Annual Report

2025-26

Ministry of Social Services

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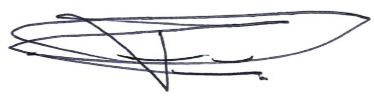
Letters of Transmittal

The Honourable
Terry Jenson
Minister of Social Services

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Ministry of Social Services for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.



Terry Jenson
Minister of Social Services

Blair Wagar
Deputy Minister of
Social Services

The Honourable Terry Jenson
Minister of Social Services

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Social Services for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

Blair Wagar
Deputy Minister of Social Services

Organization Overview

The annual report for the Ministry of Social Services presents the organizations results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. It provides results of publicly committed strategies, key actions and performance measures identified in the Ministry of Social Services Business Plan for 2025-26.

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.

Ministry of Social Services 2025-26 Business Plan

Progress on 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 and community partners, we work to make a positive difference in the lives of our clients every day.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Support families to safely care for their children.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Provide intensive support services to keep at-risk families together.
  - In February 2026, the ministry opened a new community respite program in Regina operated by Thomas Circle of Care. This program provides short-term respite in a safe, nurturing environment for children under age 12, helping families manage urgent challenges and maintain stability so children can remain safely with family where possible. The home also connects families to community resources, with ongoing outreach to promote success beyond immediate crisis.
  - The ministry expanded intensive family preservation programs to two new communities in Lloydminster and Buffalo Narrows and continued operations in Regina. These in-home support programs provide prevention and intervention services for families with children with complex and diverse needs, and 24/7 access to emergency intervention when crisis arises. Funding strengthens families by providing them with tools and strategies for successful parenting.
  - In 2025-26, 447 at-risk families received services through 16 Supported Family Living Programs operating throughout the province. These programs provide 24/7 services that support families to remain together or reunify, by ensuring a safe home environment. Services include parenting support and strategies, connections with mental health or addiction programming and access to cultural supports and ceremonies.
- Collaborate with Indigenous and community partners to provide prevention services that keep children safe and connected with their cultures, families and communities.
  - In 2025-26 the ministry invested more than $68.1 million in prevention programs to support families to safely care for their children at home. This was an increase of $5.8 million or 9.3 per cent from 2024-25.
  - Approximately 82 third-party service providers delivered family support across the province. Services include supportive family living programs, intensive in-home family support programs, outreach services, emergency after hours' services, teen parent support and counselling services.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Support children and youth in care to be successful.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Engage with youth in care to ensure their perspective on programs and services is integrated.
    - Three Youth Advisory Teams (YATs), located in Regina, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon continued to provide guidance on the design and delivery of programs and services that support youth transitioning from care. The YATs role as advisors on ministry services and supports continues to grow and develop.
    - For more information, see the Improvement and Innovation Highlights section.
- Improve supports for children and youth within community-based care.
    - In June 2025, the ministry partnered with Hope's Home in Saskatoon to open a five-space group home providing 24/7 care for children and youth in care who are medically fragile, require end-of-life care, or have developmental needs. The home supports children with complex medical needs to live near specialized medical services at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital.
    - In June 2025, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and the ministry launched "A Shared Planning and Communication Protocol" to strengthen partnership and collaboration in serving individuals with needs that involve both systems. The protocol improves communications with the SHA when case planning for children and youth.
- Provide enhanced services to youth who are transitioning out of care or have recently transitioned from care.
    - The ministry and other funding partners supported EGADZ to expand its Retreat Homes program through a $1.5 million investment. The expansion adds ten spaces including a new five-space group home and five additional spaces at another home to provide 24-hour care, cultural support, and a youth-centred recovery program for youth who require additional supports to promote stabilization and recovery. Contributions toward the construction of the two new group homes include a $350,000 investment from the ministry. Members of the YATs are directly contributing to the design and operations of the program.
    - In February 2026, the ministry developed a 12-suite semi-independent living home operated by the YWCA in Regina as recommended by the Regina YAT. The program provides 24-hour on-site support for youth who are in care and need transitional supports for housing, employment, education, life skills, mentorship, parenting and culture.
- Strengthen support for family-based care.
    - Family-based care produces improved outcomes for children and is the preferred care arrangement of the ministry.
    - The ministry increased the basic maintenance rates by three per cent for all family care providers.
    - The ministry continued to implement the three-year action plan launched in 2024-25 to strengthen the Person of Sufficient Interest (PSI) program. The program supports placing children and youth with extended family or others with a community or cultural connection to the child to promote safe, stable, and permanent care. In 2025-26, work included updated guidance and information for caregivers, families, and youth, along with enhanced training and supports for staff and partners.

