

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Annual Report

Children's Services

2021-2022

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Preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each of the 20 ministries.

The Annual Report of the Government of Alberta contains *Budget 2021* Key Results, the audited Consolidated Financial Statements and Performance Results, which compares actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's strategic plan.

This annual report of the Ministry of Children's Services contains the Minister's Accountability Statement, the ministry's Financial Information and Results Analysis, a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the ministry business plan. This ministry annual report also includes:

- **other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*, as separate reports, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report; and**
- **financial information relating to trust funds.**

Each ministry Annual Report should be considered along with the Government of Alberta Annual Report to provide a complete overview of government's commitment to openness, accountability and fiscal transparency.

Minister's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2022, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at June 3, 2022 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

< original signed by >

Honourable Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Children's Services

Message from the Minister



This past year was challenging for many kids and families across the country. I'm so grateful for the hard work and commitment of our community agencies, child care operators and staff, and ministry employees who continue providing high quality support and services to Alberta's children, youth and families. I'm pleased to share this report highlighting the fantastic work we have done together for those we serve.

Children's Services continues to maintain its focus on the safety and well-being of children and youth. Our investments in mentoring, early intervention and prevention supports, help young people and their families to be resilient and supported when needed, no matter where they live.

Family Resource Networks (FRNs) provide flexible supports both in person and virtually to reach as many Albertans as possible. Additional funding was provided to three FRN agencies to expand their mental health counselling services province-wide with implementation set to begin in 2022-23. We also provided more funding to several northern FRNs and all eight Métis Settlements to make their supports more accessible to remote rural communities.

Children's Services continues to maintain its focus on the safety and well-being of children and youth. Our investments in mentoring, early intervention and prevention supports, help young people and their families to be resilient and supported when needed, no matter where they live. In our Child Intervention system, we continue to focus on providing culturally sensitive and appropriate services and supports to Indigenous children, youth and families, and our child intervention policies provide a framework that guides the best practices of casework practitioners. I am pleased that our child intervention delivery work is done in the spirit of reconciliation with culture and community and connection.

In March 2022, we announced a new Transition to Adulthood Program to provide young adults formerly in care with targeted services they choose based on their goals and dreams for the future. This new program, launched in April 2022, offers more specialized, coordinated and consistent services and supports for young adults formerly in care. Through this program, participants aged 18 to 24 have access to a wide range of programs and assistance geared to further smooth the transition to adulthood including social and emotional supports, mentoring opportunities, mental health and addiction services, and help finding work. A key piece of the Transition to Adulthood Program is the Advancing Futures program, the only program of its kind in Canada, which will continue to provide funding and emotional and social supports for eligible young adults who have been in government care to support them in pursuing post-secondary studies.

Children's Services also contributed to Alberta's economic recovery by supporting licensed child care operators remain open and ensure working families had access to affordable, high quality child care. As part of this, we successfully negotiated two made-in-Alberta agreements with the federal government that worked to bring tax dollars back to our province to support Alberta families, as well as child care organizations and entrepreneurs.

The first was a renewed bilateral agreement signed in July 2021, bringing \$45 million to enhance our child care subsidy program, including increased income threshold and subsidy rates, and savings for parents with school-aged children who attend licensed child care during the summer months. The bilateral agreement also included a further \$56 million to support operators and staff through

increased child care workforce supports. Then, in November 2021, the Governments of Alberta and Canada announced the signing of the Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

This historic agreement invests approximately \$3.8 billion into our child care sector over the next five years. It's great news that our made-in-Alberta action plan has already begun to make a difference for families who have young children from birth to kindergarten age enrolled in licensed child care. In early 2022, we implemented new affordability funding that has already helped reduce parent fees by an average of 50 per cent. We also began working with provincial and community partners, and municipalities to determine ways to support the creation of new child care spaces, particularly for vulnerable populations and under-served areas of the province where working parents have limited or no licensed child care options.

Across the ministry, we continued to make significant progress on reducing red tape and finding more efficient ways to work. As of late March 2022, Children's Services has achieved a 28.2 per cent reduction in regulatory requirements. These significant reductions enhance government services and make it easier for Albertans to get what they need in a timely manner. We are well on our way to achieving our 33 per cent reduction target.

I'm honoured to continue to work with such hard working and talented staff, organizations and community partners across Alberta. I look forward to the year ahead with hope, enthusiasm and optimism for the ministry and the children, youth and families we serve.

< original signed by >

Honourable Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Children's Services

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The executives of the individual entities within the ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for the respective entities. Collectively, the executives ensure the ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and strategic plan, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the accompanying ministry financial information and performance results for the ministry rests with the Minister of Children's Services. Under the direction of the Minister, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, which includes the financial information, performance results on all objectives and initiatives identified in the Ministry Business Plan, and performance results for all ministry-supported commitments that were included in the 2021-24 Government of Alberta Strategic Plan. The financial information and performance results, out of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial information is prepared using the government's stated accounting policies, which are based on Canadian public sector accounting standards. The performance measures are prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliable – information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with the underlying source data for the current and prior years' results.
- Understandable – the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.
- Comparable – the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- Complete – outcomes, performance measures and related targets match those included in the ministry's *Budget 2021*.

As Deputy Minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I am responsible for the ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control which give consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money;
- provide information to manage and report on performance;
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under ministry administration;
- provide Executive Council, the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Children's Services the information needed to fulfill their responsibilities; and
- facilitate preparation of ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*.

Introduction

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executives within the ministry.

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Sherry Wilson
Deputy Minister of Children's Services
June 3, 2022

