



# **Child Care Grants Program Guidelines**

*2024 Child Care Grant Information Session:*

*September 26, 2023*

*4:00 pm to 5:00 pm*

*This will be a virtual event. Please RSVP to*

*[childcare@richmond.ca](mailto:childcare@richmond.ca) to be included.*

*This session is mandatory for all new applicants.*

City of Richmond – Planning and Development

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# Child Care Grants - Program Guidelines

## Introduction

The City of Richmond provides grants to non-profit societies providing child care services within the City's geographic boundaries. Child care grants are funded by voluntary community amenity contributions from land developers. These funds are held in the City's Child Care Development Reserve or the Child Care Operating Reserve. The City's ability to provide grants is subject to available funding and there may be years when the grant program(s) are not offered. For more information about the City of Richmond's approach to supporting child care services, please see the [City of Richmond's Child Care Development Policy](#).

## Eligibility

Non-profit societies that either (1) provide child care services or (2) support the provision of child care services are eligible for Child Care Grants.

Applicants may be either:

- non-profit child care providers delivering licensed child care in Richmond and seeking to improve the quality or capacity of care in their facility, or
- non-profit societies supporting quality programming and/or providing professional development opportunities for the broader child care community in Richmond.

## Purpose

Child care grants are available for both: 1) capital and 2) professional and program development expenses. These purposes are outlined below.

### 1) Capital Grants

Capital grants are provided to acquire or upgrade physical assets in licensed child care facilities such as property, buildings and equipment. Funding is available for a **one-time capital expense** that will improve the quality, availability and accessibility of licensed child care in Richmond, such as: equipment, furnishings, building renovations or playground improvements. For equipment to qualify as a capital expenditure, it must be for long-term use (e.g. an easel would qualify; art supplies would not).

### 2) Professional and Program Development Grants

Non-profit societies developing or providing professional and program development opportunities in Richmond (e.g. training, workshops) are eligible to apply for funding. The initiatives must be available and of benefit to the broader child care community in Richmond, rather than to a few specific individuals or centres. The necessity and benefits of the initiative to the child care community must be

demonstrated. Funding for individual staff to register for or attend courses or workshops is not eligible under this grant program.

**NOTE:** *The City of Richmond recognizes the need for both capital and operating funding to support child care programs. Funds are available to support child care operators through the Provincial ChildCareBC Program, including:*

- *Child Care Operating Funding- to assist with the day-to-day costs of running a licensed child care facility: To learn more about operating funding opportunities, visit the Provincial Government's [Child Care Operating Funding](#) website.*
- *Training and Professional Development Funding – to assist with professional development and upgrading: To learn more about these funding opportunities, view the Province's [Child Care Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#); or*
- *Visit Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre's [funding webpage](#).*

## **Priorities**

Priority will be given to applications for facilities or programs that:

- support infant/toddler and school-age care, identified as priorities in the 2017 – 2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy;
- have accessed, or are willing to access other available sources of funding, including an organizational contribution from the applicant, Child Care Operating Funding, Child Care BC Maintenance Fund, Child Care BC Relocation Fund, New Spaces Grant; and
- enroll families who are receiving the Affordable Child Care Benefit and, if eligible, participate in the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative,
- Projects that align with current priorities based on most recent EDI data for Richmond as identified by the Child Care Development Advisory Committee.

## **Grant Application Process**

The City of Richmond uses an **online** grant application process. Only electronic applications will be accepted. Please refer to the *City of Richmond Child Care Grant Program - **Grant Applicant User Guide*** which is posted on the City's [website](#) for instructions on using the system. The guide provides tips and illustrations for all sections of the grant application.

In preparation for submitting an application, please have electronic documents ready to attach as requested. The user guide lists the preferred file formats for documents, spreadsheets and pictures. There are also forms posted on the City's website that should be used to provide information on licensed capacity, project budgets and project timelines.

