

Business Plan

2023-24

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Gene Makowsky
Minister of Social Services*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Social Services' Business Plan for 2023-24.

This year's Social Services budget is a record \$1.433 billion investment to support vulnerable people and families as they build a better quality of life. Targeted funding will provide higher monthly benefits for clients, increase funding for our service delivery partners and support new initiatives to support positive outcomes for Saskatchewan people and families.

Clients receiving Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS), Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) and Senior's Income Plan (SIP) benefits will all receive higher monthly payments to help them meet their basic needs. Government is also helping make the cost of living in a licensed personal care home more affordable through increases to the Personal Care Home Benefit threshold and SAID Personal Care Home Level-of-Care rate.

The province is committed to the safety and well-being of vulnerable families, children and youth, making investments that will help families safely care for their children, enhance mental health supports for youth and ensure the delivery of quality of out-of-home care.

Government continues working towards its goal of building strong, inclusive communities for people with disabilities. Additional funding will enhance services for people with intellectual disabilities and D/deaf and deafblind people in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Disability Office will also be established in order to begin stakeholder consultations and develop regulations that will remove and prevent accessibility barriers for people with disabilities.

The ministry would not be able to deliver its diverse range of services without strong partnerships with service providers and caregivers across the province. The 2023-24 budget recognizes these important partnerships with an additional \$13.5 million in funding to community-based service providers and an additional \$825,000 to help foster families and extended family caregivers cover the costs of caring for children.

The ministry will report on progress made toward this plan in the 2023-24 Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gene Makowsky', written in a cursive style.

Gene Makowsky
Minister of Social Services



2023-24 Budget Highlights

1	<p>The 2023-24 Ministry of Social Services budget is a record \$1.433 billion, an increase of \$46.7 million or 3.4 per cent over 2022-23.</p>
2	<p>People with low-incomes, families and seniors will receive higher monthly benefits to meet their basic needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) Adult Basic Benefit, Shelter Benefit and Alternate Heating Benefit will each increase by \$30 per month. • Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) clients will receive \$30 more per month in living income benefits. • \$3.0 million in funding fulfills Government’s three-year commitment to increase the maximum Senior’s Income Plan (SIP) benefit by \$30 per month. • The Personal Care Home Benefit will increase by up to \$400 per month, and SAID clients under age 65 who live in personal care homes will receive up to \$684 more per month.
3	<p>Increased funding to partners includes an additional \$13.5 million to community-based service providers, and an increase of \$825,000 for foster families and extended family caregivers.</p>
4	<p>Targeted investments will support at-risk families, children and youth, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of Supportive Family Living Program services and increased program capacity for at-risk expectant women to support families to safely care for their children. • Ensuring quality of care by increasing the number of Child Service Workers and strengthening oversight of group homes caring for children and youth. • Development of three mental health group homes for youth and two drop-in centres to support youth as they transition to independence.
5	<p>Government is continuing to work towards our goal of building strong, inclusive communities for people with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional \$6.7 million will support services to new clients, emerging needs for current clients, and enhancements to existing services for people with intellectual disabilities. • \$170,000 will fulfill Government’s four-year commitment to enhance services for D/deaf and deafblind people in Saskatchewan. • The Saskatchewan Accessibility Office will be established to begin development of <i>The Accessible Saskatchewan Act</i> regulations.

Government Vision and Goals

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."

>> Government Goals

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 2023-24 annual reports.

Ministry of Social Services Overview

Mandate

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

Mission

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

Vision

Saskatchewan people have a better quality of life.

