



What is an Integrated Development Plan?


An Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is a strategic five-year plan developed by your local municipality. It outlines the **municipality's vision, goals, and priorities**, including how **resources** and **budgets** will be allocated to meet community needs. Each municipality's IDP is reviewed and updated annually to address evolving priorities and community feedback.

Supporting Early Childhood Development Through the IDP

Why is the IDP Important for ECD?

The IDP is a powerful tool for ensuring **Early Childhood Development (ECD)** is prioritised at the **local level**. When ECD is included in the IDP, it:

- Ensures that ECD programmes receive the **necessary support, infrastructure, and services** more quickly.
- **Allocates municipal resources** to support ECD programmes, infrastructure, and services.
- **Aligns local, provincial, and national government efforts** to expand access to ECD.
- Embeds the needs of young children and their families into the **municipality's development priorities**.



Without ECD in the IDP, local governments will not prioritise funding or resources for these essential services.

How to Get ECD Into Your Municipality's IDP

Every municipality has its own IDP process. Here is how you can participate and advocate for ECD:



1. Review Your Current IDP

How to Access the IDP:

- Search online for your municipality's name + "Integrated Development Plan".
- Request a copy from your municipal office or councillor.
- Find your ward councillor by sending your ID number via SMS to 32245 (R1 per SMS) and ask about IDP access and participation.



2. Identify Opportunities for Input

Municipalities hold community meetings where residents can provide input on what should be included in the IDP. You can:

- **Attend Community Meetings:** Share your ideas for ECD priorities directly with municipal representatives.
- **Make a Written Submission:** Write down your ECD-related suggestions and submit them to the municipality before the closing dates for public input. Check with your municipality for deadlines.



3. Advocate for ECD Priorities

During meetings or in your written submissions, present the following ECD priorities as suggestions. You can adjust or expand on these suggestions as you need to:

A Removing Barriers to ECD Registration:

- Reduce or waive municipal registration fees for ECD programmes.
- Simplify and streamline registration processes, including accepting hand-drawn site plans.
- Promote awareness of conditional registration to help ECD centers operate while meeting full compliance.

B Build and Upgrade ECD Spaces:

- Allocate budgets and set annual targets for new ECD centers and facility upgrades.
- Ensure access to basic services and provide them at no or reduced cost.
- Repurpose underutilised infrastructure (e.g. community halls) for ECD use.

C Make ECD a Local Spending Priority:

- Allocate dedicated budget lines for ECD infrastructure, registration support, and operations.
- Address subsidy delays by advocating for timely payments at provincial and national levels.

D Establish Ongoing Support:

- Create a multidisciplinary ECD task team with municipal officials, ECD stakeholders, and community representatives to monitor and implement ECD commitments in the IDP.

Missed the IDP Participation Process?

If you've missed this year's IDP participation deadlines, don't worry. The IDP is reviewed annually, giving you another opportunity next year to advocate for ECD.

Conclusion

By participating in the IDP process, you can **help shape your municipality's development priorities to include the needs of young children and their families**. Let's work together to ensure every child has access to quality ECD services through effective local government planning.

Your voice matters, and your advocacy can make a difference.

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