

# Business Plan

2026-27

Ministry of Social Services

# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Terry Jenson  
Minister of Social Services*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Social Services Business Plan for 2026-27, outlining initiatives that support the delivery of critical programs and services that support and protect Saskatchewan's most vulnerable people.

Targeted increases in the 2026-27 budget will help make the costs of living more affordable. This includes a two per cent increase to Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) benefits, increases to Saskatchewan Housing Benefit monthly rates to help eligible renters, and increasing SAID residential support benefits by 30 per cent over the next three years for families that care for their loved ones at home.

The complex issue of homelessness continues to be a high priority. New and continued funding will support expanded homelessness services, building enhanced emergency shelters in Saskatoon and Prince Albert, and a new one-time per household utility arrears recoverable benefit for SIS clients to prevent evictions.

This year's budget continues to invest in increasing the availability of safe and appropriate housing. New and continuing projects will support repairs in provincially owned housing units to be rent-ready, and new affordable housing units created through the Rental Development Program.

Additional funding will support people with disabilities to access safe and secure supports, including increased services to new and existing clients with intellectual disabilities and increasing the level of support for clients with changing needs.

The ministry remains committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and youth, providing additional funding to deliver programs and services that meet the needs of a growing number of children and youth with significant and complex needs placed in out of home care.

Social Services works with Indigenous organizations and community partners to deliver a wide range of services and supports that enable Saskatchewan people to achieve a better quality of life. In 2026-27, the service providers the ministry contracts with will receive a two per cent increase. Together, we will continue our important work to make a positive difference in the lives of clients every day.

# 2026-27 Budget Highlights

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p>The 2026-27 Ministry of Social Services Budget invests \$1.69 billion, an increase of \$71.9 million or 4.4 per cent over 2025-26.</p> <p>An additional investment of \$10.8 million will increase funding to third-party service providers by two per cent. Family-based caregivers will also receive a two per cent increase in basic maintenance.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p>Targeted increases in the 2026-27 budget help make the costs of daily life more affordable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An \$11.7 million investment will raise Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) benefits by two per cent.</li> <li>• An \$8 million increase will support over 500 more seniors accessing the Personal Care Home Benefit since the monthly income threshold rose in 2025-26.</li> <li>• A \$3.2 million investment will increase monthly Saskatchewan Housing Benefit rates and expand the program to over 300 new clients.</li> <li>• A \$2 million investment will increase SAID residential support benefits for families that care for their loved ones at home by 10 per cent.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p>New and continued funding will support initiatives to address homelessness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of homelessness services will continue through a new \$20 million investment over three years announced in November 2025.</li> <li>• A \$5.4 million capital investment will support the work underway to design and build enhanced emergency shelters at sites in Saskatoon and Prince Albert.</li> <li>• A \$400,000 investment will help SIS clients remain successfully housed by providing a new \$1,000 one-time per household recoverable utility arrears benefit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>\$17.6 million in new and continuing projects will support repairs in provincially owned housing units to be rent ready, and new affordable housing units created through the Rental Development Program.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p>An additional \$11.8 million will provide increased services to new and existing clients with intellectual disabilities and increase the level of support for clients with changing needs.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p>An additional \$19.1 million will deliver programs and services that meet the needs of a growing number of children and youth with significant and complex needs placed in out of home care.</p>

# 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 2026-27 Annual Reports.

## Ministry of Social Services Overview

### Overview

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: Individuals, families, and children in need are safe and supported.

The Ministry of Social Services supports vulnerable people and families as they build a better quality of life. We help people with their immediate needs and provide supports for families to safely care for their children, children and youth in care to be successful, people with disabilities to access community-based services, housing and housing services for people who could not otherwise afford or access adequate, safe and secure shelter, and income assistance to meet people's basic needs as they work to become self-sufficient to the best of their abilities. Together with Indigenous partners and community organizations, we work to make a positive difference in the lives of our clients every day.

### **Strategy 1:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support families to safely care for their children.

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

- Provide intensive support services to keep at-risk families together.
- Collaborate with Indigenous partners and community organizations to provide prevention services that keep children safe and connected with their culture, family and community.

### **Strategy 2:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support children and youth in care to be successful.

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

- Engage with youth in care and with lived experience to integrate their perspective on programs and services.
- Improve services and support for children, youth in care, and their caregivers.
- Enhance services to youth who are transitioning out of care or have recently transitioned from care.

### **Strategy 3:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support the participation and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in their community.

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

- Maintain client access to, and build awareness of, community-based day programs.
- Work with community-based organizations to improve quality of life for people with disabilities.

#### **Strategy 4: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal***

Address accessibility barriers for individuals living with disabilities.

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

- Implement actions from the *Government of Saskatchewan Accessibility Plan*.
- Develop a guide to help public sector organizations make virtual events more accessible.
- Develop standards in collaboration with The Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Implement actions from the *Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Accessibility Plan*.

