

Ministry of Social Services



Plan for 2019-20

Table of Contents

Statement from the Minister 1

Response to Government Direction 2

Operational Plan 3

Highlights 7

Financial Summary 9

Statement from the Minister



The Honourable Paul Merriman
Minister of Social Services

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Social Services' Plan for 2019-20.

Government Direction and Budget for 2019-20 is focused on *The Right Balance* for Saskatchewan. We're returning to a balanced budget with sound fiscal management while keeping taxes low, supporting economic growth and ensuring quality government programs and services for people and businesses in Saskatchewan.

Social Services is focused on making life better for Saskatchewan's most vulnerable people. We do this by building safe, inclusive communities and supporting those in greatest need. We believe that a strong Saskatchewan is one where all people are full, participating members of their communities. As our provincial motto says, "From Many Peoples Strength".

Our growing population demonstrates that Saskatchewan continues to be a place where people want to build a life and future. Although this growth is welcome, it can also create challenges around increasing caseloads in some areas. The Ministry I represent is working hard to meet this challenge by finding innovative ways to improve services and find efficiencies. Despite this caseload growth, we will continue to focus on improving outcomes for people in need.

After a multi-year review of the province's income assistance programs, we will launch the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program this summer for new clients. The new program will focus on helping people overcome their challenges and move to employment or participation in their communities to the best of their abilities.

We will continue to renew the child welfare system with our First Nations and Métis partners, including a focus on prevention so more children can remain safely with their families.

Our plan for 2019-20 includes many more initiatives that will help make life better for Saskatchewan's people.

The Ministry will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2019-20 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to having *The Right Balance*. We will continue to carefully manage spending and focus on government priorities, such as competitive taxes, investments in economic growth and providing programs and services that meet the needs of Saskatchewan people and businesses.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2019-20 annual reports.

Operational Plan

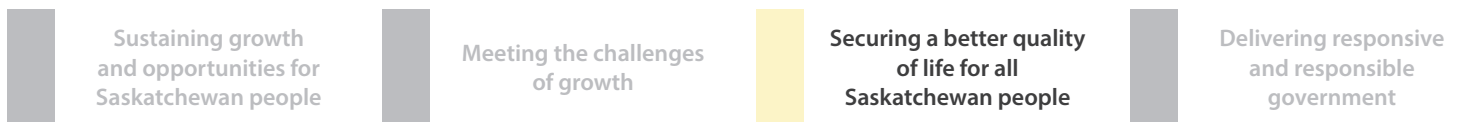
Mandate Statement

The Ministry helps children be safe from abuse and neglect and individuals to meet their basic needs and participate in their community.

Mission Statement

We deliver programs and services that help people in need achieve a better quality of life

Government Goals



Ministry Goal

Programs and services set the foundation to meet our clients' basic needs

Strategy

Children in out-of-home care are safe, have stability, and make successful life transitions

Key Action

- Strengthen family and community based supports for children in care

Performance Measures

Children placed with extended family

Sixty per cent of children in out-of-home care are placed with extended family by March 31, 2023

The number of foster homes available to provide family-based care

A total of two hundred new approved foster homes by March 31, 2023, and a total of five hundred sixty approved foster homes in the province by March 31, 2023

Strategy

People with different abilities have improved quality of life and are included in their communities

Key Action

- Complete the transition of people living at Valley View Centre to homes in the community
- Improve access across the province to the adult respite program
- Implement recommendations from the Provincial Disability Strategy

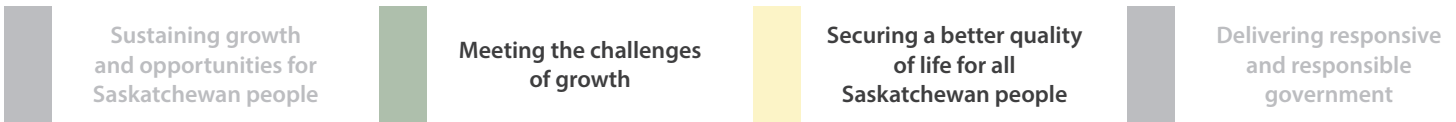


Performance Measures

Valley View Centre Residents

There are no residents remaining at Valley View Centre, as they have been moved to homes in the community by December 31, 2019