  - The ministry, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association, continued to deliver Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) Levels of Pay in 2025-26. An additional 17 caregivers from 10 families were trained and approved for a higher level of PRIDE training, bringing the total to 78 families approved at higher PRIDE levels since 2022.
  - Developing a larger pool of foster parents with specialized training in areas such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, trauma and complex care means that more children in care of the ministry may be cared for in family settings rather than in group homes.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Support the participation and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in their community using a person-centered approach.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Increase client access to community-based day programs.
  - Disability Programs (DP) continues to explore opportunities to promote greater community participation and removing barriers so individuals with intellectual disabilities can make significant contributions and live meaningful lives within their communities as they choose. The ministry has continued investments in transportation funding to enable third-party service providers to provide clients with opportunities to access and participate in their communities.
  - Community-based day programs increased by 148 spaces in 2025-26 compared to the previous year. As of December 2025, 65 percent of day program participants attended a community-based program.
- Work with CBOs to improve quality of life for people with disabilities.
  - In 2022-23, the ministry partnered with third-party service providers on an Outcomes-Based Service Delivery (OBSD) pilot project to identify and validate an approach to supporting clients with intellectual disabilities to achieve their person-centred outcomes. To support broader implementation, the ministry continues to onboard the remaining third-party service providers not involved with the initial phase of the pilot, ensuring they are fully oriented to the OBSD framework.
  - In the upcoming fiscal year, the ministry will continue to meet with third-party service providers who participated in the pilot, through the Community of Practice and provide support to service providers to integrate OBSD into their person-centred plans.
  - Additionally, the ministry will continue to onboard the remaining 20 third-party service providers not involved with the initial phase of the pilot, ensuring they are fully oriented to the OBSD framework.
  - The DP Quality Assurance Unit was established in 2025 and provides additional oversight to ensure quality care in licensed group homes. The unit works with third-party service providers to strengthen relationships, improve serious incident tracking, monitor the quality of support in homes, and connect service providers to training as needed. The work is designed to improve client outcomes and positively impact other priority work of the ministry in the areas of OBSD, Risk Assessment, Performance Management, Basic Standards, and Case Management.

- The Quality assurance unit continues to conduct in-person Program Standards Reports in each licensed group home in the northern service area. As of March 2026, the unit has completed reports for 32 of the 57 homes in this service area. In addition, the Quality Assurance unit has provided serious incident training to third-party service providers across the province to improve outcomes and tracking.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Address accessibility barriers for individuals living with disabilities.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Establish a cross-government committee to oversee implementation of the Government of Saskatchewan's Accessibility Plan 2024-27.
  - The Accessibility Plan Implementation Committee was established in September 2025 and has met twice to provide updates on the implementation of the Government of Saskatchewan Accessibility Plan 2024-27. The committee is comprised of senior leaders from across all government ministries and includes identified leads responsible for the implementation of different actions within the accessibility plan.
- Develop a guide to help public sector organizations make events more accessible.
  - The Saskatchewan Accessibility Office has completed the development of a *Guide to Hosting Accessible Virtual Events* for use by government and public sector bodies under the Act. The guide will be distributed to public sector bodies in early spring 2026, followed by a full public launch at the end of spring.
- Provide support to public sector organizations that are required to develop accessibility plans under *The Accessible Saskatchewan Regulations*.
  - The Saskatchewan Accessibility Office (SAO) provided support to public sector bodies throughout the development of their accessibility plans that were required by December 3, 2025. Support included sharing resources including the Guide to Developing an Accessibility Plan, sample survey questions, and providing advice on actions to identify and remove accessibility barriers. The SAO is pleased to report that all 102 public sector bodies have publicly posted their accessibility plan.
- Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) will develop an Accessibility Plan as required by *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*, by December 2025.
  - SHC released its Accessibility Plan for 2025-2028 on November 25th, 2025. The Accessibility Plan outlines three overarching goals and ten actions that SHC will implement to remove accessibility barriers and improve the accessibility of its programs and services in the next three years.
  - The 2025-2028 SHC Accessibility Plan can be accessed online at: publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/127496.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Improve affordability for Saskatchewan individuals and families.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Increase SAID earned income exemptions.

