

# Ministry of Social Services



## Plan for 2021-22

# Table of Contents

**Statement from the Minister ..... 1**

**Response to Government Direction..... 2**

**Operational Plan .....3**

**Highlights .....9**

**Financial Summary..... 10**

# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Lori Carr  
Minister of Social Services*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Social Services' Plan for 2021-22.

Government Direction and Budget 2021-22 is focused on protecting Saskatchewan people through the remainder of the pandemic, building the infrastructure that a strong economy needs, and growing Saskatchewan to help ensure a strong economic recovery.

Despite the challenges COVID-19 has brought, the Ministry of Social Services remains committed to support and protect those most in need in the coming year. In 2021-22, my ministry will continue to fulfill our Government's commitments to help vulnerable children, families, adults and seniors achieve a better quality of life.

Through additional investments in programs and services for at-risk children and youth, seniors with low income and people with disabilities, we will help Saskatchewan citizens create their own positive outcomes by helping them to gain independence or assisting them with everyday living.

The Province will continue to invest in the protection and well-being of vulnerable children and youth. Our work to renew the child welfare system continues this year with our First Nations and Métis partners, and includes a focus on prevention so more children can remain safely with their families.

We will increase benefits in the Seniors Income Plan (SIP) to help Saskatchewan seniors with low income enjoy a better quality of life. This will be the sixth increase our Government has made to SIP since 2008.

My ministry will engage with individuals and families across the province to help develop new disability legislation aimed at removing and preventing accessibility barriers. Our disability legislation 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.

Through the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program, we will continue to help people overcome challenges, start a career, earn more income, become more self-sufficient and participate in their communities to the best of their abilities.

In 2021-22, through our partnership with the federal government under the National Housing Strategy, we will expand the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit so that more renters in severe housing need receive support.

These are just a few examples of how the Ministry of Social Services will continue to serve our most vulnerable citizens in the coming year. We will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2021-22 Annual Report.

# Response to Government Direction

Protect. Build. Grow. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to protecting Saskatchewan people through the rest of the pandemic as life returns to normal and our economy grows. Investing in infrastructure like hospitals, schools, and highways will help build a strong economy and create jobs for strong families, strong communities, and a better quality of life.

## 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 2021-22 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**

## Ministry Goal

Clients are safe, supported and participating in their community.

## Strategy

Families are supported to safely care for their children.

## Key Actions

- Expand intensive residential and supportive living services for at-risk families.
- Enhanced coordinated support for at-risk mothers.
- Build partnerships with Indigenous stakeholders to improve outcomes for children and families.

## Performance Measures

**Proportion of children in ongoing child protection services who are safe with services at home.**

Target: In 2021-22, 53.5 per cent of children in ongoing child protection services are safe with services at home.

## Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



**Strong Families**

## Ministry Goal

Clients are safe, supported and participating in their community.

## Strategy

Children and youth in care are supported to be successful.



## Key Actions

- Expand and enhance services for youth in care.
- Enhance supports for children placed with extended family caregivers.
- Implement PRIDE levels of pay phase two for foster families, a family-based care response for children with complex behavioural, medical, emotional, development and psychosocial needs.

## Performance Measures

### **Children in out-of-home care placed with extended family.**

Target: Sixty per cent of children in out-of-home care are placed with extended family.

### **New foster care homes developed.**

Target: Fifty-five new foster care homes are developed annually.

## Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

## Ministry Goal

Clients are safe, supported and participating in their community.

## Strategy

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

## Key Actions

- Improve access to respite across the province for persons caring for adults with intellectual disabilities.
- The development of new accessibility legislation aimed at removing and preventing accessibility barriers.

## Performance Measures

### **Caregivers of adults with intellectual disabilities applying for planned respite services receive respite supports.**

Target: More than 60 per cent of caregivers of adults with intellectual disabilities applying for planned respite services receive respite supports.

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

Target: Participation rate in day programming activities by CLSD clients with intellectual disabilities is 70 per cent by March 31, 2025.

### **The development, passage and implementation of accessibility legislation.**

Target: In 2021-22, undertake broad-based consultations with stakeholders in six key areas of focus.



## Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

## Ministry Goal

Clients are safe, supported and participating in their community.

