Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

Effective September 1, 2026

The Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program will **expand and restructure the Living Income Benefit** and **modernize and simplify the overly complex program**. **The improvements will make things simpler for clients, reduce unnecessary paperwork, and provide benefits that are flexible and easy to access.**

About 40 per cent of SAID clients will receive higher monthly benefits, with an average increase of $46 per month. Families and people living in rural areas will see some of the largest increases, up to $294 more per month.

No current SAID clients will see a reduction in their benefits. In cases where the changes could otherwise result in a lower amount, the client's current benefit level will be maintained.

To support the unique needs of individuals with disabilities, SAID includes over 40 different income and asset exemptions to reflect the complex and diverse circumstances of clients. Included in these changes are two new income exemptions, so SAID clients can access additional resources to address home repairs without impacting their benefits.

About the SAID Program

SAID is a provincial income support program for people with significant and enduring disabilities. It offers individuals access to long-term income support, greater choice of services, and supports their participation in their community.

SAID focuses on supporting the daily living and disability-related needs of individuals, with additional benefits provided based on an individual's needs. SAID has a variety of benefits that will support clients through life changing circumstances, such as the Household Health and Safety Benefit, Short-Term Emergency Benefit, Employment and Training Benefit, or Children's Benefit.

Living Income Benefit

The Living Income benefit is a fixed amount of monthly income for shelter, food, basic transportation and other items, that gives SAID clients who live independently the opportunity to make decisions and have more control over how to spend their income. In addition to the Living Income Benefit, clients are eligible for actual utility costs and other benefits depending on their individual needs, such as special diets and exceptional needs transportation.

Expanded Living Income Benefit

- **Three standalone benefits (Laundry, Telephone, Disability Income) will be moved into the core Living Income Benefit, increasing flexibility for clients who live independently to spend their money on daily needs as they choose.**
  - Rolling these benefits into the Living Income benefit will increase the basic rates by $80 to $100 per month.
- **School Expenses and Special School Fees** benefits will be available as one lump sum payment for the last time in August for the 2026-27 school year. **After September 1, 2026, these benefits will be shifted into the monthly Living Income Benefit, giving families more flexibility to access funds throughout the school year.**
  - Families with 1-2 children will receive an increase of $15 per month, and families with 3 or more children receive $30 more per month.
- The separate **Monthly Meal Allowance**, a targeted benefit for clients without access to cooking facilities or who are unable to safely prepare meals, will be discontinued. **Clients will be transitioned to the Living Income Benefit, which will result in a higher monthly benefit amount.**

Restructured Living Income Benefit

- **The Living Income Benefit will be restructured by consolidating the number of family and community benefit tiers to better reflect client needs and reduce disparities between categories. This will result in higher monthly benefits for many families and people living in rural areas.**
- **Family composition will be consolidated from eight to six tiers.** Clients with 3-4 children will receive increases ranging from $63 to $82 per month once this category is merged with the current 5 or more children category.
- **Community of Residence will be reduced from four to two tiers.** Clients in Tiers C and D (Battleford, Fort Qu'Appelle, Humboldt, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Nipawin, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Swift Current, Watrous, other towns and rural communities) will receive additional increases of $23 to $175 from moving to Tier B.

Restructured SAID Living Income Benefit: Community Tiers and Family Composition Monthly Rates

Community of Residence	Single	Couple	Single Parent, 1-2 Children	Single Parent, 3+ Children	Two Parents, 1-2 Children	Two Parents, 3+ Children
Tier A – No change in communities *(Regina, Saskatoon, Lloydminster, Estevan, bedroom communities)*	$1,289	$1,757	$1,566	$1,721	$1,901	$2,056
Tier B – New consolidated tier *(rest of the province)*	$1,214	$1,646	$1, 419	$1, 574	$1,754	$1,909

Program Modernization and Simplification

The following changes will be made to modernize the program to align with common government practices to improve consistency and reduce complexity.

- **Northern Living Supplement** rates will increase to $70 per adult and $65 per child and will be updated to align with the Northern Saskatchewan Administrative District (NSAD) boundaries.
- **Excess Living Income Benefit** will be updated to a fully flat rated benefit of $150 per household. Benefits for current clients will be maintained.
- **Disability Income Benefit** for spouses requirements will be clarified to ensure this benefit is available to individuals who meet SAID eligibility criteria.
- **SAID clients have always been eligible to have actual utility costs covered.** To ensure consistency across the program, clients receiving flat rate payments will now receive payment for actual utility costs. The flat rate option was accessed by less than 3 per cent of SAID clients.

The following changes will simplify the program by removing niche benefits that are underutilized or provided in other ministries and programs.

- **Household Task Benefit** is underutilized (issued to less than 4 per cent of clients) and will be discontinued. Benefits for current clients will be maintained.
- **Children's Benefit for emergency shelter, room and board or room only arrangements** is underutilized (issued to less than 1 per cent of clients) and will be discontinued. Benefits for current clients will be maintained.
- **Post-Secondary Student support** will be clarified, with eligibility focused on Education and Training Incentive approved programs, while broader student financial assistance continues to be provided through the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Government of Canada. Benefits for current clients will be maintained.