    - In 2025-26, the SAID earned income exemption increased by $1,000 per year to $7,500 for singles, $8,700 for couples without children and $9,500 for families. This change benefitted approximately 500 SAID households and enabled SAID clients to earn more before their benefits are impacted.
- Introduce a new exemption to SAID and SIS for the Canada Disability Benefit once the program is approved.
    - In 2025-26, the ministry exempted the Canada Disability Benefit from its core income assistance programs. Since July 2025, eligible clients with disabilities can receive up to $200 per adult per month in additional federal income without impacting their income assistance benefits.
- Increase SIS adult basic and shelter benefits and SAID living income benefits by approximately two per cent.
    - In 2025-26, SIS benefits increased for the fourth year in a row. The monthly Adult Basic Benefit and the Shelter Benefit increased by approximately two per cent, for a combined total increase of up to $40 per month.
    - In 2025-26, SAID benefits increased for the third year in a row. SAID living income benefits increased by approximately two per cent, representing an increase of up to $40 per household per month.
- Provide a funding grant to support food banks across the province.
    - In 2025-26, to fulfill government's $2 million commitment over two years to help Saskatchewan families and food banks, the ministry provided $1 million to Food Banks in Saskatchewan.
- Improve housing affordability for households receiving the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit.
    - The Saskatchewan Housing Benefit (SHB) is a monthly benefit that helps eligible Saskatchewan renters with their shelter costs (rent and utilities). Two additional SHB streams offer targeted financial support to people in vulnerable living situations:
        - The Supportive Housing Stream is available to renters who receive support services that help them maintain stable housing.
        - The Seeking Safety from Interpersonal Violence (Seeking Safety) Stream helps individuals fleeing interpersonal violence cover rent and utility costs.
    - The SHB is co-funded by the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada under the National Housing Strategy.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Partner with individuals in need to provide them with financial support, work with them on individualized plans and connect them with appropriate housing.

Key Actions: *What we did 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.
    - In 2025–26, over 1,200 families received the Saskatchewan Employment Incentive (SEI), helping ensure parents with children were financially better off working than receiving income assistance. Families receiving SEI have access to Supplementary Health Benefits through the Ministry of Health, access to discounted bus passes (where available), connections to employment supports

through the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training (ICT), and access to the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit through the SHC.
    - In 2025-26, the ministry continued to offer the Education and Training Incentive (ETI) through SAID and SIS to provide financial support for individuals who attended an approved education or training program. In 2025-26, more than 1,300 households accessed ETI.
    - In 2025-26, the ministry continued to offer earned income exemptions in SIS and SAID, so people who receive income from a job can earn a specified amount without their benefits being impacted. In 2025-26, almost 2,000 households accessed earned income exemptions each quarter.
    - In 2025-26, the ministry and ICT collaborated to improve and streamline programming available to Income Assistance clients, including strengthening referrals of SIS clients with employment capacity to Career Services at ICT. As a result of these improvements, there was a 60 per cent increase in the number of SIS clients that engaged with Career Services, reflecting stronger accountability and clearer client expectations.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Support individuals experiencing homelessness to meet their needs while they move toward stable housing.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Improve access to services and connections to support individuals experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness.
    - The ministry partners with service providers, municipal and federal counterparts, and Indigenous and community organizations across the province to help people in need transition to stable housing, remain successfully housed, and achieve a better quality of life.
    - Homelessness services supported by the ministry include outreach services, drop-in centres, warming centres, emergency shelters and supportive housing.
    - In November 2025, the province announced it is building on the Provincial Approach to Homelessness (PATH) and is investing up to an additional $20 million over three years to:
        - Expand homelessness services by providing predictable multi-year funding to municipalities to support community-led priorities and strategies;
        - Create up to 40 new emergency shelter spaces at existing shelters based on demonstrated need;
        - Create up to 60 new supportive housing spaces and add more trusteeship services to support individuals to transition to supportive housing;
    - Additionally, in 2025-26:
        - 38 new emergency shelter spaces have opened, bringing the total number of spaces that receive block funding from the ministry to 466;
        - In Regina, the Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services' New Beginnings enhanced emergency shelter opened in the Heritage neighbourhood in July 2025. The New beginnings shelter replaces a previous shelter location also providing 55 spaces, with operational funding provided

    - through SHC. SHC also provided a forgivable loan to the City of Regina to purchase and renovate the property;
    - The ministry provided funding for outreach services in Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert and Lloydminster;
    - In Saskatoon, $456K was provided for a daytime drop-in centre at Station 20 West, co-funded by the Government of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon and operated by Saskatoon Tribal Council.
    - In Saskatoon, $335K was provided for an overnight drop-in centre at White Buffalo Lodge for youth 16 and older in partnership with Saskatoon Tribal Council.
    - A one-time grant to STC's Sawêyihtotân Street Outreach team and Central Urban Métis Federation to support the City of Saskatoon's Outdoor Navigation Hub. This provided coordinated services such as washrooms and showers, as well as stabilization and support services.
    - SHC provided funding through new PATH investments to support community-led responses to winter warming and expand services in communities. SHC provided funding to Saskatoon Tribal Council and The Salvation Army for the operation of two seasonal warming spaces in Saskatoon, and to the municipalities of Regina, Prince Albert, and Lloydminster for winter warming services.
  - In 2025-26, the ministry increased the number of contracted CBO trusteeship spaces by 150, bringing the total available to over 1,300 across the province. Trusteeship and money management support play a critical role in the Government's focus to reduce homelessness, by better supporting individuals experiencing complex challenges including addictions and mental health that impact their ability to manage their benefits effectively.
  - The ministry continued to enhance the Income Assistance Mobile Outreach services to better serve clients with complex needs where they are within communities in collaboration with CBOs
    - In 2025-26, clients with complex needs benefited from improved access as Mobile Outreach expanded to 8 communities, with mobile outreach workers available at over 40 service locations across the province.
    - Feedback from community stakeholders and staff have indicated the positive impacts Mobile Outreach has had on supporting Saskatchewan residents with limited access to services, while creating connections to Income Assistance and other community referrals.
- Partner with CBOs to help build more affordable housing units to assist individuals to be safely housed.
  - Through the Rental Development Program, SHC provides one-time capital funding to housing providers to develop new affordable rental units for households with low incomes.
  - In 2025, SHC prioritized eight new affordable projects which will result in 88 new third party affordable rental units across the province. These projects are located in La Loche, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon.