Results Analysis

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Ministry Overview

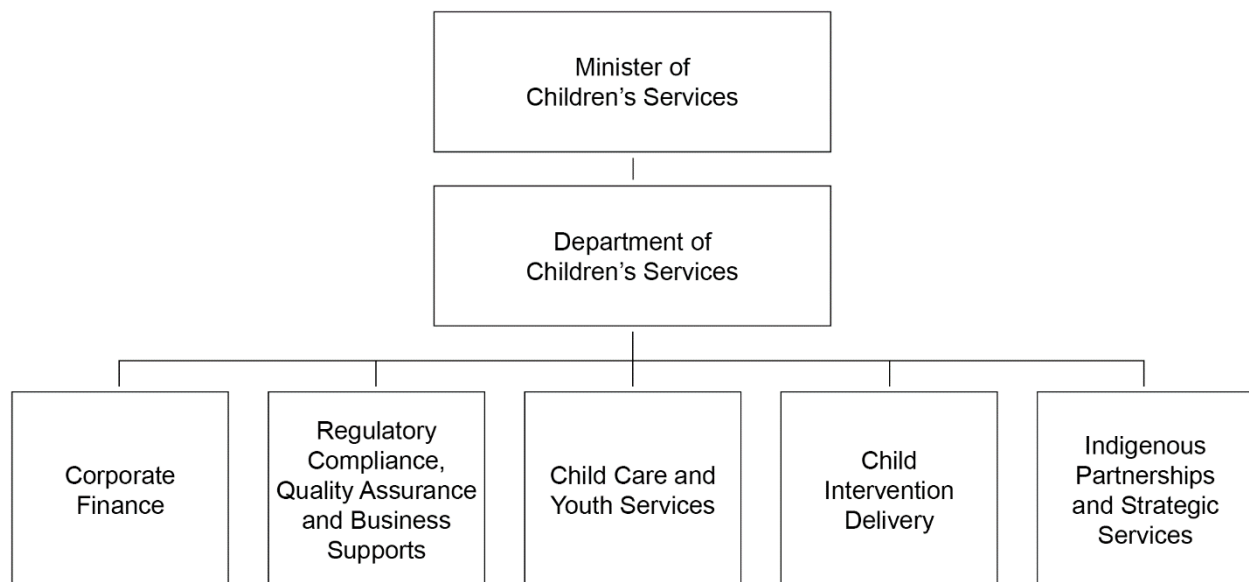
Organizational Structure

In 2021-22, the ministry underwent a number of organizational changes to support the delivery of government priorities and commitments, and to help ensure effective and efficient organization of divisions and branches.

The former Transition and Intervention Supports division was expanded to include the regulatory and quality assurance functions for both child care and youth services and child intervention. As well responsibility for corporate services, such as accommodations, security, and strategic planning and became the Regulatory Compliance, Quality Assurance and Business Supports division.

The Child Care and Youth Services division, formerly Child and Youth Services division, was restructured to support the diverse array of youth services, including prevention and early intervention, early childhood development, and early learning and child care services throughout the province.

The Corporate Finance division was expanded adding procurement.



Operational Overview

The Ministry of Children’s Services provides children, youth and families in Alberta with the supports they need to thrive in healthy families and communities. The ministry supports Alberta’s economy by improving access to affordable, high-quality, safe and inclusive child care options that create employment opportunities and support parents’ participation in the workforce.

Children’s Services is committed to helping build strong, resilient families by focusing on safety and well-being from early learning and childhood development through to early intervention supports, intervention services and transitions to adulthood. This includes services to children at home and in care, adoption and post-intervention services.

Information provided in this annual report is aligned with the strategic direction of the Government of Alberta. This annual report highlights results achieved from delivery of key strategies and performance measurements described in the Children's Services 2021-24 Business Plan and the key factors that influenced those results. The results described herein considered the potential impact of risks facing the department and the ongoing management through risk mitigation activities.

Children's Services aligned its services under three outcomes in 2021-22:

- Outcome One: Albertans have access to early childhood education and child care options to enable participation in the workforce
- Outcome Two: The well-being, resiliency, and cultural connections of children, youth and families are supported and children and youth are protected
- Outcome Three: Reduction in the regulatory and administrative requirements imposed by legislation, regulations and associated policies and forms improves services for children, youth and families

The Department of Children's Services consists of the areas described below.

Office of the Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister oversees the ministry under the direction of the Minister and is the liaison between the elected official and ministry employees. The Deputy Minister provides strategic advice and oversees the ministry's day-to-day operations, budget, and program development.

Child Intervention Delivery

The Child Intervention Delivery division delivers services mandated under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*, the *Drug-Endangered Children Act* and the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act*. Child Intervention Delivery provides services to children and youth who are or may be at risk of being abused, neglected or otherwise in need of intervention. Child intervention services are only provided when a parent or guardian cannot adequately protect their child from harm or danger as defined by the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*.

The division provides supports to children and families across the province, so children have what they need to remain safely at home whenever possible. When children are unable to safely remain in their family home, Child Intervention Delivery works collaboratively with parents and extended family to identify a safe and stable temporary caregiver, maintain familial, cultural and community connections, and pursue reunification of children with their parents. When it is not possible to safely return a child to their guardian, Child Intervention Delivery works to find legally permanent homes for children, through private guardianship or adoptions.

In Alberta, children, youth and their families receive services through one of the 86 provincial offices or 19 Delegated First Nation Agencies (DFNAs) in communities across the province. Child Intervention Delivery maintains a collaborative relationship with the DFNAs and Indigenous Services Canada to support on-reserve child intervention service delivery. Additionally, Child Intervention Delivery works with Métis stakeholders including the Métis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta to support the needs of Métis children and families involved with child intervention.

Regulatory Compliance, Quality Assurance and Business Supports

The Regulatory Compliance, Quality Assurance and Business Supports division is responsible for the legislation and standards within the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* and the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*, including internal quality assurance services provided by the Statutory Director.

The division takes the lead role in quality assurance and continuous improvement functions using evidence-based data to inform decision-making. The division provides strategic support services to the ministry including technology supports for case management, workforce learning and development, strategic planning and reporting, emergency management, accommodations, and project and change management. The division coordinates the ministry's response to corporate initiatives, such as Red Tape Reduction.

Child Care and Youth Services

The Child Care and Youth Services division works with other government ministries and community partners to support early childhood development, including child care and prevention/early intervention programs and services. The division works to foster optimal early learning and development; enhance resilience; reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors in children, youth, families and communities.

The division supports access to affordable and quality child care options for families, oversees licensing and monitoring of child care programs and child care staff certification, and provides funding to programs to support the recruitment and retention of a qualified workforce. The division also supports the development of prevention-focused policy and early intervention programs for children and youth, including Family Resource Networks, mentoring, youth homeless shelters and youth suicide prevention supports.

Indigenous Partnerships and Strategic Services

The Indigenous Partnerships and Strategic Services division leads the ministry's strategic policy, and stakeholder and community engagement. The division supports the ministry and its partners in taking a holistic approach in serving Indigenous children, youth, families and communities and in building and strengthening relationships.

The division supports the development of tripartite coordination agreements to transition authority for child and family services to Indigenous governing bodies under *An Act respecting First Nations, Métis and Inuit children, youth and families* (the federal Act), as well as establishing Delegated First Nations Agency service delivery agreements with First Nations.

The division provides policy advice, analysis and coordination to support teams across the department and leads on broader cross-divisional or cross-government policy initiatives.

Corporate Finance

The Corporate Finance division leads the ministry's annual financial cycle, from developing its budget to financial reporting and preparing financial statements. The division provides financial and forecasting advice and is responsible for procurement and financial operations, financial processes and policies, compliance and accountability, and internal audits.