## Strategy

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

## Key Actions

- Implement, deliver, and monitor National Housing Strategy (NHS) goals, programs and services, including Saskatchewan Priorities, Canada Community Housing Initiative and Saskatchewan Housing Benefit.
- Increase partnerships to expand integration of housing programs with supportive services.

## Performance Measures

### Clients will have improved affordability.

Target: A total of 3,880 households will have access to the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit by March 31, 2022 which contributes to the long-term NHS goal of providing affordability support to people in housing need.

### Repair existing social housing units.

Target: Repair 560 units by March 31, 2022 which contributes to the long-term NHS goal of repairing 20 per cent of existing social housing units.

### Support regional needs and priorities through partnerships.

Target: Partner with non-profit organizations and the private sector to develop or repair housing to assist 150 households with low incomes by March 31, 2022.

## Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

## Ministry Goal

Clients are safe, supported and participating in their community.

## Strategy

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

## Key Actions

- Provide clients with income support for their basic needs, including increasing benefits for seniors under the Seniors' Income Plan.





- Partner with income assistance clients and community to support people as they work towards self-sufficiency to the best of their ability through targeted services.
- Continue to implement the *Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Strategy*.

## Performance Measures

### **Proportion of Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) clients who no longer require Income Assistance.**

Target: More than 20 per cent of Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) clients no longer require Income Assistance.

### **Number of Saskatchewan people who experience poverty.**

Target: 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

## Ministry Goal

Improved outcomes for Indigenous clients.

## Strategy

Continuing to respect Indigenous cultures and values in the ministry.

## Key Actions

- Support Indigenous education and training for ministry employees.
- Recruit and retain Indigenous employees.

## Performance Measures

### **Support staff to complete Indigenous awareness training.**

Target: A 15 per cent increase in employees who have completed Indigenous awareness training.

### **Prioritize hiring Indigenous employees.**

Target: Increase the percentage of Indigenous employees by one per cent by March 31, 2022.

## Government Goals

 A Strong Economy

 Strong Communities

 Strong Families

## Ministry Goal

Continuous improvement of our programs and services.





## Strategy

Enhance our one-team approach to service.

### Key Actions

- Identify common clients (across the ministry) to understand service delivery channels and improve client services.
- Work with other governments and community partners to improve service delivery through collaboration.

## Performance Measures

Advance cross-ministry priorities through shared human service and ministry-wide opportunities.

## Strategy

Support a culture of continuous improvement.

### Key Actions

- Increase the connection between continuous improvement and ministry priorities.
- Support business transformation and improved services for clients.
- Recognize employees and teams who demonstrate the values of innovation and continuous improvement.

## Performance Measures

Develop a performance improvement system to ensure effective alignment of continuous improvement activities across the ministry.

## Government Goals



**A Strong Economy**



**Strong Communities**



**Strong Families**

## Ministry Goal

Employees are engaged, healthy and high-performing.

## Strategy

Provide a safe and healthy workplace.

### Key Actions

- Focus on employee wellness, recognition, culture and inclusion, and learning and development.
- Create an internal communication strategy.
- Continue to implement workplace health and safety supports for employees.



## Performance Measures

### **Prioritize workplace safety.**

Target: Maintain a workplace injury rate of less than 2.1 per cent.

### **Participate in the Saskatchewan Safety Survey.**

Target: Achieve a ministry-wide psychological safety score of 3.2 or greater.

### **Create an inclusive workplace.**

Target: More closely reflect Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission workforce representation goals.

# Highlights

## 2021-22 Budget Highlights:

In 2021-22, the Government of Saskatchewan will continue to protect our province's most vulnerable people and help them build better lives for themselves, while growing our economy so everyone can enjoy the quality of life our province has to offer. To help achieve these goals, the Ministry of Social Services' budget will increase by \$54.5 million in 2021-22 to \$1.34 billion, a 4.2 per cent increase from 2020-21.

### Meeting our Commitments

In 2021-22, we will:

- Invest an additional \$3.5 million in the Seniors Income Plan (SIP) to help Saskatchewan seniors with low income enjoy a better quality of life. Maximum payments will increase by \$30 a month starting in July 2021. This is the sixth increase our government has made to SIP since 2008; and
- Support the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Inc. with funding of \$246,000 to help fund American Sign Language Interpreters and a Deafblind Intervener to help connect people to information and services.