Government Goals



Ministry Goal

Citizens gain independence through self-reliance and prevention

Strategy

People experiencing low income have improved quality of life through strengthened programs and services

Key Action

- Continue to implement the Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Strategy

Performance Measures

Number of Saskatchewan people who experience poverty

By March 31, 2025, the number of Saskatchewan people who experience poverty for two years or more will be reduced by 50 per cent

Strategy

Families are supported to safely care for their children

Key Actions

- Strengthen family-focused and prevention practices so children in need of protection can be cared for safely at home

Performance Measures

By 2023, the proportion of children who have been determined to be in need of protection, but are able to stay at home with services will increase by 3 per cent



Strategy

Affordable housing is available and accessible for Saskatchewan citizens with priority given to individuals and families in greatest need

Key Action

- Work with our federal housing partner, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, on the National Housing Strategy to maximize investments to support those most in housing need

Performance Measures

Client satisfaction ratings

Achieve a client satisfaction rating of over 90 per cent by March 31, 2022, for Saskatchewan Housing tenants

Expansion of social housing units

In accordance with the National Housing Strategy, expand social housing units overall by 15 per cent by 2028

Renewal of social housing units

In accordance with the National Housing Strategy, repair 20 per cent of existing social housing units by 2028

Strategy

Clients on income assistance are supported to transition to employment and independence

Key Actions

- Launch the Saskatchewan Income Support Program (SIS) for new clients that focuses on helping people overcome challenges so they can start a career or become more self-sufficient to the best of their abilities
- Increase earned income exemptions in the new program so people can keep more of what they earn as they transition to independence
- Continue to implement Motivational Interviewing which is a new approach that front-line staff are using to work with clients to help them set and achieve their personal goals
- Continue to review income assistance programs and services so they are simpler, more client-friendly, transparent and sustainable

Performance Measures

Proportion of income assistance clients who are employable and use the program for six months or less

Through March 31, 2023, 85 per cent of clients without barriers to employment leave income assistance within six months or less of enrollment



Government Goals



Ministry Goal

Our people and our organization are effective and efficient

Strategy

Our culture demonstrates our commitment to excellence

Key Actions

- Position the Ministry as an Employer of Choice by focusing on employee wellness, culture and inclusion and learning and development

Performance Measures

Workforce safety

The workforce injury rate will be 2.1 per cent less by March 31, 2021

Inclusive workplace

Meet or exceed Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission workforce representation targets for diverse employee groups by March 31, 2023

Strategy

Delivery of Ministry programs is innovative and accountable

Key Actions

- Workforce planning ensures service alignment to clients’ needs and outcomes

Highlights

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to supporting those in greatest need across our province. We continue to make investments in programs and services that help vulnerable children, families, adults and seniors achieve a better quality of life. This year's Ministry budget is a record \$1.23 billion, which is a 4.7 per cent increase over last year. Highlights of the Ministry's budget include:

Disability Supports

An increase of \$6.6 million will continue the Ministry's support for adults with intellectual disabilities:

- \$3.5 million will be used to transition youth with intellectual disabilities from child and family services to adult disability services;
- An additional \$2.6 million will provide residential and day program services to high-needs adults in urgent need; and
- New funding of \$500,000 will help improve access to respite supports for families who are caring for adult children with intellectual disabilities.

Funding increases will also be provided to help those who help care for others:

- Third-party agencies providing support for people with intellectual disabilities will benefit from a new investment of \$2.6 million, which includes an increase for frontline caregivers;
- Approved Private Service Homes caring for adults with intellectual disabilities or mental health challenges will receive a \$260,000 increase for frontline caregivers; and
- \$800,000 will fund training programs for people in third-party agencies who deliver services to those with intellectual disabilities.

Income Assistance

The Ministry continues to support people with low income with a \$10 million budget increase, including a \$6.3 million increase for the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability Program, or SAID. The remaining \$3.7 million will cover increasing case costs and investments in service delivery.