#### **Strategy 5: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal***

Improve affordability for Saskatchewan individuals and families.

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

- Increase Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) core benefits by two per cent.
- Increase SAID residential support benefits for families that care for their loved ones at home by 10 per cent each year for the next three years.
- Exempt the new federal Canada Groceries and Essential Benefit from income assistance programs.
- Increase monthly Saskatchewan Housing Benefit rates. Core monthly benefits will increase by 20 per cent, renters who receive services to help them maintain stable housing will receive a 40 per cent increase through the Supportive Housing Stream, and monthly support for individuals fleeing interpersonal violence will double through the Seeking Safety stream.
- Partner with housing providers through the Rental Development Program to help build more affordable housing units.

#### **Strategy 6: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal***

Partner with clients in need to provide financial support and pathways to safe and stable housing.

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

- Support people with low income to enter and remain in the workforce through the Saskatchewan Employment Incentive, earned income exemptions, and connections to labour market.
- Increase availability of social housing for Saskatchewan residents in need.
- Improve access to ministry programs and services for individuals with complex needs.

#### **Strategy 7: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal***

Support individuals experiencing homelessness to meet their needs while they move toward stable housing.

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

- Improve access to services and connections to support individuals experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- Create new supportive housing spaces to assist individuals to be safely housed.

## **Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

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

- Target: In 2026-27, 60 per cent of children receiving ongoing child protection services remain safely at home with support.

### **Percentage of children in out-of-home care placed with extended family**

- Target: By the end of 2026-27, 60 per cent of children in out-of-home care are placed with extended family.

### **Three-year foster family retention rate**

- Target: In 2026-27 the ministry will have an 80 per cent three-year retention rate for foster homes recruited in 2023-24.

### **Approval of new foster families created by recruitment**

- Target: In 2026-27, 50 new foster families are recruited and approved.

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

- Target: By March 31, 2027, 70 per cent of CLSD clients with intellectual disabilities will participate in community-based day programming activities.

### **Adoption of virtual event hosting guides**

- Target: 35 public sector bodies have adopted the virtual event hosting guide into their accessibility plan

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

- Target: In 2026-27, there will be a five per cent increase in the number of SIS clients who access earned income exemptions.

### **Proportion of clients who leave SIS**

- Target: In 2026-27, 25 per cent of SIS clients will no longer require SIS benefits.

### **Percentage of SIS caseload successfully referred to Immigration and Career Training (ICT) for career services support**

- Target: By 2030, 25 per cent of adults on SIS will be connected to ICT.

### **Occupancy of available Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-owned housing units**

- Target: In 2026-27, 90 percent of available Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-owned housing units will be occupied by eligible households.

### **Number of Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-owned housing units repaired**

- Target: In 2026-27, 2,000 Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-owned housing units will be repaired with provincial capital investments.
- Target: In 2026-27, continue to advance multi-year repair and renovation projects for 131 Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-owned units.

**Number of households receiving the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit (SHB)**

- Target: In 2026-27, 5,000 households will access the SHB.

**Investment in new affordable housing units through the Rental Development Program**

- Target: In 2026-27, commit \$5 million in provincial capital investments to develop new affordable housing units.

**Creation of new supportive housing spaces**

- Target: In 2026-27, create up to 60 new supportive housing spaces.

## Goal 2: Indigenous engagement, collaboration, and outcomes are enhanced.

The ministry funds Indigenous partners and service providers across the province to provide a wide range of services and supports. The ministry will continue to build strong, respectful relationships with Indigenous organizations and service providers province-wide. Deepening these partnerships will help advance meaningful Indigenous engagement and better outcomes for the communities we serve.

### **Strategy 1:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Ensure Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and cultural practices are fundamental to how the ministry operates and serves clients.

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

- Actively recruit, support and retain Indigenous employees to strengthen representation and ensure Indigenous voices inform ministry work.
- Provide ongoing Indigenous awareness and experiential learning opportunities to continue to build employee understanding and support effective service delivery.
- Ensure client and employee access to Elders and Knowledge Keepers in service delivery centres to guide culturally grounded practices, support client wellness, and strengthen culturally informed decision-making.
- Advance the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action by aligning programs, services, and partnerships with reconciliation principles and Indigenous-led approaches.

### **Strategy 2:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Partner with Indigenous organizations and communities to support culturally informed and community-driven services.

#### **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*.
- Strengthen partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations to enhance representation and support culturally informed programs and services.

#### **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, 2027.

### Goal 3: Ministry employees are supported to be an engaged and high-performing team.

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

Foster safety, culture, wellness, and employee growth through Building Organizational Community (BOC).

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

- Enhance diversity, equity and inclusion within the ministry in alignment with the Government of Saskatchewan's Inclusion Toolkit.
- Promote awareness of mental health's importance and improve psychological safety in the workplace.
- Support employee recruitment, retention and job satisfaction.
- Support middle managers in building and maintaining relationships across divisions.
- Address the results of the Employee Engagement and Culture Survey, and the Safety Survey.