Performance Measure Results:

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

- Target: In 2025-26, 60 per cent of children receiving ongoing child protection services are safe with services at home.
    - On March 31, 2026, 60.5 per cent of children receiving ongoing child protection services were safe with services at home.

Percentage of children in out-of-home care placed in family-based care

- Target: By the end of 2025-26, 75 per cent of children in out-of-home care are placed in family-based care.
    - On March 31, 2026, 72.3 per cent of children in out-of-home care were placed in family-based care.

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

- Target: By the end of 2025-26, 60 per cent of children in out-of-home care are placed with extended family.
    - On March 31, 2026, 55.4 per cent of children in out-of-home care were placed with extended family.

Three-year foster family retention rate

- Target: In 2025-26 the ministry will have an 80 per cent three-year retention rate for foster homes recruited in 2022-23.
    - In 2025-26, the ministry had an overall three-year retention rate of 88.2 per cent (30 out of 34 foster homes recruited in 2022-23 were still operating three years later).

Approval of new foster families created by recruitment

- Target: In 2025-26, 50 new foster families are recruited and approved.
    - In 2025-26, 45 new foster families were recruited and approved.

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

- Target: By March 31, 2026, 70 per cent of CLSD clients with intellectual disabilities will participate in community-based day programming activities.
    - 65 percent of CLSD clients within intellectual disabilities participated in community-based day programming activities as of March 31, 2026.

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation will develop an Accessibility Plan as required by The Accessible Saskatchewan Act

- Target: December 31, 2025.
    - SHC released its Accessibility Plan for 2025-2028 on November 25, 2025.

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

- Target: In 2025-26, there will be a five per cent increase in the number of SIS clients who access earned income exemptions.
    - In 2025-26, an average of 903 unique SIS households accessed earned income exemptions each quarter, this maintained the same number of clients accessing earned income exemptions year-over-year.

Proportion of clients who leave SIS

- Target: In 2025-26, 25 per cent of SIS clients will no longer require SIS benefits.
    - Of all households who received SIS benefits in 2024-25, 27 per cent did not require SIS benefits in 2025-26.

Number of clients receiving Saskatchewan Employment Incentive

- Baseline to be developed.
    - In 2025-26, over 1,200 families received SEI.

SIS client recidivism

- Baseline to be developed.
    - 73 per cent of SIS clients who exited the SIS program in 2024-25 did not return to SIS within 12 months.

Tenure for the SIS Clients with employment capacity

- Baseline to be developed.
    - Among SIS clients with employment capacity who began receiving SIS Benefits in 2024-25, 37 per cent were still receiving SIS benefits after one year.

Number of households living in Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-owned housing units

- Target: In 2025-26, 350 additional households will be housed in Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-owned housing units.
    - At the end of 2025-26 there were 14,937 households living in SHC-owned units. This is a net change of 72 fewer households compared to 2024-25, largely due to the time of reporting and does not represent the total number of households in 2025-26 who moved into SHC-owned housing units. In 2025-26, there were 2,950 tenant move ins, and 3,022 tenant move outs from SHC-owned units.

Number of Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-owned housing units repaired

- Target: In 2025-26, 1,600 Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-owned housing units will be repaired with provincial capital investments.
    - In 2025-26, SHC completed repairs of 2,708 units located in 74 communities. An additional 501 units are currently under repair. The target was exceeded in part as many repairs were completed for building-wide components where all units within were counted.
- Target: In 2025-26, start multi-year repair and renovation projects for 285 Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-owned units in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert.
    - SHC started the first phase of major repairs and renovations for 44 units at Westview Place in Saskatoon to better serve large families and began major building component replacement for 87 units at Bryant Place in Prince Albert. Initial work began at Prairie Place in Regina but uncovered that more remediation and building work is required than anticipated. As a result, further planning and preparation work for this building will occur in 2026-27 to re-scope and review the project before it moves forward.