The following electronic documents will be needed for your application:

- Certificate of Incorporation for the Society;
- Society's Constitution and Bylaws;
- Contact list for the Society's Board of Directors, Officers and Executive Director;
- Most recent Annual General Meeting minutes;

- Provincial Child Care License(s), if applicable;
- Last year's financial statements or audited statement;
- Current year operating budget;
- Itemized project budget, including two quotes for each item (details included in *Proposed Project Budget* form available on the City's grant website);
- Project timeline;
- Licensed capacity & current enrolment by program; and
- If the organization received a grant in the previous year, a grant-use report.

***NOTE:*** *If your Society previously received a child care grant, you will need to submit a grant use report to explain how the funds were used. This information must be submitted to be considered for a new grant in a future intake year.*

## **Application Inclusions**

Applications must include the following:

### **Step 1 - Applicant Contacts**

- a) Society name
- b) Society number issued by the BC Registry Services at the time of incorporation
- c) Society website if applicable
- d) Contact names for the Society, e.g. an executive director, program manager or Board member and authorized signing officers
- e) Contact members' role in the Society
- f) Society's address, postal code, phone number and e-mail address

### **Step 2 - Applicant Information**

- a) Briefly outline the Society's history, mandate, goals and objectives.
- b) Describe the programs and services provided in the last five years.
- c) If the Society delivers licensed child care programs, provide the licensed capacity and current enrolment by type for each program offered, referred to in the Society's Provincial Child Care License(s).
- d) Attach a copy of the Society's Provincial Child Care License(s) as issued by Vancouver Coastal Health - Community Care Facilities Licensing.
- e) Attach a list of the Society's Board of Directors, Officers and Executive Director, including their addresses and contact information.
- f) Attach minutes of the Society's most recent annual general meeting.
- g) Attach Last Year's Financial Statements or Audited Statement including balance sheet for the recently completed fiscal year, including the auditor's report signed by external auditors, or one of the following alternatives:
  - If audited financial statements are not available, submit the financial statements reviewed by the external auditors for the most recent completed fiscal year along with the review engagement report signed by the external auditors;

- If neither audited nor reviewed financial statements are available, submit the compiled financial statements for the most recent completed fiscal year along with a compilation report signed by the external auditors; or
  - If none of the above are available, financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year endorsed by two signing officers of the Board of Directors.
  - A detailed explanation of why audited statements are not available must be provided.
- h) Describe how this request aligns with current City priorities
  - i) Attach an operating budget for the current year including all sources of revenue (e.g. Child Care Operating Funding, Fee Reduction, other grants, fundraising).
  - j) Provide information on signing officers to represent the Society's endorsement of the grant application and attach a completed signature form.

### **Step 3 - Grant Request Details – Proposal Information**

The following items are required:

#### Capital Grant Requests

- a) Proposal title
- b) Purpose of the grant - what is the intent of the proposed grant (e.g. for equipment, furnishings, playground improvements, other)? If you select "other", please provide a description of what capital project you wish to undertake.
- c) Provide a detailed description of how the funds would be used to enhance the delivery of licensed child care in Richmond (e.g. improve quality, availability, accessibility).
- d) Describe who will benefit from the grant if received (e.g. the number and age groups of children who will benefit).
- e) List any partners who will be assisting with the project (e.g. any other funders, volunteers, or companies who will provide money, services, in-kind assistance or other contributions).
- f) Provide a detailed budget for the proposal (using the *Project Budget* form available on the City grant website) including:
  - dollar figure for the total requested grant amount.
  - 2 quotes for each outlined expense including source of the quote.
  - all other sources of revenue or funding approved or requested for this project (e.g. Child Care BC Maintenance Fund, Child Care BC Relocation Fund, New Spaces Grant), the date of application, amount of funding requested and the status of the application.

#### Professional and Program Development Grant Requests

- a) Proposal title
- b) Purpose of the grant – describe how the funds will be used to enhance the child care service delivery, support skill development of early childhood educators, and benefit the broader Richmond child care community.
- c) Describe who will benefit from the grant, if received including the anticipated number of people directly participating.