Goal 1: Clients are safe, supported and participating in their community

The ministry provides a range of supports and services to Saskatchewan people. Clients may be experiencing crisis or suffer from abuse or neglect. We also support clients with disabilities and those who require assistance meeting their basic needs. The ministry aims to make our programs and services more accessible and effective to ensure our clients are safe and can participate in their communities. We also partner with third party service providers to provide services in communities throughout the province. With this support, clients are empowered to work towards achieving their goals so that they can build better lives for themselves.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Families are supported to safely care for their children.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Expand intensive residential and supportive living for high needs families.
- Collaborate with Indigenous and community partners to provide prevention services that keep children safe.
- Strengthen supports for extended family caregivers.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Children and youth in care are supported to be successful.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Engage with youth in care to ensure their perspective on programs and services is integrated.
- Support specialized training for foster parents.
- Improve supports for children and youth within community-based care.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
People with disabilities are supported to have an improved quality of life.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Increase client access to community-based day programs.
- Implement *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*, including the regulatory framework.
- Improve partnerships with community-based organizations to support enhanced quality of life for people with disabilities.
- Implement an online application process for Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID).

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Saskatchewan residents in need can access affordable and appropriate housing.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Work with all levels of government and Indigenous and community partners to improve access to supports for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.
- Improve the effectiveness of social housing programs and ensure the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit meets the needs of clients.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Partner with Income Assistance clients and the community to support people as they work towards self-sufficiency to the best of their ability.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Enhance outreach supports to better service clients with community-based organizations.
- Support Income Assistance clients to access employment and education.
- Continue to implement the Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Proportion of children receiving ongoing child protection services who are safe with services at home

Target: In 2023-24, 55 per cent of children receiving ongoing child protection services are safe with services at home.

Children in out-of-home care placed with extended family

Target: From 2021-22 through 2024-25, 60 per cent of children in out-of-home care will be placed with family.

First year foster family retention rate

Target: In 2023-24, the ministry will have a 95 per cent annual first year foster family retention rate.

Approval of new foster families created by recruitment

Target: In 2023-24, 50 new foster families are recruited and approved per year.

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

Target: By March 31, 2024, 70 per cent of CLSD clients with intellectual disabilities will participate in community-based day programming activities.

Work collaboratively to provide supportive services and housing programs

Target: Increase the number of clients accessing supportive housing.

The number of households living in SHC-owned social and affordable units

Target: in 2023-24, 300 additional households will be housed in SHC-owned units.

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

Target: in 2023-24, 325 social housing units will be repaired.

Number of new households receiving the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit

Target: in 2023-24, 1,500 new households will have improved affordability by accessing the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit.

Percentage of Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) clients reporting earned income

Target: In 2023-24, there will be a 5 percent increase in the number of SIS clients who access earned income exemptions.

Proportion of SIS clients who leave income assistance

Target: In 2023-24, 25 per cent of SIS clients will no longer require benefits.

Goal 2: Improved outcomes for Indigenous clients

Many of Social Services' clients are Indigenous. We believe clients should see themselves in the staff delivering services, and that staff understand clients' cultural and historical experiences. The ministry also funds and partners with service providers across the province to provide a wide range of services and supports. The ministry will continue to build these partnerships and strengthen our capacity to be a better employer and partner in supporting clients.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Embed respect for Indigenous culture and values.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Actively recruit and retain Indigenous employees.
- Provide Indigenous cultural awareness training to all ministry employees.
- Engage with Indigenous partners to design and deliver programs and services.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Strengthen partnerships with Indigenous organizations, communities, and other service providers to better meet the needs of clients today and into the future.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Collaborate with Indigenous partners on implementation of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.
- Enhance and strengthen relationships with Indigenous organizations, communities, and other service providers to better serve clients.
- Support employee initiatives and networks to plan, share and implement priorities across the ministry, government, and partners.
- Continue to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Percentage of ministry employees who self-identify as Indigenous.

Target: At least 12.6 per cent of ministry employees self-identify as Indigenous by March 31, 2024.

Number of ministry employees who complete Reconciliation and Indigenous cultural awareness training.

Target: All new ministry employees complete introductory Indigenous awareness training within their first six months of onboarding.