Communications

Through a service agreement with Communications and Public Engagement, the Communications branch offers strategic communications advice, strategic writing and communications planning

services. Responsibilities also include delivering clear and timely information to the public about the ministry's key initiatives, programs and services.

Human Resources

Under the "One HR" approach, Human Resources' service delivery has been consolidated within the Public Service Commission. Each department is supported by a dedicated portfolio director and business partners who provide strategic advice, talent development, and engagement. This dedicated team connects people leaders to common human resource services such as recruitment, classification, policy development and analytics through service centres within the broader human resource system.

Legal Services

Legal Services provides a full range of non-litigation services and related legal advice to the ministry. Under a shared services model, Legal Services supports Children's Services by providing advice on contracts, grants, procurement, privacy and information sharing, legislative development, and general legal advice. For litigation matters, including fatality inquiries, Justice and Solicitor General provides support via their Civil Litigation team, two Family and Surrogate Court Litigation teams located in Edmonton and Calgary, as well as external counsel retained by Justice and Solicitor General.

Key Highlights in the Past Year

The following table represents Children's Services' key achievements in 2021-22, including progress toward commitments in the 2021-24 Government of Alberta Strategic Plan.

Negotiated a historic Early Learning and Child Care Agreement with the federal government	\$3.8 billion over five years to support the expansion of accessible, affordable and high-quality child care to enable participation in the workforce.
Reduced child care fees by an average of 50 per cent in early 2022	A combination of affordability grants and child care subsidy reduced fees for parents of children from birth to kindergarten age (in kindergarten and also attending child care during regular school hours).
Announced the Transition to Adulthood Program	This new program, officially launched in April 2022, offers more specialized, coordinated and consistent services and supports for young adults formerly in care.
Developed a Connections application to help young adults transition out of care	Designed for Alberta youth in partnership with the Native Counselling Society of Alberta, Connections provides more than 150 resources in 17 topic areas.
Improved kinship supports	Developed a new assessment and support model to more accurately address the unique complexities of kinship caregiving.
Enhanced in the Family Resource Network Program	Strengthened the program by introducing enhancements to access mental health services, providing additional funding to rural Networks with large geographic areas and Métis Settlement FRNs, and establishing a one-door approach for pregnant and parenting teens accessing FRN services. Further implementation to occur in 2022-23.
Invested in Personalized Community Care	\$5.26 million provided for two new Personalized Community Care facilities for community-based intensive treatment programs that promote stabilization and resolution of mental health crises and improves functioning in children and youth, delivered in partnership with Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services.
Revised Caregiver Training	Launched Parent Resource Information Development and Education (PRIDE) training, a new online delivery model for equitable access for caregiver training.
Achieved 28.2 per cent reduction in red tape across the ministry	Attained through the reduction of documentation in forms, streamlining processes and eliminating duplication, resulting in time saved for families.

Discussion and Analysis of Results

COVID-19/Recovery Plan

Throughout the pandemic, child care operators, families, extended families and caregivers across the province have navigated through closures, quarantines and staffing challenges, showing resilience by reopening and staying open. The ministry continued to take measures to support child care and child intervention programming during the second year of the pandemic.

Support for Child Care Operators

To further support Alberta's Recovery Plan, Alberta's government directed almost \$33.8 million (\$33 million federal funding and \$0.8 million provincially funded) in funding to licensed child care programs to help recruit and keep skilled educators, as well as provided one-time COVID relief funding to recognize the role they played so parents were able to access child care services.

Child Care Staff Recovery and Retention

Children's Services provided \$19.3 million in one-time federal grant funding to licensed programs to help them cover costs related to training, onboarding, and hiring staff, including being able to offer the financial incentives to attract qualified staff. The funding was allocated from the one-time workforce annex to the 2021-22 bilateral agreement with the federal government. A total of 2,088 programs received a Recovery and Retention Grant.

Child Care Relief

\$13.4 million from the 2021-22 bilateral agreement was paid to licensed child care programs to reduce the financial hardship facing them and ensure they were able to maintain safety for children and staff. Licensed programs received a one-time grant of \$1,500 per program and \$77 per space.

Critical Worker Benefit and Other

It takes a team of dedicated individuals to deliver safe, quality child care. In 2021-22, the Critical Worker Benefit was expanded to include additional child care support staff to recognize the role they played in keeping programs operating. Approximately \$400,000 (\$300,000 was from federal funding) was provided to recognize an additional 382 eligible support staff working in licensed child care programs, including roles such as cooks, cleaners, drivers and other critical support roles that kept child care programs running across the province. In 2020-21, approximately 12,088 certified frontline Early Childhood Educators who worked throughout the pandemic received a \$1,200 one-time wage supplement. There was an additional \$500,000 for Safe Restart and \$200,000 for Child Care Stimulus carried over from 2020-21.

Other COVID-related Supports

Throughout the pandemic, supports were provided to children, families, extended families and caregivers across the province to ensure children and youth had what they needed to remain safely at home and successfully transition to adulthood. An estimated \$2 million in costs was incurred to support the delivery of child intervention services through provincial funding.

Youth Transitioning from Care

Former youth in care and young adults transitioning from care were assisted to complete post-secondary programs when in person services stopped and on-line services began. In 2021-22, 903 young adults successfully completed their educational studies. Under the Advancing Futures Program, additional technology supports such as monthly internet funding and laptops were

provided due to many post-secondary institutions pivoting from in-person to on-line programming. In addition to financial supports, Advancing Futures recipients requiring additional emotional supports received access to mental health services through referrals to free services through their post-secondary institutions or for those youth unable to access free services, they were provided with funding (\$50 per session) to access mental health services.

Red Tape Reduction

The Ministry of Children's Services continues to remove regulatory barriers and reduce costs for Alberta's job creators, modernize our regulatory systems, and improve the delivery of government services while ensuring effective regulatory oversight over vital consumer, environmental, health and safety protections, and fiscal accountability. The Government of Alberta's ongoing commitment to reduce red tape by one third by 2023 is helping to make our province the most attractive destination for investment and job creation in North America, while strengthening Alberta's competitive advantage.

The ministry is committed to the ongoing review of programs and services to ensure the best possible outcomes for Albertans. As part of this ongoing review, the ministry is making life easier for hard-working Albertans and job creators by reducing regulatory requirements by one-third by 2023, and eliminating administrative burden through more efficient processes. This will improve service delivery for Albertans; foster economic growth, innovation and competitiveness; create a strong and attractive investment climate; and make Alberta one of the freest and fastest moving economies in North America.