SAID beneficiaries who are able to work will also be able to keep more of what they earn thanks to increased income exemptions. Beginning in summer of 2019, exemption rates will increase from \$3,900 to \$6,000 per year for individuals, \$5,100 to \$7,200 per year for couples and \$2,400 to \$8,500 per year for families.

As part of the review of Saskatchewan's income assistance programs, the Ministry will launch a new program this summer for new clients. The Saskatchewan Income Support Program, or SIS, will help people overcome their challenges so they can start a career or become more self-sufficient. The new program will include increased earned income exemptions so people can keep more of what they earn as they move towards independence.

Child and Family Programs

In 2019-20, the Ministry will continue working to keep children safe and families strong with investments in Child and Family Programs. Increased support in the coming year of \$27.7 million includes the following:

- \$23.5 million to address pressures across the range of services used to keep children safe, including intensive direct services to help keep children safely at home, community-based homes and group homes; and private treatment for children with high needs;

- \$1.2 million to expand intensive supported living, which provides housing and 24/7 supports to help strengthen caregiving skills and keep families together;
- \$300,000 towards funding Sanctum Care Group's pre-natal care home in Saskatoon that helps at risk mothers learn to safely care for their newborns; and
- \$2.7 million to help respond to the number of children and families who need support.

Through an investment of \$1.4 million, foster families will also be eligible for additional monthly payments once they complete specific training to increase their caregiving skills.

Third-party agencies that deliver services to children and families will see an increased investment of \$889,000 for frontline caregivers.

Housing

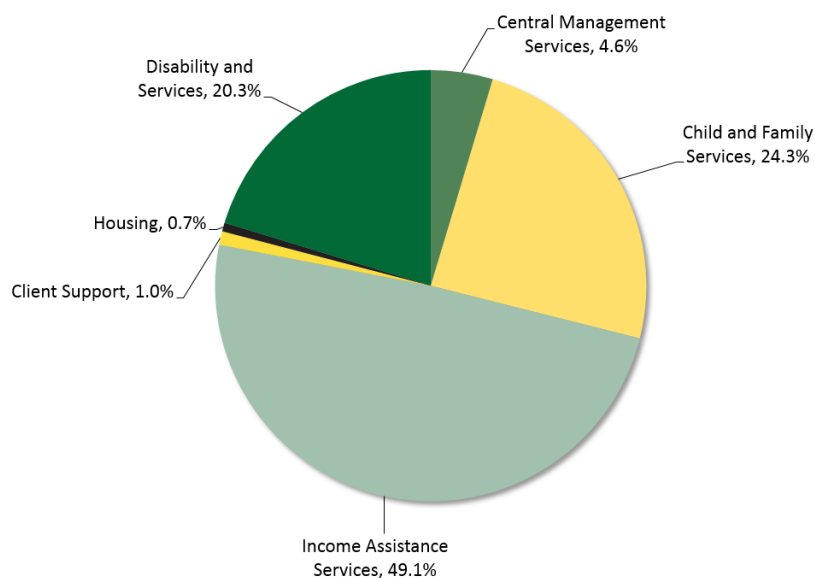
The Ministry's 2019-20 budget continues the Province's commitment to provide better access to safe, quality and affordable housing for Saskatchewan people through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. This investment supports programs such as Habitat for Humanity, the federal/provincial bilateral investment in the Affordable Housing Agreement and the Social Infrastructure Fund. The agreement extends into 2019 and will be used for new affordable housing supply, emergency home repairs and home adaptations for people with disabilities. An increase of \$400,000 this year will fund the positions necessary for Saskatchewan to participate in the new federal-provincial National Housing Strategy.

Financial Summary

2019-20 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	57,504
Child and Family Services	300,350
Income Assistance Services	607,659
Client Support	12,519
Housing	8,061
Disability Programs and Services	250,886
Ministry Appropriation	1,236,979
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(8,300)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	6,308
Ministry Expense	1,234,987

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>

2019-20 Ministry Spending by Area



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/social-services>