- d) Describe the expected outcomes for this project and how this project will be evaluated.
- e) List any partners who will be assisting with the project (e.g. any other funders, volunteers or companies who will provide money, services, in-kind assistance or other contributions).
- f) Provide a detailed budget for the proposal (using the *Project Budget* form available on the City grant website) including:
  - dollar figure for the total requested grant amount.
  - 2 quotes for each outlined expense including source of the quote.
  - all sources of revenue for this event (e.g. participant fees, organizational contributions, fundraising, grants), the amount and the status (e.g. secured, anticipated, unconfirmed).

### Supporting Documents

- a) Attach copies of the following:
  - An itemized budget identifying two quotes for how grant funds will be used (using the *Project Budget* form available on the City grant website);
  - Additional supporting information for the projected costs (e.g. workshop presenters quotes or 2 quotes from suppliers/trades); and
  - A timeline for completing the project and using the grant funds.

### Additional Documentation to Support your Application

- a) Documentation to demonstrate the need for funds (this could be a letter from the Board, a letter from a building consultant/inspector or an inspection report from Child Care Facilities Licensing, photographs of an item needing repair or replacement).
- b) Two letters of support from parents, community partners or others are required. Please note letters from staff will not be accepted.

### **Terms and Conditions**

The Terms and Conditions section of the grant application discusses the following expectations for grant applicants:

- Successful applicants must use the funds for the stated, approved purpose as outlined in the approval letter and within one year of approval. Should items change in price, or function, prior City approval is required.
- All grant recipients must provide a report documenting the use of the funds and the benefits received (at the latest, one year following receipt) through a Grant-Use Report on the online City grant system. Capital Grant Use reports must also include a photo of capital items and itemized receipts for all expenses.
- In addition, the grant received should be mentioned in any newsletter or related publicity published by the organization.
- Any grant applicant who is applying for new funding must submit a report documenting use of previously awarded funds before their current application can be considered.

Consent to these terms will be requested as part of the application process.

## **Review Process and Approval Process**

Grant submissions are first reviewed by City staff to determine eligibility and completeness. The City of Richmond's Child Care Development Advisory Committee also reviews grant applications and makes recommendations to City Council. These are summarized into a report that is presented to Council for their consideration. All decisions concerning the approval of Child Care grants are made by Council. These decisions are final and there is no appeal process.

## **Application Deadlines and Decisions**

The deadline for submitting a grant application will be determined annually. Late applications are not accepted. Please visit the City's grants website for more information on the grant program and important application deadlines:  
[www.richmond.ca/culture/citygrant](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/citygrant)

If you are unclear on any part of the grant application, please contact Chris Duggan, (Program Manager, Child Care and Youth) for clarification.

Chris Duggan  
Program Manager, Child Care and Youth  
City of Richmond – Community Social Development  
Phone: 604-204-8621  
E-mail: [cduggan@richmond.ca](mailto:cduggan@richmond.ca)



## Grant Writing Tips and Frequently Asked Questions

### Writing Tips

- Read the Grant Program Guidelines carefully to make sure your organization and proposed grant purpose are eligible for a grant. Pay attention to what items are not eligible for funding. If you have questions or are unsure, reach out to the Grant Administrator early in the process.
- Think about what is your organization, program or project's core purpose? Talk about what is unique about it, and how it impacts the community.
- Does your proposed grant align with the City's principles and objectives for the grant program? Find ways to highlight this in your application.
- Assume that whoever is reviewing your application is not familiar with your organization, program, service or project. The Grant Review Committees are comprised of staff from a variety of different departments, many of which are not involved with your field. Advisory Committee members, who are appointed from the community, may also be involved in the review and not be familiar with your work.
- Make sure your budget makes sense and supports the objective you are proposing to accomplish. Often, a realistic budget is more convincing than a disconnected one.
- Don't send unnecessary attachments. If an application contains a lot of unrelated or unconnected information, your relevant, important points will often get lost in the crowd.