Number of households receiving the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit (SHB)

- Target: In 2025-26, 4,500 households will have improved affordability by accessing the SHB.

- In 2025-26, SHC exceeded the annual target with 5,007 households receiving the SHB, an increase of 732 over last year. Program enhancements, including increased benefit amounts, are set to be implemented in July 2026.

Investments in new affordable housing units through the Rental Development Program

- Target: In 2025-26, commit $5 million in provincial capital investments to community-based organizations to develop new affordable housing units.
  - In 2025, SHC prioritized eight new affordable projects which will result in 88 new third party affordable rental units across the province. These projects are located in La Loche, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon.

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy | Strong Communities | Strong Families

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

Many of Social Services' clients are Indigenous. We believe clients should see themselves in the employees' delivering services, and that employees understand clients' cultural and historical experiences. The ministry also funds Indigenous partners and 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 took to achieve our goal*
Embed Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and cultural practices within the ministry.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Actively recruit and retain Indigenous employees.
  - Child and Family programs (CFP) continues to utilize a preferred hiring strategy to recruit and retain Indigenous employees.
  - CFP continues to work on various measures to increase recruitment and retention, including enhanced advertising, relationships with post-secondary institutions, additional supports for practicum students, and reviewed and enhanced hiring policies and practices.
- Continue to provide employees with Indigenous awareness training and opportunities to experience Indigenous cultures.
  - The ministry continues to provide mandatory Indigenous awareness training to all new employees within the first six months of employment to enhance knowledge and promote cultural understanding. Indigenous awareness training is a four-part online course delivered by the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute and helps learners takes steps to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.
  - Indigenous-focused training opportunities including Structured Decision Making, CORE training, and newly updated practice and relationship-based courses were introduced in 2025 and support workforce competency and awareness. Uptake of ministry training has increased significantly in CFP, with course registrations rising from 172 in 2024 to 420 in 2025, demonstrating improved engagement and progress toward strengthening Indigenous capacity and outcomes.
  - In 2025, CFP updated provincial training to reflect policy changes, including new annual case plans for long-term and permanent wards that strengthen cultural planning for Indigenous children. Updated case planning approaches also reinforce the involvement of Indigenous representatives, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to help preserve children's cultural connections and support planning in their best interests.
  - IA staff participated in Blanket Exercise sessions, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to building cultural awareness, deepening understanding of the impacts of colonization, and enhancing culturally responsive service delivery.

- Provide client and employee access to Elders and Knowledge Keepers in service delivery centres.
    - CFP offices across the province continues to work with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge keepers to support and guide staff in cultural awareness, customs and traditions to better serve Indigenous clients.
    - In 2025–26, IA expanded access to Elders in service delivery centres by introducing an Elder in the Regina office, building on the existing presence in Saskatoon, to strengthen culturally responsive supports and enhance outcomes for staff and Indigenous clients.
- Continue to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.
    - In July 2025, the ministry created three Cultural Liaison positions to support cultural case planning for children in care. These positions also provide Indigenous cultural training and resources to employees and support the development of culturally appropriate approaches to planning for Indigenous children and youth.
    - In January 2026, CFP launched a multi-year Best Interests of the Family (BIOF) project that will involve the integrations of Indigenous perspectives and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's principles into existing policies and practices. The project is intended to strengthen support for family reunification, reduce overrepresentation of Indigenous children in care, and advance solutions that honour Indigenous knowledge and self-determination.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Partner with Indigenous organizations and communities to support culturally appropriate and community-driven services.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Collaborate with Indigenous partners on implementation of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.
    - Work to strengthen the child welfare system is continuing with First Nations and Métis partners, so Indigenous children and families are supported by their communities, within their own customs and traditions.
    - There have been 14 notices in 2025-26 pursuant to Section 12 of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth, and families*, from Nations within Saskatchewan. A total of 30 are in effect as of March 31, 2026. Once served with Section 12 notice, the ministry provides notifications of significant measures for children and families that are registered or eligible for registration with the Nation that had provided Section 12 notice.
    - The ministry works collaboratively at coordination tables to advance shared planning, information exchange, and alignment on service delivery, supporting the transition to Indigenous jurisdiction and culturally appropriate services for children and families. The ministry is currently in active coordination agreement discussions with:
        - Red Pheasant Cree Nation and Muskeg Lake Cree Nation.
        - Okanese First Nation Coordination Agreement table with the ministry and Indigenous Services Canada is not currently active.