On May 1, 2019, Children's Services had 10,079 regulatory requirements. In 2021-22, Children's Services advanced Red Tape Reduction initiatives that have had tangible, positive impacts on children, youth and families within Alberta. By the end of March 2022, the ministry had reduced 2,844 regulatory requirements, achieving a cumulative red tape reduction of 28.2 per cent, exceeding the Government of Alberta's target of 20 per cent.

Digital Transformation

In June 2021, Children's Services launched the Child Care Licensing Portal for family day home agencies, which simplified communication and streamlined services between family day home agencies and Children's Services licensing staff.

Improved Service Delivery

Supports were provided to children, families, extended families and caregivers across the province, so children and youth have what they need to remain safely at home and succeed as they transition to adulthood.

Simplification of the application form for Advancing Futures recipients, moved from a six page application form to a two page intake form, resulting in potential time savings for youth and potential savings in job earnings for youth.

Outcome One: Albertans have access to early childhood education and child care options to enable participation in the workforce

Children’s Services provides access to affordable, quality child care programs, and promotes culturally appropriate community-based early childhood services, and parenting resources to provide children, youth and families the support to engage fully in their communities. This includes parents’ ability to pursue post-secondary education and take part in the workforce.

Key Objectives

1.1 Improve access to child care through initiatives that support affordability, high-quality, safety, inclusion and parent choice enabling parents to participate fully in the labour market and supporting Alberta’s economic recovery.

Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

Key Priority Two:
Protecting livelihoods

Objective Five:
Making Alberta more dynamic, innovative and sustainable

- Signed in November 2021, the Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Agreement will invest \$3.8 billion over five years to lower fees for parents with children from birth to kindergarten age accessing licensed child care.
- Alberta began lowering fees starting in January 2022.
- Alberta’s child care subsidy program has one of the highest income thresholds in the country and provides subsidies to more than 55,000 children.

Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

The historic Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, signed in November 2021, provides \$3.8 billion over five years to support expanded access to affordable, and high-quality early learning and child care that works for Alberta’s families. The agreement applies to families with children birth to kindergarten age in licensed care, with kindergarten age children attending kindergarten as well as licensed child care during regular school hours.

In 2021-22, \$488 million made up of \$290.3 million provincial and \$197.7 million federal funding was directed to support five key pillars:

- lowering parent fees
- increasing access
- supporting inclusion
- enhancing high-quality child care
- enhancing evaluation and reporting

Affordability – lowering parent fees

Alberta supports the goal of improving child care affordability, especially for those parents who need it most, without compromising quality. To enhance affordability, Children’s Services assists eligible families with children from birth to 12 years of age and not yet in grade seven to lower child care costs for children enrolled in licensed facility-based programs and family day home agencies.

Following the signing of Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Agreement with the federal government, Children’s Services further lowered child care fees for all working families. The ministry worked with licensed operators to reduce out-of-pocket fees by an average of 50 per cent (compared to 2019 rates) for children from birth to kindergarten age (in kindergarten and also attending child care during regular school hours) effective January 1, 2022.

This was achieved through a combination of changes to the existing child care subsidy program and new affordability grants to operators, which reduce fees for all families who have children from birth to kindergarten age attending a licensed child care program, regardless of family income. Parents who were already receiving child care subsidy were already on their way to paying much lower fees and will continue to benefit from both affordability grants and subsidy.

The ministry's child care subsidy program has one of the highest income thresholds in the country. Full subsidy is provided for eligible families (with children from birth to kindergarten age who also require child care during regular school hours) earning up to \$119,999 per year, and partial subsidy is available for those earning up to \$179,999 per year. Alberta's subsidy system also continues to support families with kindergarten aged children to grade six who are enrolled in a licensed program outside of regular school hours. These families may be eligible for child care subsidy if they earn less than \$90,000 annually.

As of March 31, 2022, the ministry provided a subsidy to more than 55,000 children, 72 per cent of who received a full subsidy. Although enrollment has been impacted by the pandemic, as of March 2022, the number of children enrolled is about nine per cent higher than pre-pandemic levels (March 2020). The proportion of children enrolled in licensed child care who received subsidy has increased from 27 per cent in 2020-21 to 46 per cent in 2021-22. Data shows that 39 per cent are children of single parents. In addition, the proportion of children enrolled in licensed child care who received subsidy increased from 27 per cent in 2020-21 to 46 per cent in 2021-22. Data shows that approximately 39 per cent of children who received subsidy are from single parent families.

Children's Services also subsidizes infant care costs through the Infant Care Incentive Program, paying a grant of \$150 per infant per month to licensed daycares and approved family day home agencies to offset the higher cost associated with caring for infants under 19 months of age. In 2021-22, the ministry supported approximately 6,850 infant spaces under this program.

Accessibility – increasing access

Children's Services is committed to providing families with more child care options and addressing increased demand for child care. Child care space creation will support our province's economic recovery and growth, and offer flexibility for Alberta families.

In 2021-22, there were approximately 152,000 licensed child care spaces, up six per cent compared to 2020-21, when there were approximately 143,000 licensed spaces.

In 2021-22, Children's Services focused space creation efforts on communities with limited or no access to licensed child care and on vulnerable and/or underserved populations. The increased number of spaces includes 1,076 new licensed child care spaces created with funding from space creation grants awarded at the end of March 2021, including 112 overnight spaces for parents working non-traditional hours. A total of \$10.3 million was allocated for 44 grants.

Moving forward, under the Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, the ministry will continue to focus on space creation efforts in communities with low access as well as creating access for vulnerable and diverse populations in Alberta communities such as, Indigenous, francophone, Black and other racialized groups, newcomers, low-income families and children with special needs.

Supporting Inclusion

All children should feel welcomed and supported to meaningfully participate in their child care program and all parents should feel confident that their child is receiving the support they need to

grow and develop. In 2021-22, Children's Services implemented a new Inclusive Child Care (ICC) service delivery model to support inclusion of all children by building the capacity of early childhood educators to include children who have extra support needs, through training, consultation and short-term enhanced ratio support. The model began with pilots in January 2021 using funding from a bilateral agreement with the federal government.

In 2021-22, Children's Services invested almost \$10 million to ensure 535 unique licensed child care programs received support to help them include children with special needs. The service delivery model shifted from government program delivery to full delivery through the following ICC community agencies:

- Stepping Stones Child Care Society - Northwest region
- Providence Child Development Society - Northeast and Calgary regions
- Getting Ready for Inclusion Today (GRIT) - Edmonton region and west half of North Central region
- Midwest Family Connections - Central region and east half of North Central region
- Key Connections Consulting - South region

An additional \$7 million in grant funding was allocated to these agencies in 2021-22 to support ongoing implementation of the ICC program in 2022-23.