Goal 3: Ministry employees are engaged and supported to deliver high quality service to our clients and partners

The ministry prioritizes employee well-being and engagement and supports employee efforts to build a supportive and positive work environment. Inclusion, diversity, and a healthy workplace culture all contribute to our ability to deliver excellent client service. The ministry's vision and plan for enhancing employee engagement will enable all staff to be strong partners in meeting the needs of clients now and into the future.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Develop a long-term strategy to support the ministry's existing and emerging business needs.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Integrate the ministry's information technology services into business decisions through joint planning.
- Improve accountability and client outcomes through a more comprehensive approach to working with third-party service providers.
- Continue to implement improvements and make progress on delivering effective and efficient services and programs.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Provide a safe and healthy workplace.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Build organizational community and improve workplace culture through recruitment and retention, wellness, and employee growth.
- Provide workplace health and safety supports for employees.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Workplace injury rate

Target: Reduce the workplace injury rate and continue to progress toward Mission Zero.

Psychological safety score

Target: Maintain or improve the ministry's psychological safety score by March 31, 2024.

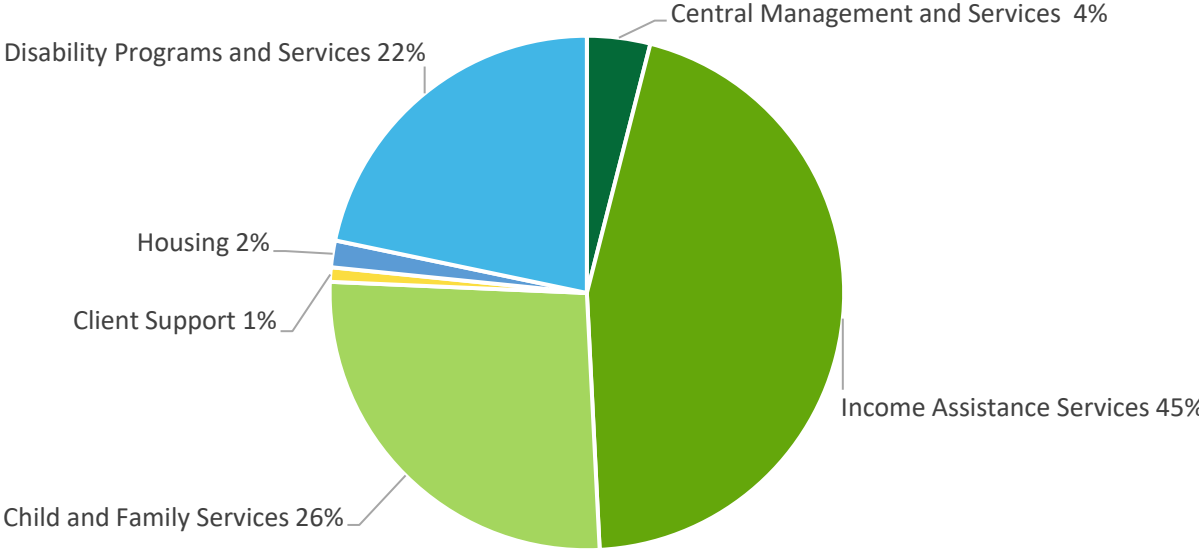
Employees have support at work to provide a high level of service

Target: By December 31, 2023, at least 70 per cent of employees feel they have support at work to provide a high level of service.

Financial Summary

Ministry of Social Services 2023-24 Estimates (\$ 1.433 billion)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$56,886
Income Assistance Services	\$647,390
Child and Family Services	\$379,087
Client Support	\$12,963
Housing*	\$24,062
Disability Programs and Services	\$310,909
Total Appropriation	\$1,431,297
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(\$6,382)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$7,610
Total Expense	\$1,432,525

2023-24 Social Services Budget (\$1.433 billion)



Links to More Information

- [Ministry of Social Services](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)

The Housing Division budget reflected above relates mainly to employee salaries and operating costs, along with some transfers for public services. To learn more about the services Saskatchewan Housing Corporation provides, please view the Forms and Publications here: [Saskatchewan Housing Corporation](#)