### Application Tips

- Write out your application answers and save them in a separate document or file. That way, if you lose internet connection or have issues with the online grant system, your work is saved.
- Save your work often!
- Do not open the submitted application from a previous year and the current application at the same time to copy information over. The system can behave unpredictably and may overwrite your data.
- Give yourself adequate time. If you can, start planning early. Rushing to complete an application right before the deadline can often lead to mistakes, or missed documents.
- Gather your supporting documents ahead of time, including budget, quotes (where needed) and required signatures.

## Appendix A: City Priorities

In response to the most recent Early Development Instrument (EDI) data collected and shared with the community by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC, the City will prioritize initiatives that support and respond to the opportunities, challenges and needs identified in this report.

For the 2024 Child Care Grants, projects that support **social competence** and **emotional maturity** in children will be prioritized, as these have been identified as areas where children are presenting as the most vulnerable in Richmond. The following information is to assist in planning for the grant application. The information and resources that follow are not a complete copy of the findings from the Early Development Instrument or a complete listing of all possible resources available for support.

### What is the Early Development Instrument?

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a population level monitoring tool that enables the community to understand the vulnerabilities of children in their kindergarten year at the community level. The questionnaire has 103 questions and measures five core areas of early child development that are known to be good predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes: social and emotional development, health and well-being, language and cognitive development, and communication skills. In British Columbia, the Ministries of Children and Family Development, Education and Child Care, and Health have funded the collection and use of the EDI for over 19 years.

EDI questionnaires are completed by kindergarten teachers from across British Columbia for all children in their classes. They are filled out in February, after teachers have had the chance to get to know their students. This ensures that teachers are able to answer the questions knowledgeably.

The EDI is a population-level research tool. It measures developmental change or trends in populations of children at varied geographies: provincial, regional and neighbourhood. This allows us to see variations in children's vulnerability across time and location. Understanding how populations of children are doing allows program delivery organizations and policy makers to make informed decisions about investments in new or adapted programs and in broad policies that support children and families.

EDI data can provide insight into how Kindergarten children are doing and encourage discussions about the factors affecting children's early development in neighbourhoods across the province. The information from the EDI is used to increase awareness of the ways in which we can create environments in which all children can thrive and develop.

EDI data are collected in groups called waves. Each wave is comprised of data collected from several consecutive school years. Data is reported based on children's home postal codes and represents children attending public schools and participating independent and on-reserve schools. To access EDI Reports for Richmond, visit <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/edi/sd/38/>

## The Data: Wave 8 (2019-2022)

The EDI Wave 8 (2019-2022) Wave 8 EDI data for Richmond shows that 39.7% of kindergarten children were on track in their overall development, 39.3% were vulnerable on one or more EDI scales, and 21.1% were in flux (neither vulnerable on any scale, nor on track on all).

The EDI found that Richmond had higher rates of vulnerability than the province overall on 3 of the 5 EDI scales:

- Social Competence
- Emotional Maturity
- Communication Skills and General Knowledge

The below tables show the difference between the results of Wave 8 Vulnerability Rates, for Richmond compared with the Province Overall.

### Richmond Wave 8, Overall Vulnerability = 39.3%

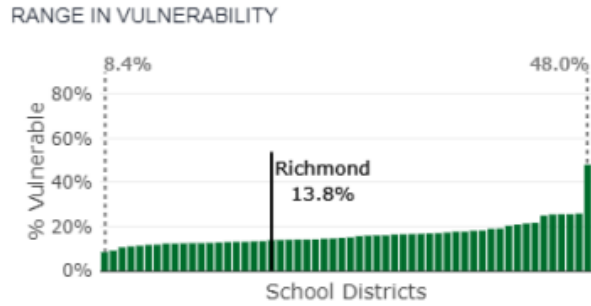
Physical Health & Well-being	Social Competence	Emotional Maturity	Language & Cognitive Development	Communication Skills & General Knowledge
13.8%	23.5%	21.4%	10.1%	20.7%