Quality – enhancing high-quality child care

High-quality child care is essential in getting parents back to work and for our economic recovery. Parents need to know their children are safe, well cared for and learning before they can go to work. Child Care Licensing Officers work with licensed programs support them and monitor their adherence to the *Early Learning and Child Care Act* and Regulation. Licensing Officers also conduct investigations of licensed and unlicensed programs and provide guidance to enhance program quality and child safety.

Investing in the Child Care Workforce

Children's Services undertakes a number of initiatives to support the child care workforce, recognizing that early childhood educators are critically important to creating high-quality learning environments and influencing the experiences that shape child development.

In March 2022, there were 19,756 certified early childhood educators working in licensed child care programs. This is a 32 per cent increase from March 2021, when there were 14,984 early childhood educators, and a five per cent increase compared to March 2020, before the pandemic.

In 2021-22, Children's Services invested \$115.7 million to support the recruitment and retention of qualified staff through tiered wage top ups (\$111.5 million) and professional development supports (\$4.2 million) for certified early childhood educators. Approximately 3,700 early childhood educators received professional development funding, and approximately 2,900 received a release time grant allowing them to be paid while attending training.

As part of the 2021-22 bilateral agreement with the federal government, Alberta received an additional \$56 million in one-time funding to support the child care workforce. This funding was used to help child care programs to recruit, train and retain qualified staff through one-time Early Childhood Educator Recovery and Retention Grants, and to strengthen the workforce through additional skills training and professional development opportunities. This funding also supported the provision of wage-top ups to certified staff working in licensed preschool programs – the first time these educators have been eligible for this wage support.

Enhancing evaluation and reporting

Alberta's existing data collection includes mechanisms to monitor the growth and quality of the child care system. Monthly information collected from child care programs includes enrollment data, space capacity data (including data on subsidy children and infants enrolled), staff hours worked, level of staff certification, professional development usage and program fees. The ministry uses this information to evaluate and improve how the child care system supports children and families.

Performance Measure 1.a:
Percent change in the number of licensed child care spaces

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
7%	5%	5%	4%	0%	6%

The ministry supports Alberta's economy by improving access to affordable, high-quality, safe and inclusive child care options that create employment opportunities and support parents' participation in the workforce. This measure reports the percentage increase in the number of licensed child care spaces. Spaces refer to the maximum number of children child care programs can accommodate. Child care programs include facility-based programs (daycare, out-of-school care and preschool programs) and home-based programs (family day homes under a licensed agency and group family child care programs).

In 2021-22, the number of licensed child care spaces increased by six percent relative to the previous year, exceeding the target of zero. The result is influenced by the supply and demand for child care throughout the province. For instance, demand for licensed child care spaces is influenced by factors such as population growth; whereas the supply of child care spaces is influenced by factors such as government-funded space creation initiatives. Growth in space supply was slower due to the pandemic, but has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Performance Indicator 1.b:**Child Care Statistics: Daycare, Family Day Home, Out of School Care, Innovative and Group Family Child Care programs**

Data for children attending preschool was unavailable in 2019-20 so the scope of the indicator was modified and data has been updated. Starting September 2021, preschool enrollment data once again became available in the Child Care Information System (preschool counts stated in brackets).

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total number of spaces	106,319	113,838	121,096	127,860 (15,609)	136,867 (15,359)
Number of children enrolled	86,530	92,254	97,553	71,579 (12,678)	101,409 (18,017)
Per cent of total enrollment	81.4%	80.0%	80.6%	56.0% (81.2%)	74.1% (117.3%)
Number of children receiving subsidy	26,368	27,632	28,320	22,967	55,274

This indicator reports on the total number of child care spaces, the number of children enrolled, the percentage enrolled with respect to the available spaces and the number of children receiving subsidy. Due to changes in data availability and differences in the nature of preschool programs spaces and enrollment compared to other program types, beginning 2019-20 preschool spaces and enrollment are reported separately from other types of child care spaces and enrollment.

Outcome Two: The well-being, resiliency and cultural connections of children, youth and families are supported and children and youth are protected

Children, youth and families are supported through a continuum of government and community based prevention and early intervention services that support the well-being of children and youth; develop and strengthen caregiver knowledge, capacity and skills; promote the development of social connections and family supports; and enhance connections with Indigenous communities. The ministry works in partnership with other ministries to break down barriers and address challenges vulnerable children and youth may encounter such as addiction, mental illness, domestic violence and sexual exploitation.

Children's Services caseworkers provide services under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*, the *Drug-Endangered Children Act* and the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act* in five regions across the province. On average, Children's Services provides child intervention services to 1.4 per cent of Alberta's children.

Key Objectives

2.1 Improve processes to support the successful transition of youth from government care into adulthood, focusing on mentoring, educational attainment, employment readiness and connection to supportive services.

Youth in Transition

Alberta is enhancing youth in transition programs to support our youth and young adults by pursuing the best outcomes as they successfully transition to adulthood while ensuring that funding is concentrated where it benefits them the most.

In 2021-22, Children's Services provided supports to 2,069 young adults, on average each month, through Support and Financial Assistance Agreements (SFAA). These agreements provide financial and other supports for young adults who were formerly in care or receiving services through child intervention under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*.

In January 2021, the Alberta Court of Appeal overturned the temporary injunction placed the year before. To come into compliance with the age changes identified in the Regulations, Children's Services launched a plan that would ensure no SFAA recipient would have their services cease prematurely.

A transition plan was developed for each young adult to ensure they had the skills and supports to successfully transition to adulthood. SFAA recipients continue to receive SFAA until they successfully transition to independence or access other specialized adult supports.

As of March 31, 2022, approximately 250 young adults aged 22-24 are still in receipt of SFAA supports. Children's

Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

Key Priority One:
Protecting lives

Objective Two:
Providing quality education and skills development to Albertans

- The Advancing Futures Program provides emotional and social supports and funding for youth who have been, or continue to be in care or are receiving services from Children's Services, as they transition to adulthood and pursue post-secondary studies with the goal to obtain a career.
- Last year, 1,234 applications were received and 1,051 students were approved to receive a bursary to pursue post-secondary studies. Of the total 1,051 students, 903 successfully completed their educational studies.

Services continue to work closely with each of them. Children's Services invested \$39.9 million in Support and Financial Assistance Agreements (SFAA) in 2021-22.

The Transition to Adulthood Program was announced in March 2022 and launched on April 4, 2022. This program will fully replace Support and Financial Assistance Agreements.

The Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP)

To support youth in care and young adults transitioning out of care, Children's Services will provide supports under the Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP). TAP participants aged 18-24 will have access to social and emotional transitional supports, as well as mentoring opportunities, life skills, mental health and addiction supports, and help finding work. As well, participants will have access to financial supports up until the day before they turn 22. Community resources will be accessed through four pathways: stability, adult support services, education and employment.

Advancing Futures Program

Advancing Futures is an educational bursary program under the Transition to Adulthood Program providing transitional supports, such as mentoring and coaching, and financial supports to assist former youth in care to achieve their educational goals and obtain employment. Youth are encouraged to apply if they would like to obtain their high school General Equivalency Diploma, upgrade through adult education or enroll in a post-secondary school for a degree, diploma, certificate or trade.

Advancing Futures recipients are linked to a program coordinator who assists the student achieve success by providing supports such as transitioning into adulthood, navigating through adult systems, learning everyday life skills and how to be successful in school. The program recognizes that investing in the successful transition of young people out of the child intervention system results in longer-term individual and societal benefits. Recipients are also linked to mental health supports. In 2021-22, Children's Services provided \$14.6 million to support 1,051 young adults in the Advancing Futures program.

Recognition of Student Achievement

The Alberta government established the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge scholarship to commemorate their Royal Visit to Alberta in July 2011. The scholarship recognizes the exceptional educational achievements of students who have been in care.

These \$2,000 scholarships are awarded to 25 Advancing Futures students each year based on their academic performance the previous year. In 2021-22, Advancing Futures students who received the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge Scholarship achieved an average grade point average of 3.9, with five students achieving a 4.0 average, the highest grade possible.

Connections Application

In partnership with the Government of Alberta, Native Counselling Services of Alberta launched an application (app) in 2021 to help former and current youth in care navigate the adult world. The Connections app is a critical tool to make sure youth and young adults have convenient and

Connections app

Designed for Alberta youth aged 14-24 who are transitioning to adulthood from government care.

- Articles, How-To Comics and Tips
- Quick access to Supports and Mental Health help
- Content and messaging guided by Indigenous Elders and NCSA Program Staff
- Available for download from the Apple Store or Google Play

immediate access to important supports and resources on topics such as housing, budgeting, school, employment and mental health.

The app provides ongoing and increased support for young adults to transition out of government care into independence in a meaningful way and assists them on their journey to success. The app is also a tool for guardians, caregivers, parents and professionals supporting youth.

Mentoring

Having a mentor can have a very positive impact. Children and youth with mentors are less likely to be absent from school, use drugs or alcohol, demonstrate violent behavior and have more positive mental health overall. Mentoring can also support young people in learning practical job skills that meet the demand of the labour market and help them succeed. In 2021-22, \$1.3 million was provided to support mentoring opportunities for children and youth, with a focus on youth in care.

In March 2022, the ministry announced \$2.6 million in new funding for a targeted mentoring program specifically for youth receiving child intervention services who are or will be transitioning to adulthood.

Kinship Care

Budget 2021 increased funding for kinship and foster care to support caseload growth by \$1.8 million. As of March 2022, there were 2,403 kinship homes compared to 1,672 foster homes. This supports the ministry's goal of keeping children connected to their culture and extended families and results in better outcomes for children.

Kinship care can result in increased stability for children and youth in care. Enhancements to the kinship care program are underway that will better support kinship caregivers in meeting the needs of a child or youth placed in their care.

Children's Services is implementing a new assessment and support model for kinship caregivers to more accurately assess whether the caregivers are a safe placement for a child or youth, and identify initial and ongoing needs for the family to care for the child. The new model simultaneously assesses and supports kinship caregivers, while considering the distinct characteristics of kinship caregiving. Indigenous ways of knowing and being are embedded in the tools and practice to better ensure respect and cultural safety for children and youth as well as caregivers. Although an Indigenous worldview is intentionally introduced throughout the tools and practice, it is designed to be suitable for all cultures.

Personalized Community Care

Budget 2021 invested of \$5.26 million for two new Personalized Community Care facilities; one located in Calgary and the other in Edmonton. Each facility supported four new beds. The Personalized Community Care model is a community-based intensive treatment program that promotes the stabilization and resolution of mental health crises and improves functioning in children and youth. Personalized Community Care is a joint initiative between Children's Services, Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services that will support greater promotion for mental health and provide specialized out-of-home placement to vulnerable and complex children and youth with child intervention status.

Training

Caregiver Training Redesign

In July 2021, a centralized delivery team was created in Children's Services and is responsible for facilitating virtual training to caregivers across the province. Agency foster homes are required to take the provincial orientation and core caregiver training modules delivered by Children Services. They may choose to offer additional training to their caregivers.

P.R.I.D.E Pre-service was implemented for caregivers across the province January 1, 2022. The training sessions (e-learning) included teamwork towards permanence, meeting developmental needs and strengthening family relationships, and caring for Indigenous children and youth. As of March 31, 2022, 67 caregivers had completed the training sessions.

Delegation Training

Delegation training is a six month accredited training program that introduces a new child intervention practitioner to the legislation, practice framework, policies and procedures which helps child intervention practitioners confidently and competently fulfill the responsibilities of their delegated role. In 2021-22, 54 child intervention practitioners attended the 27 days of training over a six month period.

The Working with Indigenous Children, Families and Communities module (three days) is part of the delegation training and addresses the Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework and *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. This updated module was released September 2021. Additionally, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families included Working within the Court System module (three days) which was updated January 2022. This three day module in 2021-22 was completed by 110 child intervention practitioners.

Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework

The Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework and its Learning Development Pathway identify experiential Indigenous cultural training required for Children's Services staff to increase their knowledge and gain a better understanding of Indigenous histories, cultures, worldviews, challenges and resiliencies. The training developed under this framework was designed in collaboration with Indigenous communities and with the support of Indigenous Elders, partners and thought leaders. In the last year, Children's Services advanced relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations through signed agreements for them to deliver increased Indigenous cultural understanding training that are Cree based, Blackfoot based and Métis based to staff enabling staff to have access to a wide-range of Indigenous cultural understanding training.

As of March 31, 2022, 2,385 Children's Services staff completed the requirements for the Foundations Pathway. As well, 775 staff completed multi-day cultural understanding training under the Relationship and Culture Pathway that is either Cree based training, Blackfoot based training or the Child Intervention Practitioner training – Working with Indigenous Children, Families and Communities module. Ninety two per cent of Children's Services employees who completed more intensive training under the Relationship and Culture Pathway indicate they have a better understanding of Indigenous pre-contact life, colonization and the contemporary obstacles that face Indigenous people and how this influences their work.

