



Report To:	Program Planning Committee
From:	Donna Moroso, Director of Integrated Social Services and Gilles Plouffe, Ontario Works Program Supervisor
Date:	January 23, 2013
Re:	Our Kids Count - Issue Report

### **Recommendations:**

That the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Program Planning Committee recommends approval of the revised Our Kids Count Policy to the Board.

### **Purpose:**

As a result of a decrease in the 2013 budget, the revised Our Kids Count Policy has been revised to ensure that we provide services to all low income families in our district and that we remain on budget with our expenses.

### **Background:**

The Our Kids Count program is a Social Assistance Reinvestment program that assists all low-income families by:

- Supporting parents on social assistance as they move into employment with improved access to essential benefits and services for their children;
- Providing much needed support to parents who are employed in low-income jobs to stay employed.

The underlying premise is that in the long term, child poverty will be reduced if parents on social assistance enter the workforce and remain in it.

The strategy of the Social Assistance Reinvestment is to reduce child poverty by providing income supplements and other assistance outside of social assistance so that families can keep those supports as they move into jobs.

The program is comprised of three separate components:

### 1. Recreational Bursaries

- The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB will cover (a portion of ) the registration fee for children in low-income families residing within the DSB’s catchment area to participate in recreational or summer/after school programs – organized sports like soccer, baseball, skating, etc....
- Maximum of \$500 per child/year is available for children ages 0 – 18.

### 2. Early Childhood services & Supplementary Health Benefits

- The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB will assist families with the cost of items related to a child’s health and safety to low income families residing within the DSB’s catchment area for items such as: strollers, car seats, emergency formula and diapers, etc.
- Maximum of \$500 per child/year is available for children ages 0 – 18.

### 3. Informal Child Care Subsidies

- To support parents as they move from social assistance to employment in areas where licensed childcare is not available, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has created informal childcare subsidies.

Eligibility for these benefits is currently based on the most recent Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) +15% score for the appropriate family size based on **Canadian Council on Social Development’s** Low Income Cut Offs Before Tax Table.

Families in receipt of OW and/or ODSP automatically qualify.

Summary of Changes	
Current Policy	New Change
Maximum of <b>\$500</b> per child/year	Maximum of <b>\$300</b> per child/year
Available for children ages <b>0-18</b>	Available for children ages <b>0-17</b>
<b>Early Childhood services &amp; Supplementary Health Benefits</b>  This could include a top up of the Ontario Works benefit for cribs, beds, mattresses, etc.	<b>Early Childhood services &amp; Supplementary Health Benefits</b>  <b>Eliminate the top up of Ontario Works benefits.</b> <b>Added layettes to the policy.</b>
<b>Informal Child Care</b> Childcare subsidies are available for a <b>one year period</b> or until licensed care is established whichever is sooner	<b>Informal Child Care</b> Childcare subsidies are available for a <b>three to six month period</b> or until licensed care is established whichever is sooner.
No written internal review process	<b>Added</b> a written internal review process

**LICO chart**

<b>Canadian Council on Social Development</b> Before Tax Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO), 2010		
Family Size	Income	
1 person	LICO	\$17,729
	+15%	\$20,388
2 persons	LICO	\$22,070
	+15%	\$25,381
3 persons	LICO	\$27,132
	+15%	\$31,202
4 persons	LICO	\$32,943
	+15%	\$37,885
5 persons	LICO	\$37,363
	+15%	\$42,968
6 persons	LICO	\$42,140
	+15%	\$48,461
7+ persons	LICO	\$46,916
	+15%	\$53,953

**New LICO chart**

<b>Statistics Canada</b> Before Tax Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO), 2010	
Family Size	Income
1 person	\$ 12,271
2 persons	\$ 14,936
3 persons	\$ 18,598
4 persons	\$ 23,202
5 persons	\$ 26,421
6 persons	\$ 29,301
7+ persons	\$ 32,182

**Conclusion:**

At the present we are seeking the Program Planning Committee's recommendation to the Board to approve these changes to the Our Kids Count Policy.