### BC Wave 8, Overall Vulnerability = 32.9%

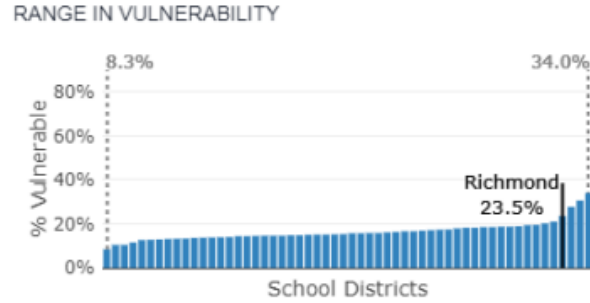
Physical Health & Well-being	Social Competence	Emotional Maturity	Language & Cognitive Development	Communication Skills & General Knowledge
14.7%	16.3%	17.5%	10.5%	14.3%

The below graphs show how SD38 Richmond faired against other school districts in the Province.

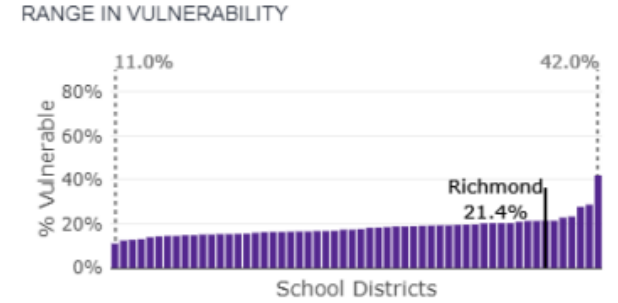
### Physical Health & Well-being



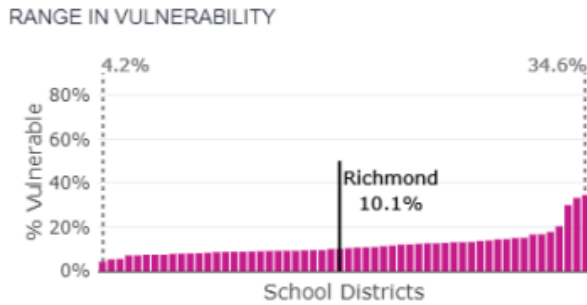
