorities such as: low-income families, vulnerable and diverse communities, children with special needs, Francophone families, Indigenous families and families requiring flexible care
- Expansion spaces are provided funding to support child care operators with start-up costs
- Children's Services is responsible for vetting, and approving the application for new CWELCC child care spaces

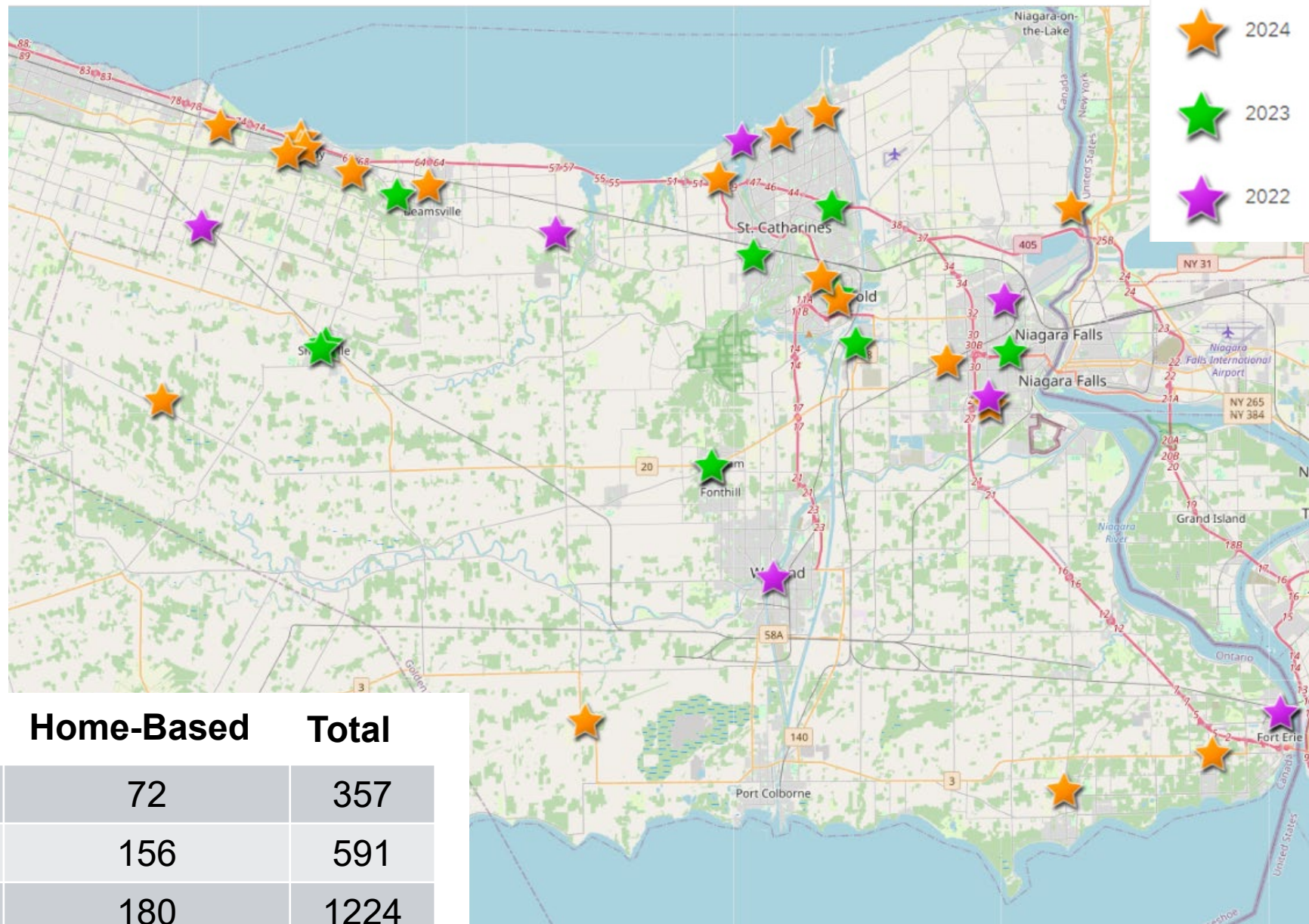
CWELCC Expansion Priority Neighbourhoods



Municipality	Community
Fort Erie	Stevensville, Crescent Park and Area
Grimsby	Casablanca and Area
Lincoln	North Beamsville, South Beamsville
Niagara Falls	Chippawa/Rural, Beaverdams
Pelham	South Fonthill
St. Catharines	New Western Hill, Queenston
Thorold	Thorold South/Allenburg/Port Robinson East
West Lincoln	South Grimsby

CWELCC Targeted Expansion Program

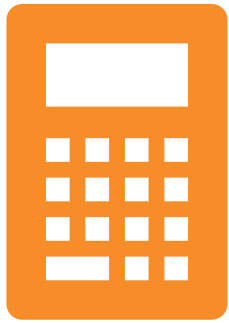
Centre Expansion Projects



Year	Centre-Based	Home-Based	Total
2022	285	72	357
2023	435	156	591
2024	1044	180	1224

Licensed CWELCC Spaces Approved for Expansion

CWELCC Challenges



**New Funding
Formula**



**Educator
Shortage**



**Limited Child
Care Spaces**

Possible Mitigation Strategies



New Funding Formula

- Feedback to the Province to ensure the funding formula meets Niagara's needs



Educator Shortage

- Provincial Workforce Strategy
- Niagara Region Recruitment and Retention Table
- Forming new partnerships



Limited Spaces

- Ongoing communication to provincial government
- Community partnerships to maximize existing spaces

Council Strategic Priorities

Effective Region

Remaining an employer of choice by transforming service delivery in a way that is innovative, collaborative and fiscally-responsible.

Green and Resilient Region

Focusing on reducing our collective carbon footprint and preparing to adapt to climate change impacts by ensuring current and future infrastructure is resilient.

Equitable Region

Providing opportunities for a safe and inclusive Niagara by listening and responding to our current community needs and planning for future growth.

Prosperous Region

Advocating with senior governments for future growth and enhancing Niagara's transportation network to help support a diverse economy by creating a Region where new and existing businesses can thrive and grow locally, nationally and internationally.

Questions