

# Ministry of Social Services



## Plan for 2020-21

# Table of Contents

Statement from the Minister ..... 1

Response to Government Direction..... 2

Operational Plan .....3

Highlights .....7

Financial Summary.....8

# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable  
Paul Merriman  
Minister of Social Services*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Social Services' Plan for 2020-21.

Government Direction and Budget 2020-21 is focused on growth for a better quality of life – fostering a strong economy, creating strong communities and strong families – and Building a Strong Saskatchewan.

We recognize that all Saskatchewan citizens have a role in making Saskatchewan strong, as well as thriving in a prosperous province. That means we must ensure those who cannot do this on their own, due to life circumstances or to other situations, get the support they need.

The Ministry of Social Services is responsible for delivering programs and services that help individuals create their own positive outcomes, either through gaining their own independence or through assistance with everyday living.

During 2020-21, we are investing in third-party providers who extend the ministry's reach in providing services on behalf of government. These services include working with people with intellectual disabilities and supporting at-risk children, youth and families. We are working toward making Saskatchewan the best place in Canada for people with disabilities. Through funding to community organizations and through delivering our own programs, we are making progressive steps towards that goal. For example, in the 2019 Speech from the Throne, we announced that we will introduce new legislation aimed at removing and preventing accessibility barriers. The new Accessibility Act will look at the design of public spaces, information and communications, customer service standards, service animal certification, public sector procurement and employment and public transportation.

This year, we continue the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program that helps clients move to employment, while building independence.

Finally, we have developed the new Saskatchewan Housing benefit for eligible renters in severe housing need. This is a 50/50 partnership with the federal government under the National Housing Strategy.

The ministry will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2020-21 Annual Report.

# Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Building a Strong Saskatchewan*. Investing in strong communities and strong families creates opportunities for a better quality of life for the people of our province. Maintaining a strong economy will enable us to build upon the past decade of growth and continue to provide the services, jobs and infrastructure that meets Saskatchewan's needs.

## 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."*



**A Strong Economy**



**Strong Communities**



**Strong Families**

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2020-21 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



**A Strong Economy**



**Strong Communities**



**Strong Families**

Social Services is committed to ensuring all Saskatchewan citizens, regardless of their ability or situation, have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from building the province's strengths.

## Ministry Goal

Clients are safe, supported and participating in their community.

## Strategy

Families are supported to safely care for their children.

### Key Actions

- Expand and explore care alternatives that keep families safely together.
- Build partnerships with Indigenous stakeholders to improve outcomes for children and families.

## Performance Measures

### Children in out-of-home care placed with extended family or persons of sufficient interest

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

### Proportion of children who are members of an ongoing child protection case who are safe at home with services

Fifty-three per cent of children in families with an ongoing child protection file are safe at home with services by March 31, 2023.

## 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

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

A total of 200 new foster homes approved by March 31, 2023.

A total of 560 approved foster homes in the province by March 31, 2023.



## Strategy

People with different abilities have an improved quality of life through community-based services.

### Key Actions

- Proactive service delivery planning to address emerging service needs.
- Improve access to respite across the province for persons caring for adults with intellectual disabilities.
- Implement recommendations from the Disability Strategy, including engagement on accessibility legislation.

## Performance Measures

**Community participation in day programming activities by Community Living Service Delivery (CLSD) clients with intellectual disabilities**

Participation rate in day programming activities by CLSD clients with intellectual disabilities is 70 per cent by March 31, 2021.

**Persons caring for adults with intellectual disabilities have access to respite**

A baseline for access to respite for persons caring for adults with intellectual disabilities will be established in 2020-21.

## Strategy

Affordable housing is available and accessible for Saskatchewan citizens in need.

### Key Action

- Implement the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit (based on the National Housing Strategy) to develop and sustain affordable housing within the province.

## Performance Measures

**Clients will have improved affordability through the National Housing Strategy**

By March 31, 2021, 2,800 households will have access to the Canada Housing Benefit.

**Repair of existing social housing units**

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

## Strategy

Support people as they transition to self-sufficiency to the best of their ability.

### Key Actions

- Continue to enhance the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program to meet client needs.
- Continue to implement motivational interviewing to help income assistance clients set and achieve their personal goals.
- Continue to improve income assistance programs and services so they are simple, client-friendly, transparent and sustainable.
- Continue to implement the Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Strategy.



## Performance Measures

### Proportion of SIS clients who leave income assistance

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

### The 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.

## Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Strengthening Saskatchewan's communities means the ability to ensure that Indigenous culture and values are well-understood so that families can be supported to keep their at-risk children in their communities.

## Ministry Goal

Improved outcomes for Indigenous clients.

## Strategy

Indigenous cultures and values are respected in the ministry.

### Key Actions

- Train ministry staff on Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.
- Recruit and retain Indigenous employees.
- Strengthen partnerships with Indigenous stakeholders.

## Performance Measures

### Truth and Reconciliation

A 10 per cent increase in employees who have completed Indigenous awareness training by March 31, 2021.

### Designated positions

Increase the percentage of Indigenous employees by one per cent by March 31, 2021.





## Government Goals



**A Strong Economy**



**Strong Communities**



**Strong Families**

Social Services employees are respected and appreciated for the hard work they do so that they can work with clients to help them build strong families and family connections.

## Ministry Goal

Our culture demonstrates Social Services' commitment to excellence.

## Strategy

Ministry employees are engaged, healthy and are supported to succeed.