Children's Services' Indigenous Speaker Series (ISS) is a way for staff to gain insight and understanding of Indigenous world views and ways of knowing, doing and being. The ISS allows

staff to hear from Indigenous Elders and subject matter experts which assists staff to bring an Indigenous lens into their work. As a commitment in the APS Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, the Indigenous Speaker Series expanded to all Alberta Public Service staff in October 2021.

The first Indigenous Speakers Series session open to Government of Alberta staff took place on October 20, 2021 with a speaker who spoke on Métis identity and the vital importance of culture with Métis children and families. There were staff in attendance from 18 ministries, and 95 per cent of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that the session was informative about Indigenous world-views. In February 2022, the ministry had a second ISS, with a speaker from Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society who presented on Indigenous practice as ceremony, 93 per cent of participants either strongly agreed or agreed that the session will help them shift their work to better serve Indigenous people and communities.

Adoptions

Children's Services continues to make progress towards making adoptions easier for Albertans by streamlining processes. In 2021-22, 194 children who were in the permanent care of the Director were adopted into loving homes. Adoption Services also supported 49 international adoptions and 61 private licensed agency adoptions. Additionally, 281 children who were in the permanent care of the Director achieved legal permanency through Private Guardianship.

Post Adoption Registry

Post adoption legislative amendments have improved access to adoption information for adopted persons, descendants and birth family members. This includes the ability to share potentially lifesaving genetic and hereditary health information. In addition, the legislation is more enabling with the removal of barriers previously experienced by siblings, extended family members, First Nations and Métis Settlement members seeking connection. In 2021-22, the department received over 2,000 requests from individuals for information, representing a 63 per cent increase.

Supports for Indigenous Children and Youth

Working with Indigenous Services Canada to identify First Nations children has increased connections with culture. Early identification supports Indigenous children, youth and their families in pursuing status under the *Indian Act*, which leads to better outcomes for connection to family, culture and community. Ministry and regional staff supporting this work have been educating frontline and administrative staff about the importance of early identification of Indigenous children and youth and reflecting the information appropriately in the case management system. Since beginning this intentional work with Indigenous Services Canada, 1,041 requests for status have been resolved leading to cultural connections and legal permanency outcomes.

Other initiatives to support child, youth and family resiliency and well-being

Family Resource Networks

Family Resource Networks (FRNs) are networks of agencies working together to provide a continuum of prevention and early intervention services for children and youth from birth to 18 and their families. FRNs cover three core service delivery domains: child development and well-being, caregiver capacity building supports, and social connections and supports. These key areas ensure children have the best possible foundation in their early years, youth have the resources they need to be successful, and parents and caregivers are supported in raising their families.

FRNs focus on strengthening parenting and caregiving knowledge; providing social support; building coping and problem-solving skills; enhancing access to community supports and resources; improving child and youth development, and building resiliency and fostering well-being.

Through a 'hub and spoke' model of service delivery, network hubs coordinate the prevention and early intervention services in their geographic areas and in various cultural communities across the province, and spoke agencies provide the direct service delivery.

The 70 FRNs are made up of 136 partner agencies from across the province. All FRNs respect the perspectives of diverse cultural identities and provide resources and programming that is responsive to all Albertans. Indigenous-serving FRNs reflect the culture, language and spirituality of the people they serve and support their unique cultural needs. Multicultural serving FRNs reflect the distinct needs of other cultural communities including francophone, new Canadians, immigrants and other ethno-cultural groups.

18 culturally-based Family Resource Centres

Indigenous

- South, Calgary, Central Edmonton and Northern regions

Multicultural

- Edmonton region

Alberta Metis Settlements

- Edmonton region and Metis Settlement areas

On-Reserve Communities

- Calgary area

Francophone

Region or Community	Number of Family Resource Networks
Calgary Region	15 FRNs Includes two FRNs for urban Indigenous populations and one FRN for multicultural populations
Central Region	12 FRNs
Edmonton Region	15 FRNs Includes two FRNs for urban Indigenous populations and one FRN for multicultural populations
North Region	11 FRNs
South Region	6 FRNs Includes one FRN for urban Indigenous populations
Métis Settlements	8 FRNs
Francophonie	1 FRN
Indigenous On-Reserve	2 FRNs Located at Siksika First Nation and Stoney Nakoda First Nation

Throughout the pandemic, Family Resource Networks agencies demonstrated dedication and creative problem solving to continue providing responsive supports and services to the families and communities they serve. In 2021-22, approximately 29,000 adults and 35,000 children received prevention and early intervention services through FRN agencies.

Children's Services supports training opportunities for FRN agencies to build their capacity to deliver evidence-informed programming and provide services to diverse populations, including children, youth and families with disabilities or from ethno-cultural, Indigenous and/or LGBTQ communities. In 2021-22, a number of training opportunities were offered to FRN agency staff including Triple P Parenting training, youth suicide prevention training, the Miyo Resource Learning Series, Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Development Support Planning, and resources for FRNs supporting families impacted by deafness.

A multi-year evaluation of the FRN program began in 2021-22 to assess the implementation of the program, identify gaps and provide recommendations to improve the FRN program and ensure it is meeting Albertans' needs. In 2021-22, based on early findings of the evaluation, Children's Services invested an additional \$2.06 million to address gaps in the program and meet emerging needs of Albertans. This investment included \$800,000 allocated to six FRNs in northern Alberta to expand their service reach in large geographical areas, and the eight Métis Settlements to better enable them to offer the range of FRN services. In addition, approximately \$1.0 million was provided to enhance access to brief mental health supports for families accessing FRN services, and \$260,000 was provided to develop 'one door' access to services and supports for pregnant and parenting teens through the FRN program. Implementation to occur in 2022-23.

Youth Suicide Prevention Plan

Launched in March 2019, Building Strength, Inspiring Hope: A Provincial Action Plan for Youth Suicide Prevention 2019-24 focuses on targeted prevention, intervention and post-intervention activities for priority youth populations, including Indigenous youth. Since the plan's launch in 2019, Children's Services has provided approximately \$4.5 million through 19 different grant agreements, with \$1.3 million released in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

To support the continued implementation of the plan, the ministry launched the Youth Suicide Prevention Grant Program in March 2022 to fund not-for-profit organizations across the province to prevent and address youth suicide.

As co-leads in the implementation of the plan, Children's Services and Alberta Health are working on an update to the plan that will reaffirm the Government of Alberta's commitment to youth suicide prevention and gives more focus to supporting specific populations, including youth in transition, youth with disabilities and ethno-cultural youth.

