

**Municipality of Chatham-Kent**  
**Community Human Services**  
**Employment and Social Services**  
**Information Report**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Carrie Avery, Program Manager, Employment & Social Services  
**Date:** July 21, 2022  
**Subject:** A.L.L for Kids Update

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This report is for the information of Council

**Background**

The A.L.L. (Activity, Leisure, Lessons) for Kids Program was approved by Chatham-Kent Council in 2001 and covers the cost of extra-curricular activities and equipment for lower income children and youth under 16 years of age. Children involved in extra-curricular activities, such as recreation and sport, learn valuable life lessons while developing all areas of the child including physical, social, emotional, and cognitive abilities. Unfortunately, many activities have costs that prohibit a portion of the local population from participating.

The A.L.L. for Kids (AFK) funding is used to cover the cost of registration fees and equipment for various activities available in Chatham-Kent. Families utilizing the program must first complete an income test in order to determine if they are eligible for the program. Once approved, children are allowed two extra-curricular activities per calendar year and are eligible to receive a maximum of \$800.00 per year or \$400.00 per activity. The program is very flexible in what the child can participate in, and choices include, but are not limited to: house-league sports (such as hockey, baseball, soccer, martial arts, archery, and horseback riding); camps (such as summer day-camps and overnight camps); art lessons; music lessons; Girl Guides; Scouts, and more. Funding is allocated once a completed application form is approved by the Employment & Social Services Case Manager.

In January 2021, the delivery of the A.L.L. for Kids Program transitioned from the Child Care & Early Years Division to the Employment & Social Services (E&SS) Division due to funding shortfalls. At the same time, the Jumpstart Program funding moved to the YMCA for distribution.

## **Comments**

The A.L.L. for Kids Program was designed around research conducted by Gina B. Browne, B.Sc.N., M.Sc., M.Ed., Ph.D., Hon.LL.D, F.C.A.H.S, a retired professor at McMaster University. The study revealed that families who use services that promote a healthy lifestyle, have a 10% higher chance of exiting social assistance and have a greater impact on improving the family's economic and social development.

The A.L.L. for Kids application process was enhanced to include an on-line option for ease of submission and access. Residents can continue to obtain a paper copy of the application form and submit it at the Employment & Social Services office or any Municipal Service Centre in Chatham-Kent.

Highlights of the enhancement include:

1. An on-line application was created to assist Chatham-Kent residents to apply for the program without having to attend a Municipal office in-person;
2. A primary AFK email address was created that is monitored by an Employment & Social Services Intake Worker. This generates a single point of contact for residents to submit their completed application along with any supporting documentation electronically – activity information, child's birth certificate and income verification. Once submitted, the Intake Worker forwards the completed application to an Employment & Social Services Case Manager;
3. The Case Manager determines eligibility for the program and issues funds directly to the parent/guardian. Paying funds directly to the parent/guardian ties in with the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services' (MCCSS) vision of modernization and life stabilization. By doing so, this gives dignity and empowerment back to the parent/guardian who are responsible to register their child for the requested activity. It also removes any perceived stigma of being an AFK registrant.
4. A receipt is required to be submitted to the Case Manager for the activity/equipment prior to any further funds being considered. This can be done electronically or by dropping it off at any Municipal Service Centre.

\*Applications are typically processed within one to three business days.

Applications for the A.L.L. for Kids Program were significantly lower in 2021 as a result of the pandemic and subsequent cancellation of activities.

	<b>Number of Families Assisted</b>	<b>Number of Children Assisted</b>
2021	144	273
January – June 2022	154	261

Funds are still available for 2022; any families who might be eligible to apply for the program are encouraged to call Employment & Social Services at 519-351-8573 or

email [CKafk@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:CKafk@chatham-kent.ca). The on-line application can be found at [www.chatham-kent.ca](http://www.chatham-kent.ca).

### **Consultation**

There is no consultation for this information report.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications resulting from this information report.

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Attachment(s): None