

Ministry of Social Services



Plan for 2017-18

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable
Tina Beaudry-Mellor*

Minister of Social Services

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Social Services' Plan for 2017-18.

Government Direction and Budget for 2017-18 is focused on *Meeting the Challenge*, finding the right balance between addressing the deficit and ensuring that Saskatchewan people continue to have the programs, services, and infrastructure that they need. Government will deliver sustainable, high quality public services in the most cost-effective way possible.

Social Services works with a diverse range of partners to build safe, dynamic community resources that promote inclusion and enhance the quality of life for our province's most vulnerable residents.

This is a challenging time for the Ministry, but with challenge also comes the opportunity to review where we can improve services and find efficiencies. As caseloads continue to increase in some areas, we are continuing to focus on improving client outcomes in our core services that serve the Province's most vulnerable individuals and families.

In 2017-18, we will continue our work on income assistance redesign – reviewing the complicated and challenging system that was developed over 50 years ago and finding ways to strengthen and simplify it, making it easier for clients to navigate and access supports for their basic needs.

We will continue our commitment to the renewal of the child welfare system with our First Nations and Métis partners, including a focus on enhancing our prevention supports so more children can remain safely with their families.

Our plan for 2017-18 includes many more initiatives that will contribute to serving Saskatchewan's most vulnerable citizens.

The Ministry will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2017-18 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Meeting the Challenge* of the current fiscal situation. In so doing, Government will continue to support and encourage economic growth, and ensure government services are affordable and sustainable in the long term. This will include pursuing transformational change so that Saskatchewan people have the programs, services and infrastructure they need now and in the future.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's 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."

Sustaining growth
and opportunities for
Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges
of growth

Securing a better quality
of life for all
Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive
and responsible
government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2017-18 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

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

Mission Statement

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

Government Goals



Ministry Goal

Programs and services set the foundation to meet our clients' basic needs

Strategy

Children in out-of-home care are safe, have stability, and make successful life transitions

Key Actions

- ⇒ Continue the work on child welfare legislation to ensure regulations support contemporary social values and enable best practices in services and supports for children, caregivers, and families, and seek approval of amendments through the legislative process
- ⇒ Strengthen family- and community-based supports for children and youth in care

Performance Measure

Proportion of children in out-of-home care placed with extended family members or persons of sufficient interest

Fifty per cent of children in out-of-home care are in these types of placements by March 31, 2021

Strategy

People experiencing disabilities have improved quality of life and are included in their communities

Key Actions

- ⇒ Continue to transition people living at Valley View Centre to homes in the community
- ⇒ Implement recommendations from the provincial Disability Strategy

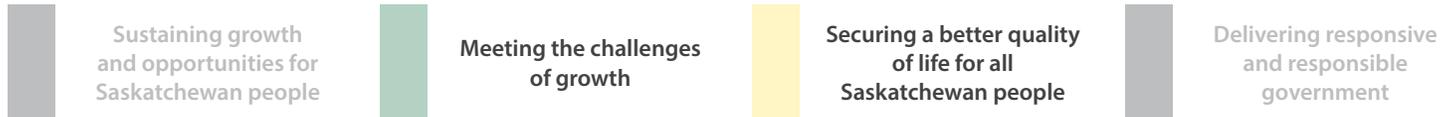
Performance Measure

Valley View Centre Residents

There are no residents remaining at Valley View Centre by March 31, 2018



Government Goals



Ministry Goal

Citizens gain independence through self-reliance and prevention

Strategy

People experiencing low income have improved quality of life through strengthened programs and services

Key Action

⇒ Continue to implement the Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Strategy

Performance Measure

Number of Saskatchewan people who experience poverty

By March 31, 2025, the number of Saskatchewan people who experience poverty for two years or more will be reduced by 50 per cent

Strategy

Families are supported to safely care for their children

Key Action

⇒ Expand the types of interventions available to respond to reports of child neglect and abuse

Performance Measure

Number of children entering out-of-home care due to neglect

By March 31, 2021, 10 per cent fewer children enter out-of-home care due to neglect

Strategy

Quality preventative community-based supports are available for vulnerable individuals and families

Key Action

⇒ Continue to work with the Community-Based Organization (CBO) sector on the multi-year implementation of the CBO Sustainability Plan



Strategy

Affordable housing is available and accessible for Saskatchewan citizens with priority to individuals and families in greatest need

Key Actions

- ⇒ Continue to work with northern communities and stakeholders to increase housing opportunities for individuals and respond to housing needs in the north
- ⇒ Review Saskatchewan Housing Corporation's target populations and how to best serve them in support of Government strategies
- ⇒ Expand housing initiatives for people considered "hard-to-house"
- ⇒ Increase the effectiveness and sustainability of the public housing system:
 - ↳ continue to transition the Affordable Rental Housing Program to the Social Rental Housing Program
 - ↳ increase the effectiveness of the housing system

Performance Measure

Tenant satisfaction rating

The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has a tenant satisfaction rating of 90 per cent by March 31, 2021

Strategy

Clients on income assistance make sustainable transitions to employment

Key Action

- ⇒ Implement the redesign of income assistance programs to:
 - ↳ simplify programs
 - ↳ enhance client-centred service
 - ↳ strengthen referral processes for employable clients to employment services and community supports
 - ↳ ensure sustainability of programs in the future