    - The ministry continues to collaborate with Cowessess First Nation on transitional planning following the sign-off of their Coordination Agreement in June 2021.
- Increase partnerships and collaboration opportunities with Indigenous communities and organizations to develop programs and services available across Saskatchewan.
    - CFP continues to support 19 delegated First Nations Child and Family Agencies to provide child and family services on reserve to 62 First Nations and to three remote off reserve communities. The ministry also provided services directly to eight First Nations.
    - Through Protocol Agreements, CFP provides oversight and support to First Nations-led group homes in 10 First Nations communities. The ministry signed five new agreements with First Nations partners in 2025-26, bringing the total number of Protocol Homes to 20.
    - CFP currently has 107 contracts with Indigenous organizations who provide a range of services like supportive family living, youth mentorship, outreach, elder services, and group homes.

Performance Measure Results:

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, 2026.
    - As of March 31, 2026, 11.4 per cent of ministry employees self-identify as indigenous.

Number of ministry employees who complete Indigenous awareness training

- Target: All ministry employees complete introductory Indigenous awareness training within their first six months of onboarding.
    - Offering Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous cultural training to staff is essential for advancing reconciliation efforts. In 2025-26, 456 ministry employees, including 239 new employees, received online Indigenous cultural awareness training.

Progress on 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: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Foster safety, culture, wellness, and employee growth through Building Organizational Community (BOC).

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Enhance diversity, equity and inclusion within the ministry in alignment with the Government of Saskatchewan's (GOS) Inclusion Toolkit.
  - The Intercultural Resource and Support Team (IRST) continues to focus on promoting diversity and inclusion within the ministry.
  - The ministry continues to advance Team of Indigenous Employees Saskatchewan (TIES) collaboration to improve Indigenous knowledge integration in hiring processes.
  - In August 2025, the ministry launched the *Together We Care Calendar* to highlight diverse celebrations and encourage awareness and inclusive conversations across the ministry.
- Promote awareness of mental health's importance and improve psychological safety in the workplace.
  - Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) and Psychological Safety presentations continue to be delivered across the ministry, increasing awareness and uptake of mental health supports.
- Support employee recruitment, retention and job satisfaction.
  - Efforts to strengthen recruitment and retention were also supported through the introduction of a Co-op Student Coordinator role, which focused on building a structured approach to student recruitment and retention. This initiative included developing a work plan with strategic goals and implementing a phased approach, beginning with establishing a baseline and moving toward more targeted recruitment strategies over time.
  - Collaboration with partners further enhanced recruitment practices. For example, engagement with TIES helped improve Indigenous knowledge questions in interview processes, contributing to more inclusive and effective hiring approaches. This supported not only recruitment outcomes, but also broader organizational goals related to diversity and inclusion.
  - CFP continued work in 2025-26 on a recruitment and retention initiative for casework staff. Key areas of focus included improved onboarding and orientation, stronger connections with post-secondary institutions, exploration

    of flexible work options, and efforts to promote workplace culture and reduce administrative burden for front-line staff.
- Support middle managers in building and maintaining relationships across divisions.
    - Support for middle managers in building and maintaining relationships across divisions was achieved through a combination of structured development programming, networking opportunities, and practical collaboration tools. A key component continues to be the Middle Manager Excellence initiative, which provides a continuous learning cycle consisting of five ideal roles fact sheets, executive director interactive learning sessions, and peer network sessions. Delivered in an ongoing rotation, this structure ensures that managers have regular opportunities to engage with shared content and participate in collective learning experiences, helping to build connections across divisions.
- Address the results of the Employee Engagement and Culture Survey, and the Safety Survey.
    - In 2025-26, the Employee Engagement and Culture Survey was conducted in the ministry. The results highlight the strengths across the ministry, including positive working relationships, strong alignment between employee skills and their roles, and meaningfulness in their work. These are important foundations and speak to the dedication employees bring to serving communities across the province. The survey also points to opportunities for improvement, particularly around well-being, communication, interaction with senior leaders, and how information flows across the ministry. In response, Senior leaders will be meeting regularly to review the results and explore ministry-wide actions. The BOC Committees will use the survey results to guide its work for the year ahead, continuing its role in supporting a strong and connected workplace culture.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Provide employees with modern, secure tools to effectively achieve strategic outcomes.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*
- Continue to implement improvements and make progress on delivering effective and efficient services and programs.
    - Integrated Ministry solutions with GEM as part of the Enterprise Business Modernization Project (EBMP Project) and improved the Linkin financial system to enhance financial reporting.

Strategy 3: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Foster ongoing growth and development of ministry staff, enhancing skills, and capacity for long-term success.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*
- Establish standard, ministry-wide orientation.
    - The standard, ministry wide orientation was developed in 2025-26 and will be launching in early spring 2026. Centralized orientation will ensure that new employees are provided with consistent information regardless of role, responsibility or location.