### Social Competence



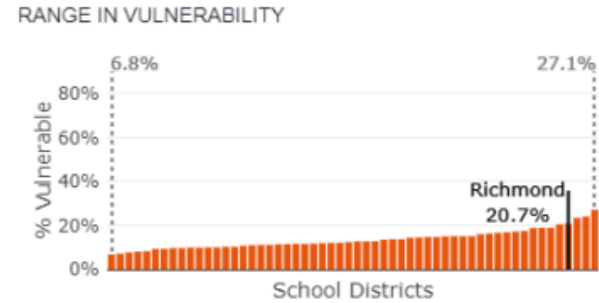
### Emotional Maturity



### Language & Cognitive Development

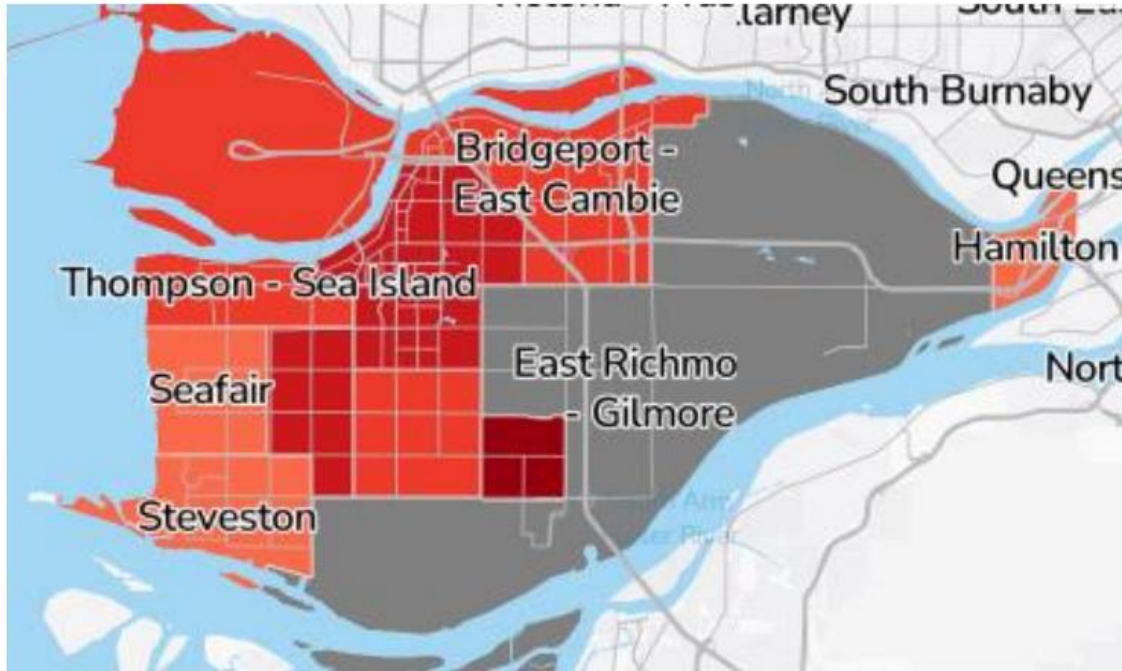


### Communication Skills & General Knowledge



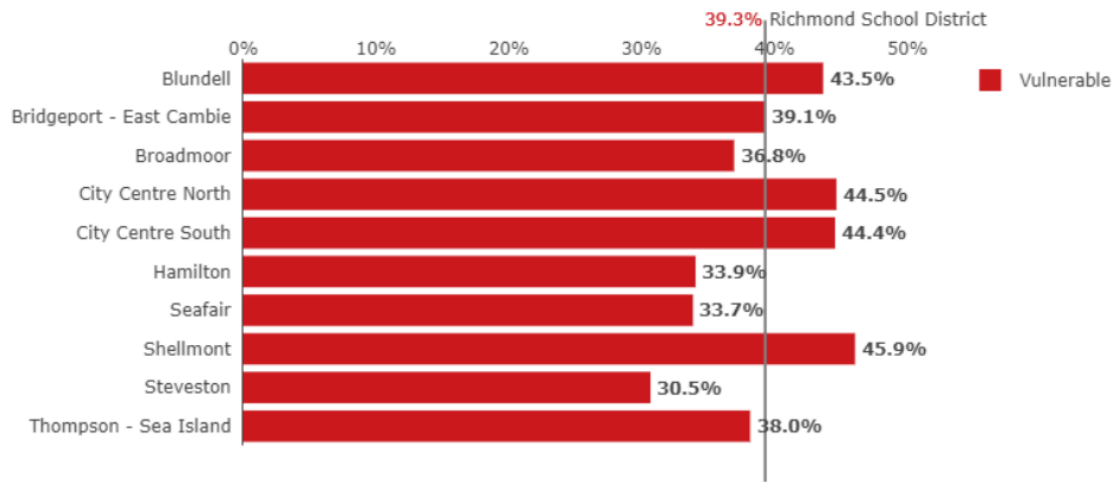
This Map shows the variability between vulnerability rates on all scales in neighbourhoods in Richmond.

The darker the colour, the higher rate of vulnerability on all scales.