#### **Strategy 2:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Provide employees with modern, secure tools to effectively achieve strategic outcomes.

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

- Continue to implement improvements and make progress on delivering effective and efficient services and programs.

#### **Strategy 3:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Promote continuous skill building and development to enhance employee talent and support long-term success.

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

- Support professional development and skill building opportunities for employees.
- Identify and communicate internal career pathways, including opportunities to develop and grow within the ministry.

## **Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

### **The ministry workplace injury rate**

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

### **Percentage of ministry employees participating in the Corporate Mentorship Program.**

- Target: Increase mentorship participation by 10 per cent by March 31, 2027.

### **Number of ministry positions filled by internal candidates.**

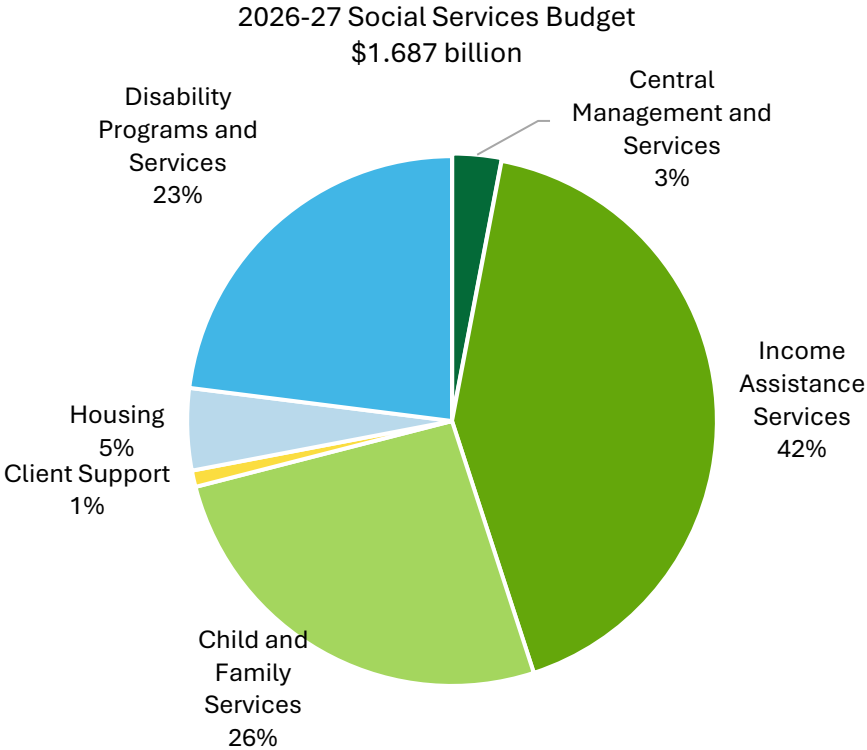
- Target: Increase number of positions filled by internal candidates by 10 per cent by March 31, 2027.

# 2026-27 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p>The Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disabilities (SAID) program provides long-term income support for people with significant and enduring disabilities, supports their participation in community life, and offers greater choice of services.</p> <p>Effective April 1, 2026, changes to the SAID program will make the program easier for clients to navigate and understand and support clients to receive their benefits in the quickest and simplest way possible. These improvements reflect feedback from SAID clients, community organizations, and other partners. The program’s structure is complex. This complexity made it difficult for clients to navigate eligibility, and limits ministry flexibility to adapt to individual circumstances as needed.</p> <p>To address this, the ministry is simplifying the SAID benefit framework. The changes will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Combine 30 highly specific benefits into five broader categories to provide more flexibility and timely responses to client needs;</li><li>• Replace some actual-cost benefits with flat rate benefits to reduce client reporting requirements and speed up access to benefits;</li><li>• Improve access to SAID by increasing the allowable amount of savings when applying by \$500, from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per household member; and,</li><li>• Modernize the program to eliminate benefits that are outdated, not currently being used by clients, or being provided in other programs.</li></ul> <p>SAID clients will continue to be eligible to receive actual utility costs, and the program will continue to support clients through changes in their life, such as having a child, securing employment or training, or unforeseen emergency situations.</p> <p>This initiative demonstrates the ministry’s ongoing commitment to listening to SAID clients and community partners and making improvements that better support people with disabilities across Saskatchewan.</p>
-----------------	--

# Financial Summary

<b>Ministry of Social Services 2026-27 Estimates (\$1.687 billion)</b>		<b>(in thousands of dollars)</b>
Central Management and Services		\$50,588
Income Assistance Services		\$ 717,625
Child and Family Services		\$ 434,432
Client Support		\$ 14,800
Housing		\$ 83,275
Disability Programs and Services		\$390,022
<b>Total Appropriation</b>		<b>\$1,690,742</b>
Capital Asset Acquisitions		\$(9,492)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment		\$5,542
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$1,686,792</b>



### Links to more information

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