- In Fall 2025, Child Family Programs started piloting a new onboarding and orientation process for new hires. This initiative provides enhanced training and support to staff and is expected to improve recruitment and retention.

Performance Measure Results:

The ministry workplace injury rate

- Target: Reduce the workplace injury rate and continue to progress toward Mission Zero.
  - Based on the number of Workers Compensation Board approved claims the total injury rate in 2025 (January to December) was 1.89 per cent, which is higher than the 2024 rate.

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Injury Rate	1.64%	1.22%	1.07%	1.61%	1.89%

Psychological safety score

- Target: Improve the ministry's psychological safety score by March 31, 2027.
  - The Ministry continues to focus on the physical and psychological safety of employee's. In the most recent Safety Survey conducted in 2024, the Physical Safety score was 3.31 and the Psychological Safety score was 3.38, an increase of 3.1 and 4.6 per cent respectively from 2023. The next Safety Survey will be conducted in 2026.

2025-26 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

1	**Youth Advisory Team Recommendation for Semi-Independent Living Home for Youth** The Youth Advisory Teams (YATs) are part of the Ministry of Social Services' multi-year youth engagement initiative to provide connections to services directly supporting youth as they transition from care and build independence. Teams are located in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina and are supported directly by the ministry in partnership with PA Outreach, EGADZ and John Howard respectively. YATs are comprised of youth between the ages of 15 and 21 who have lived experience of receiving services under The Child and Family Services Act. Key program outcomes include: • Youth identify their needs that would enable their successful transition out of care and into adulthood. • Youth are safe and stable, allowing them to effectively engage and develop their transition plans. • Youth will develop healthy relationships and will be involved in recreation, sports, culture, and community events. • Youth will be supported in developing their leadership skills. • Based on information and guidance provided by the youth teams, the ministry will work to realign their services and supports to meet the needs of youth provincially. In 2025-26, the Ministry used YATs to improve programs and services in the following areas: • Redesigning the annual review of case plans for long term and permanent wards in care of the ministry, including renaming the written case plan "My Journey." • Updating the Saskatchewan Youth in Care Handbook: Rights and Responsibilities and related policy to ensure youth receive this information while in care. • Implementing a new youth-focused training module for case workers including youth digital stories that share their lived experience being in care. • Jointly interviewing, evaluating, selecting and codesigning the development of a new 12-space supportive semi-independent living program for youth transitioning out of care. The Government of Saskatchewan committed an initial investment of $420,000 for 2025-26 with $865,000 in annualized funding to support the ongoing operation of the program. This initiative addresses the need for transitional housing which was identified by the Regina YAT as "the most prevalent need for youth of Regina". This service will also provide youth aged 16 to 19 with access to on-site mentorship, where they can attain life skills and be supported to pursue employment and education opportunities. This will support young people overcoming common barriers to independence, including limited rental history and challenges associated with transitioning from care. The supportive environment helps youth strengthen community connections and develop a foundation for long-term wellbeing.

	• Collaborated with Prince Albert Outreach to open a new mental health group home In June 2025. The ministry is providing $800,000 in annual funding for Peggy's Compass Home to support youth ages 12-18 who are experiencing mental health and addictions challenges. • On February 10, 2026, the YWCA of Regina held a grand opening in collaboration with the Regina YAT. The program will provide 24-hour on-site support for youth who are in care and need transitional supports for housing, employment, education, life skills, mentorship, parenting and culture.

Financial Summary

Social Services' actual expenditures for 2025-26 were $1.683 billion, which is $65.5 million greater than the ministry's 2025-26 budget. The increased expenditures were primarily due to higher than budgeted costs to deliver Child and Family Services, Income Assistance and Disability programs.

Social Services collects revenues related to fees from the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, transfers from the federal government, and receipts from clients who have been overpaid public assistance benefits in prior years.

In 2025-26, the ministry recorded revenue of $57 million as compared to the budget of $51.5 million. The difference in actual revenue compared to budget is primarily due to higher than budgeted transfer payments from the federal government and repayments from clients.

Expense Summary

The following table outlines actual budget and expenditures by subvote and subprogram and provides explanations for significant variances.