### Investing in Community Partners

Our government relies on third-party service providers throughout the province to deliver programs and services to our clients. In 2021-22, Social Services will increase funding to these agencies by \$6.7 million, which includes a \$4.2 million increase for organizations that work with people with intellectual disabilities and a \$2.5 million increase for those supporting at-risk children, youth and families.

### Including People with Disabilities

Throughout 2021-22, Social Services will engage with people across the province to help develop Saskatchewan's first accessibility legislation to remove barriers that prevent people with disabilities from fully participating in their communities. We will also:

- Increase our investment in the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability, or SAID, program by \$19.0 million to continue to support people with significant and enduring disabilities; and
- Provide increased support of \$9.1 million to address the current and anticipated needs of people with intellectual disabilities.

### Supporting Children, Youth and Families

Protecting the safety and well-being of children and youth is one of our government's most important commitments. In 2021-22, we will:

- Increase funding for residential care spaces by \$8.2 million to support children and youth with developmental and complex behavioral needs;
- Implement Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education, or PRIDE, Levels of Pay Phase II through a \$1.6 million increase so foster families can gain specialized training to care for children with more intensive needs;
- Support more extended family caregivers through a \$3.0 million increase, to continue their vital work helping children in their care stay connected to their culture and community;
- Increase funding for services aimed at preventing children from coming into the care of the ministry, including intensive in-home family supports, by \$1.4 million; and
- Invest an additional \$500,000 to Sanctum 1.5 to support high risk expectant mothers with enhanced outreach and coordination of services.

### Providing Housing Support

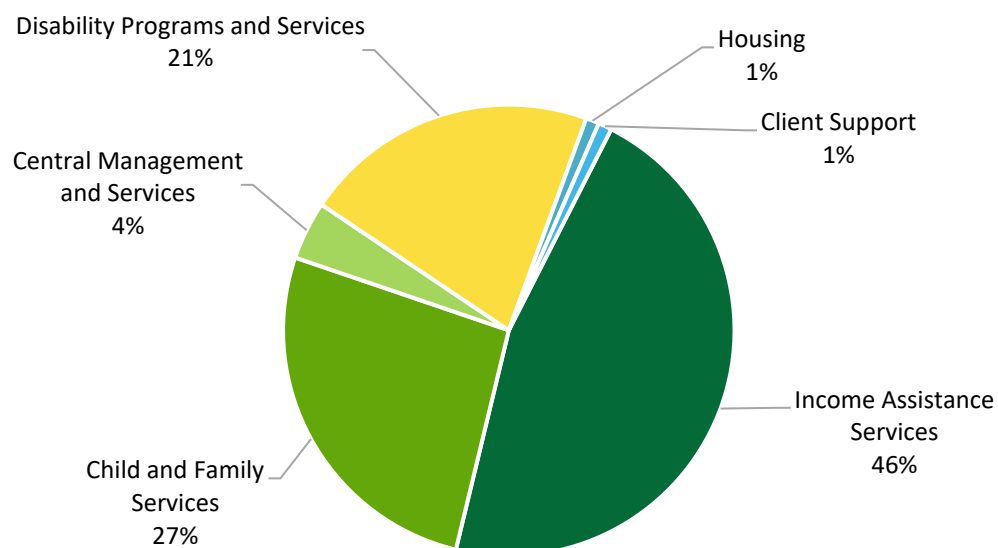
The ministry's 2021-22 budget will help build stability for those in need. We will expand eligibility for the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit to include individuals and families who pay 40 per cent of their income on rent rather than 50 per cent, through an increase of \$1.0 million. Funding for the benefit is a 50/50 cost-match with the federal government under the National Housing Strategy.

# Financial Summary

Ministry of Social Services 2021-22 Estimates		(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services		\$55,928
Child and Family Services		\$353,756
Income Assistance Services		\$618,775
Client Support		\$12,952
Housing		\$12,701
Disability Programs and Services		\$283,182
<b>Ministry Appropriation</b>		<b>\$1,337,294</b>
Capital Asset Acquisitions		(5,221)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment		8,047
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$ 1,340,120</b>

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

Ministry of Social Services Budget (\$1.34 billion)



## For More Information

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