Performance Measure

Proportion of income assistance clients who are employable and use the program for six months or less

Through March 31, 2021, 75 per cent of clients without barriers to employment leave income assistance within six months of enrolment



Government Goals



Ministry Goal

Our people and our organization are effective and efficient

Strategy

Our culture demonstrates our commitment to excellence

Key Actions

- ⇒ Develop a strategy to promote cultural values across diverse employee groups
- ⇒ Continue to implement the Ministry's Safety Action Plan
- ⇒ Develop a plan to improve representation and inclusion of diverse employee groups in the Ministry's workforce

Performance Measures

Workforce safety

The workforce injury rate will be five per cent or less by March 31, 2021

Workforce diversity

The workforce representation of employee groups meets or exceeds Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission targets by March 31, 2021

Strategy

Delivery of Ministry programs is innovative and accountable

Key Action

- ⇒ Advance data analytics to strengthen the effectiveness of Ministry investments in program and service delivery

Strategy

Ministry physical and information technology supports are modern

Key Action

- ⇒ Enhance client system supports to provide efficient citizen-centred service

Highlights

The Government of Saskatchewan will continue its commitment to support those in greatest need in our province. Programs and services for the most vulnerable citizens in Saskatchewan, including individuals, children, and families in need of social supports, will continue to be available. Highlights of the Ministry's budget include:

Income Assistance

The 2017-18 budget increase of \$67.2 million for income assistance programs recognizes the continued growth in caseloads primarily for the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP), the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program and the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA). The Ministry is working on redesigning our income assistance programs and services to ensure our clients move to sustainable independence.

Disability Community-based Supports

The Ministry continues to support individuals experiencing disabilities, including residents of Valley View Centre who are transitioning to community-based services. The 2017-18 budget includes an increase of \$2.3 million to support person-centred planning for people living at Valley View to successfully transition them into new homes in communities around the province.

Child and Family Programs

In 2017-18, the Ministry will continue working to keep families strong with investments in Child and Family Programs. Increased support in the coming year includes the following:

- ⇒ \$11.9 million to address the increased need for emergency receiving homes;
- ⇒ \$2.2 million for private treatment spaces;
- ⇒ \$1.3 million for foster care and extended family care; and
- ⇒ \$1.4 million to assist with service delivery and operational costs.

Housing

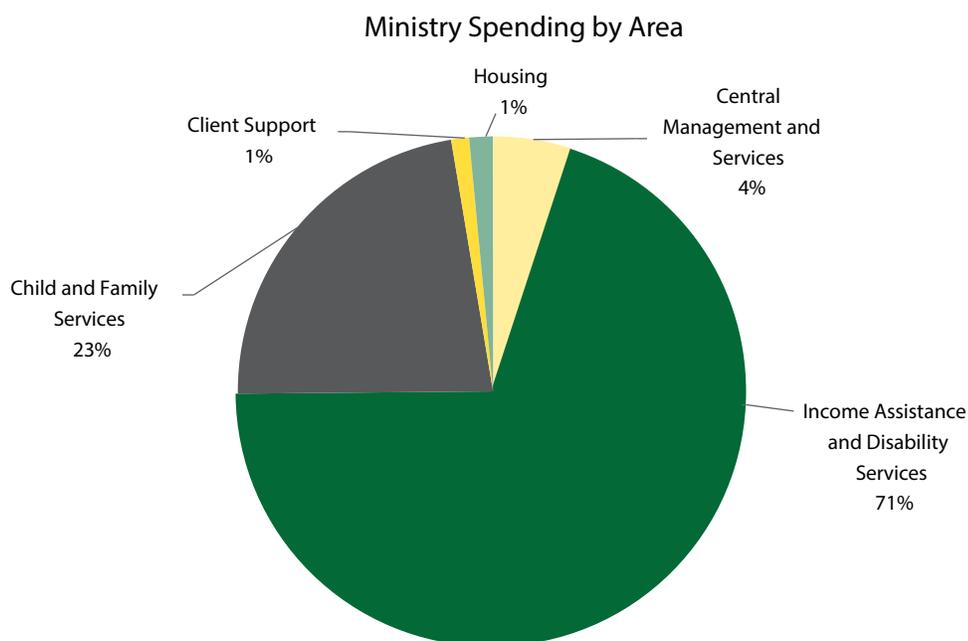
The Province remains committed to provide greater access to safe, quality and affordable housing for Saskatchewan people in greatest need. Through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, we support programs such as Habitat for Humanity and the federal / provincial bilateral Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement and Social Infrastructure Fund. The Agreement extends to 2019 and is to be used for new affordable housing supply, home renovations, home adaptations, and rent / housing supplements.

In this challenging budget year, the Ministry will suspend the First Home Plan for recent graduates as it focuses its programs and services on the most vulnerable. The Ministry will, however, keep the commitments it has made and graduates already in the First Home Plan will be able to continue.

Financial Summary

2017-18 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	49,115
Income Assistance and Disability Services	795,566
Child and Family Services	256,348
Client Support	12,429
Housing	7,721
Ministry Appropriation	1,121,179
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(2,135)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	6,181
Ministry Expense	1,125,225
FTE Staff Complement	1,706.7

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



For More Information

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