Ministry of Social Services
Expense Actuals

Subvote/Allocation	2024-25 Actuals ($000s)	2025-26 Budget ($000s)	2025-26 Actuals ($000s)	2025-26 Variance ($000s)	Notes
Central Management and Services (SS01)					
Minister's Salary	56	57	60	3	
Executive Management	2,156	2,089	2,333	244	
Central Services	44,504	42,238	45,412	3,174	
Accommodation Services	16,559	17,412	17,534	122	
Subvote Total	**63,275**	**61,796**	**65,339**	**3,543**	**1**
Income Assistance Services (SS03)					
Saskatchewan Income Support	271,253	263,792	287,671	23,879	2
Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability	304,350	314,500	309,393	(5,107)	3
Saskatchewan Employment Incentive	2,576	17,000	2,834	(14,166)	3
Saskatchewan Employment Supplement	779	10	(7)	(17)	
Child Care Parent Subsidies	270	10	-	(10)	
Rental Housing Supplements	11,551	11,521	9,514	(2,007)	3
Seniors Income Plan	39,618	37,171	39,096	1,925	2
Seniors Personal Care Home Benefit	3,790	14,216	16,092	1,876	2
Income Assistance Community Services	4,986	5,978	5,182	(796)	3
Income Assistance Program Delivery	32,909	31,196	34,952	3,756	1
Subvote Total	**672,082**	**695,394**	**704,727**	**9,333**	
Child and Family Services (SS04)					

Child and Family Program Maintenance & Support	183,272	153,837	190,489	36,652	2
Child and Family Community-Based Organization Services	180,002	189,308	191,596	2,288	4
Child and Family Program Delivery	66,388	65,270	70,569	5,299	1
Subvote Total	**429,662**	**408,415**	**452,654**	**44,239**	
Client Support (SS05)					
Service Centre Client Support	15,154	14,475	16,186	1,711	
Subvote Total	**15,154**	**14,475**	**16,186**	**1,711**	**1**
Housing (SS12)					
Program Delivery	7,899	8,338	8,914	576	
Saskatchewan Housing Corporation	48,801	65,409	58,030	(7,379)	5
Subvote Total	**56,700**	**73,747**	**66,944**	**(6,803)**	
Disability Programs and Services (SS14)					
Disability Services	323,488	339,537	352,587	13,050	6
Disability Program Delivery	23,802	24,272	24,727	455	1
Subvote Total	347,290	363,809	377,314	13,505	
Total Appropriation	**1,584,163**	**1,617,636**	**1,683,163**	**65,527**	
Less: Capital Asset Acquisitions	(5,271)	(8,107)	(6,719)	1,388	7
Add: Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	5,372	5,409	4,110	(1,299)	
Total Expense	**1,584,264**	**1,614,938**	**1,680,555**	**65,617**	

Notes:

1. Higher than budgeted salaries and operating costs.
2. Higher than budgeted program utilization.
3. Lower than budgeted program utilization.
4. Higher than budgeted costs related to new contracts.
5. Under expenditure attributed to lower than anticipated cash requirements for capital projects.
6. Higher than budgeted program utilization, partially offset by capital project timing.
7. Under expenditure due to capital project timing.

Special Warrants

During 2025-26, the ministry received $75.0 million via Special Warrant funding to address pressures largely driven by higher-than-budgeted expenditures to provide critical services for vulnerable children and youth.

Revenue Summary

A summary of the ministry's 2025-26 budgeted revenue compared to actual revenue is presented below with explanations for significant variances.

Ministry of Social Services
Revenue

Revenue by Source	2024-25 Actuals ($000s)	2025-26 Budget ($000s)	2025-26 Actuals ($000s)	2025-26 Variance ($000s)	Notes
Sales, Services and Service Fees					
Management and Collection Services	4,368	4,204	4,204	-	
Freedom of Information	1	-	7	7	
Miscellaneous Deductions - Staff Salaries	-	66	-	(66)	
Other Miscellaneous Services	-	2	-	(2)	
Subtotal	**4,369**	**4,272**	**4,211**	**(61)**	
Transfers from the Federal Government					
Special Allowance for Children in Care	36,519	35,500	37,504	2,004	1
Indigenous Services Canada	7,509	7,016	5,660	(1,356)	2
Subtotal	**44,028**	**42,516**	**43,164**	**648**	
Other Revenue					
Maintenance Order Revenues	33	625	27	(598)	3
Casual Revenue	115	45	36	(9)	
Repayment - Public Assistance, Pensions and Allowance Programs	4,205	3,500	3,400	(100)	
Refunds of Previous Years' Expenses	924	500	393	(107)	
Changes in Previous Years' Estimate	1,850	-	5,723	5,723	4
Salary Overpayment Refunds - Previous Years' Expense	39	-	42	42	
Collection Agency Fees Withheld	(53)	-	(26)	(26)	
Subtotal	**7,113**	**4,670**	**9,595**	**4,926**	
Total Revenue	**55,510**	**51,458**	**56,970**	**5,513**	

Notes:

1. Variance due to higher than budgeted federal transfers for children in care.
2. Reduction of Indigenous Services Canada receivable and reversal of Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency wildfire reimbursement accruals.
3. Variance due to lower than budgeted maintenance order revenue.
4. Variance due to overstated prior year accruals.

Additional financial information can be found in the Government of Saskatchewan Public Accounts located at https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/893