### Key Action

- Focus on employee wellness, recognition, culture and inclusion, and learning and development.

## Performance Measures

### Workplace safety

Reduce the workplace injury rate to 2.1 per cent by December 31, 2020.

### Inclusive workplace

More closely reflect Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission workforce representation goals.

### Learning and development

Develop a standardized orientation and onboarding program for new employees.



# Highlights

## 2020-21 Budget Highlights:

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to supporting those in greatest need across the province. We continue to make investments in programs and services that help vulnerable children, families, adults and seniors achieve a better quality of life. The Ministry of Social Services' budget will increase by \$50.6 million in 2020-21, bringing the total budget to \$1.286 billion, a 4.1 per cent increase from 2019-20.

### Third-Party Services

Increased funding of \$10.9 million to third-party service providers includes:

- A \$6.8 million increase for service providers that work with people with intellectual disabilities, plus an additional \$1.0 million increase for client transportation for day programs and other activities.
- A \$2.5 million increase for service providers that support at-risk children, youth and families.
- An increase of \$621,000 for approved private service homes that care for people with intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges.

### Disability Supports

- A \$10.0 million increase for the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program to continue to support people with significant and enduring disabilities.
- \$1.0 million to SaskAbilities for repairs and improvements to Camp Easter Seal, which provides summer camp programs for children, youth and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.
- A \$540,000 increase for respite services for people who care for those with intellectual disabilities.
- New funding of \$350,000 to enhance interpreter services delivered by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) and Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Inc.

### Child and Family Programs

The Province is continuing to invest in child and family programs to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable children. Investments include:

- An increase of \$3.2 million to support children and youth with developmental and complex behavioural needs.
- An increase of \$2.5 million for family supports, including outreach and in-home supports.
- A \$1.8 million increase to the supported family living program that helps keep at-risk families together.
- A \$1.6 million increase to enhance the services that Hope's Home provides for children with complex medical needs, including an expansion in the Prince Albert area.
- An increase of \$1.4 million for foster families, who will continue to be eligible for additional monthly payments when they complete specific training.
- An additional \$356,000 to increase basic maintenance rates for foster care, extended family care and assisted adoption by 1.0 per cent effective July 1, 2020.

### Income Assistance

The Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program was launched in July 2019 for new income assistance clients. It is designed to help people receiving income assistance overcome challenges, earn more income, become independent to the best of their abilities and start a career. The SIS budget will increase by \$84.6 million to reflect the caseload in this program, as the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) and Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA) wind down.

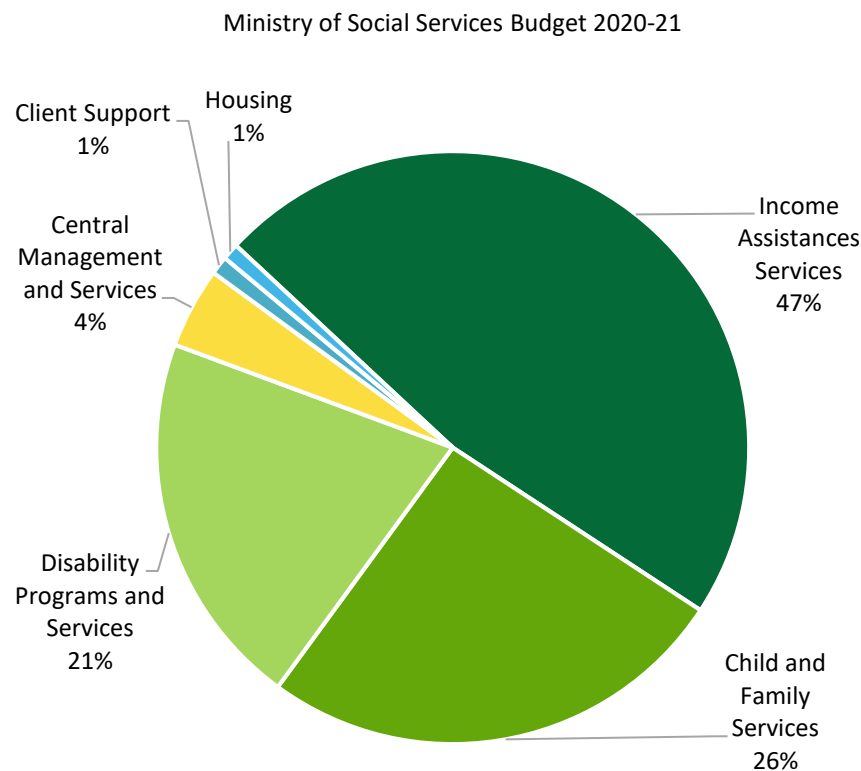
### Housing

Effective April 1, 2020, applications will be accepted for the new Saskatchewan Housing Benefit. The province will provide \$3.4 million as a 50/50 cost-match with the federal government under the National Housing Strategy, resulting in total funding of up to \$6.8 million. The benefit will target eligible renters in severe housing need.

# Financial Summary

Ministry of Social Services 2020-21 Estimates		(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services		\$ 56,306
Child and Family Services		\$ 332,797
Income Assistance Services		\$ 609,494
Client Support		\$ 12,690
Housing		\$ 11,581
Disability Programs and Services		\$ 264,850
<b>Ministry Appropriation</b>		<b>\$1,287,718</b>
Capital Asset Acquisitions		(\$9,300)
Non-appropriated expense adjustment		7,194
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$ 1,285,612</b>

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



## For More Information

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