VULNERABILITY & OUTCOMES

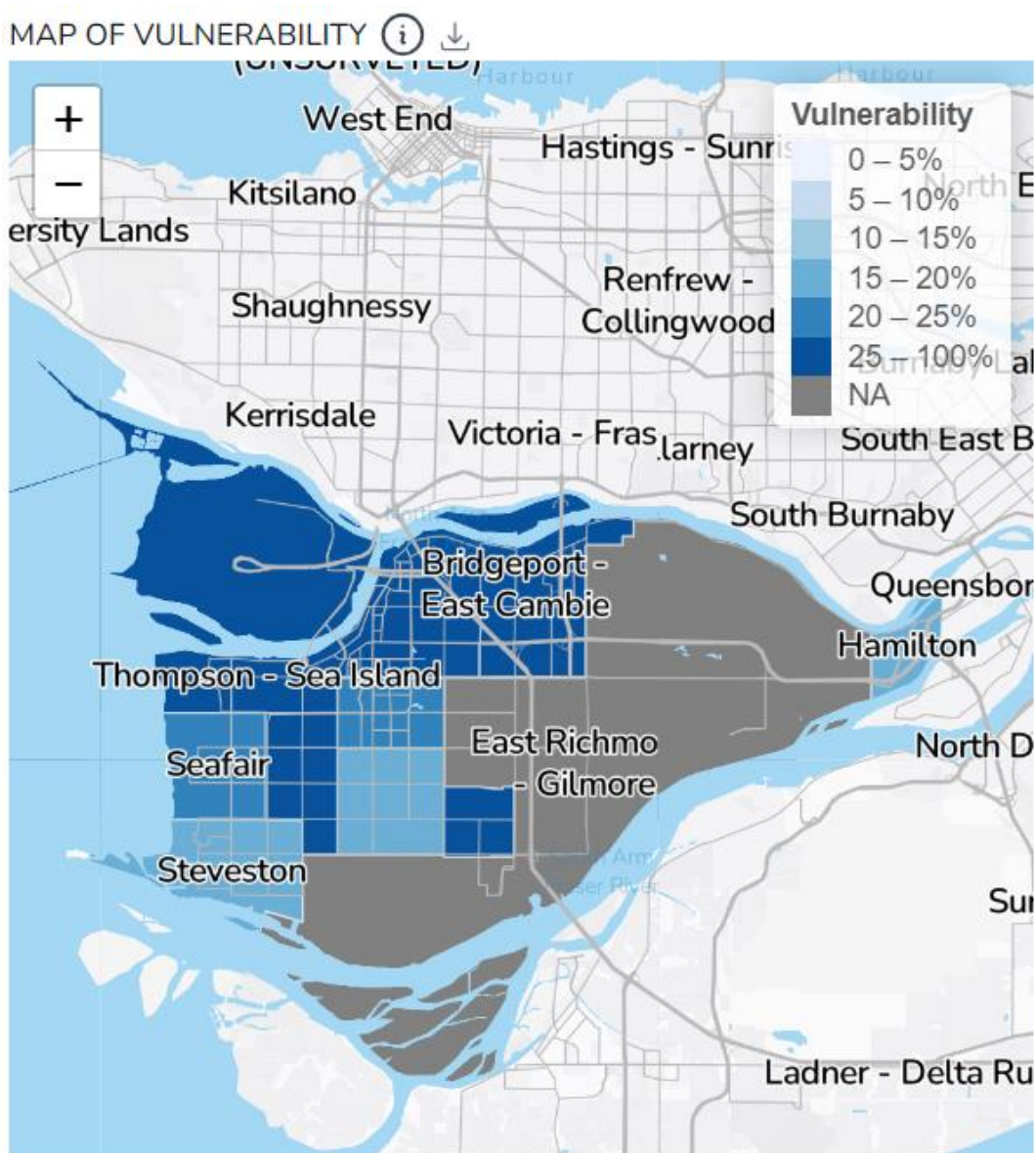
Chart View Vulnerability

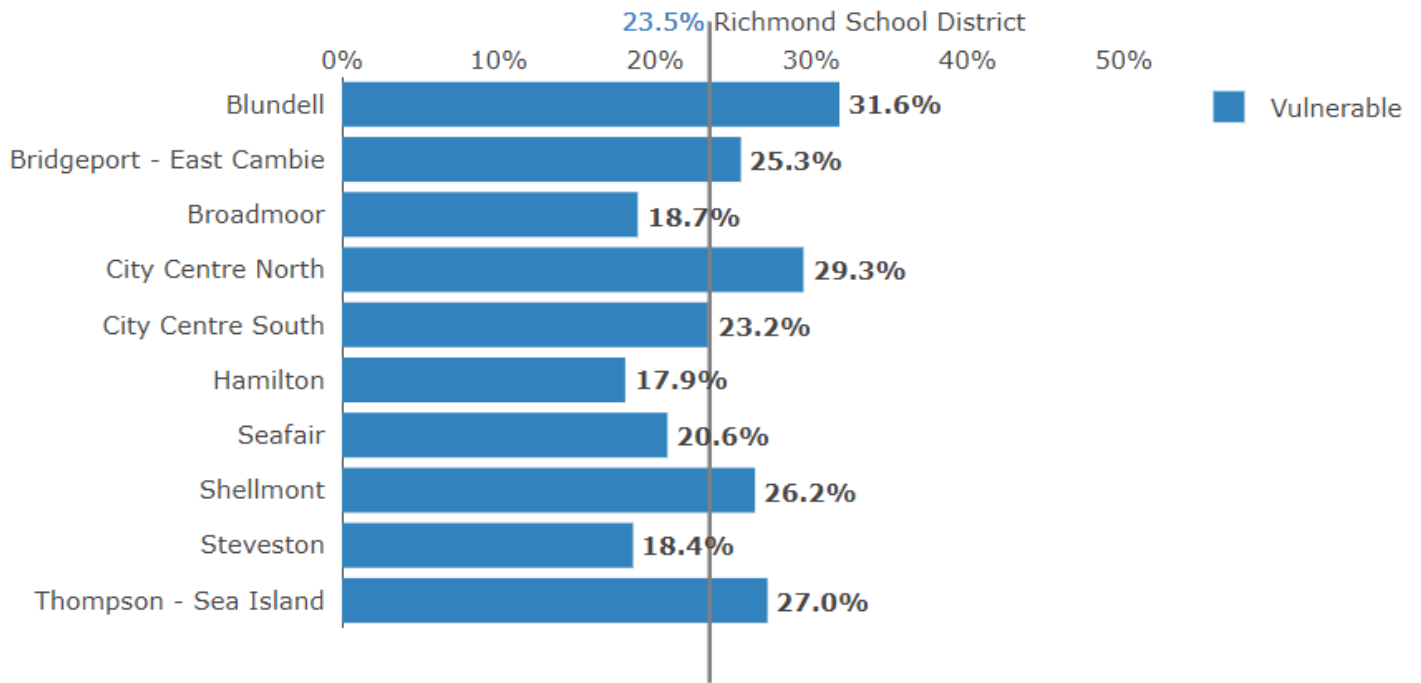


## What is Social Competence?

**\*Social Competence** refers to children's overall social competencies, capacity for respect and responsibility, approaches to learning, and readiness to explore new things. Children who are identified as vulnerable on this scale of the EDI are more likely to have problems getting along with other children on a regular basis and/or have difficulty following rules and class routines.

As with the rest of the province, the Social Competence vulnerability rate in Richmond increased significantly from 2004 (13%) to 2019 (16%). Vulnerability on this scale was highest in the Bridgeport - East Cambie (20%) and Blundell (17%) neighbourhoods, although both neighbourhoods saw a decrease in vulnerability from 2016 (26% and 21% respectively). (Human Early Learning Partnership, 2020)\*







## What is Emotional Maturity?

\***Emotional Maturity** refers to children’s prosocial and helping behaviours, as well as hyperactivity and inattention, and aggressive, anxious and fearful behaviours. Children who are vulnerable on this scale may experience challenges related to emotion regulation. They may have problems managing aggressive behaviour, be inattentive and impulsive, and/or be worried or anxious.

Provincially and locally, there was a significant and steady increase in the vulnerability rate for Emotional Maturity. The increase in vulnerability on this scale was the largest among all the EDI scales and at a provincial level constitutes a 49% increase since Wave 2 (2004 - 2007) (Human Early Learning Partnership, 2019). In Richmond the Emotional Maturity vulnerability rate increased from 11% in 2004 to 17% in 2019. As with Social Competence, vulnerability on this scale was highest in the Bridgeport - East Cambie neighbourhood (22% in 2019). (Human Early Learning Partnership, 2020).