Incidents, Serious Injuries and Deaths of Children and Youth with Child Intervention Involvement

To support government transparency and accountability, the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* prescribes the duty to publicly report serious injuries and deaths of children and youth in care or receiving services at the time of their death. The act defines a serious injury as a life-threatening injury to a child that may cause significant impairment of a child's health. As per the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* and the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*, all deaths were reported to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate.

The Minister of Children’s Services directed the department to conduct a thorough review of the deaths of children and youth receiving services from April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. During that time period there were 36 deaths of children, youth and young adults aged from birth to 23. The review was intended to help identify improvements that could be made to the system to better serve children, youth and families, with identification of actions and implementation for 2022-23.

In 2021-22, there were 275 substantiated incidents or events, which is a 104 increase from the previous year. The increase in substantiated Reports of Incident is attributed to more accurate reporting of incidents involving children who were witness to, victim of or perpetrator of a serious event. In 2021-22 there were 137 children who had substantiated involvement in significant events not involving a caregiver and 138 who had incidents involving a caregiver.

An incident may include, but is not limited to:

- Allegations that a child or youth in care has been:
 - subjected to neglect, emotional injury, physical, or sexual abuse by the caregiver;
 - abused by someone other than the caregiver, including, but not limited to, another young person or adult who is not the child’s caregiver.
- Any child or youth receiving intervention services who witnesses, is the victim, or is the perpetrator of a serious event such as, but not limited to, a criminal matter.

There were seven reports of serious injuries involving young people receiving intervention services in 2021-22. In 2021-22, 49 children/youth receiving child intervention services died. Seven were in care, five were not in care but receiving services, 15 occurred during intake or assessment, and 22 were over 18 years of age and receiving support through a Support and Financial Assistance Agreement and had not been transitioned out of the program.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined that 10 deaths were accidental and two were suicides. The manner of death for 30 young people is pending a determination by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Of the remaining seven deaths, four did not require a review by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, one death occurred outside Alberta, one death was determined to be natural causes and one death was classified as undetermined.

Opioids

With an increase of opioid and substance use, Children’s Services recognized a need to provide training to staff with a focus on appropriate responses and tools they need to support vulnerable children, youth and families. Opioids and substance use training was introduced in February 2021 and is mandatory for Child Intervention Practitioners and encouraged for all public-facing child intervention staff interacting with Albertans. In 2021-22, 528 Child Intervention Practitioners and 14 Delegated First Nation Agencies staff completed the training.

2.2 Work with Indigenous communities to strengthen relationships and develop agreements to support greater authority for Indigenous child and family services.

An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families

An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (the federal Act) came into force on January 1, 2020. It sets out national principles and standards for the delivery of child and family services to Indigenous children, youth and families. In 2021-22, Children’s Services continued to work closely with the federal government and First Nations.

Agreements negotiated with First Nations consider greater authority for Indigenous child and family services. The ministry remains committed to working with First Nations and the Government of Canada to reach coordination agreements that enable all members to receive child and family services delivered by an Indigenous governing body. Coordination agreements are intended to articulate roles and responsibilities to ensure that no service gaps are created and children are not put at risk.

In 2021-22, Children's Services participated on tripartite tables with Alberta First Nations who requested to enter into coordination agreement discussions as per Section 20(2) of the federal Act.

In 2020-21, Alberta received three notices from Alberta First Nations for Section 20-1 and one notice in 2021-22.

In 2020-21, Alberta received two notices from Alberta First Nations for Section 20-2 and one collective notice from three Alberta First Nations in 2021-22.

Collaborative Partnerships with Indigenous Communities

Children's Services is committed to reconciliation and the ministry continues to establish and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities, leaders and organizations.

Children's Services continued work with the Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council (G4)-Children's Services Protocol Table to address matters of mutual concern relevant to child and family services. Children's Services supported the G4's facilitation and coordination of the Table engagement activities with the G4 Elders Advisory Committee. In September 2021, a jointly developed work plan was signed by the Minister and G4 Chiefs.

The ministry continued work with the Blackfoot Confederacy (BFC) through the BFC-Children's Services Child and Family Services Protocol Table and supported the BFC's facilitation and coordination of the Table.

Work with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) continued through the MNA-Children's Services Sub-Table established under the MNA-GoA Framework Agreement. In 2021-22, implementation of the three-year Broad Approach to Child and Family Services continued a key initiative being the MNA-developed Métis Cultural Awareness training sessions for Children's Services staff.

On February 15, 2022, Children's Services signed a Letter of Intent with the Enoch Cree Nation committing to work together on child and youth priorities.

Performance Measure 2.a:**Percentage of youth receiving supports from the Advancing Futures program who successfully completed their planned studies**

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
81%	85%	88%	89%	88%	86%

This performance measure tracks the success of youth who have completed their planned studies. The Advancing Futures program provides support to youth in transition as they navigate through complex adult systems and pursue careers in their chosen field of study. The Advancing Futures program provides emotional and social supports and funding for youth who have been, or continue to be in care or are receiving services from Children's Services, as they transition to adulthood and pursue post-secondary studies with the goal to obtain a career.

Last year, 1,234 applications were received and 1,051 students were approved to receive a bursary to pursue post-secondary studies. Of the total 1,051 students, 903 successfully completed their studies, which is equal to 86 per cent of Advancing Futures students who successfully completed their educational studies.

Advancing Futures students are successful because they receive a high level of skill development training, as well as social and emotional support from the Program Coordinators. This measure exceeded its target by four per cent, which demonstrates how well Children's Services is addressing the needs of youth transitioning out of government care into post-secondary.

The Advancing Futures Program provides emotional and social supports and funding for youth who have been, or continue to be in care or are receiving services from Children's Services, as they transition to adulthood and pursue post-secondary studies with the goal to obtain a career.

Reasons a youth may withdraw or be terminated from their educational studies could be attributed to a variety of factors such as medical leaves, mental health challenges, exposure to family violence, incorrect program, readiness or absenteeism. The ministry continues to work to increase the success rate in youths.

Performance Measure 2.b:
Percentage of children in care placed in family-based care

	Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
Indigenous	85%	85%	85%	86%	86%	87%
Non-Indigenous	84%	84%	86%	86%	86%	86%

Child intervention services are required when a parent cannot adequately protect a child from harm, or the danger of being harmed, as defined by the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*. This measure reflects the ministry's commitment to provide a range of programs and services to help children grow up in a safe and nurturing family setting when out-of-home placements are necessary for short or longer periods.

The ministry exceeded its target for the year, which resulted in 87 per cent of Indigenous children in care placed in family-based care, through kinship care, foster care or permanent placements. Similarly, 86 per cent of non-Indigenous children in care were placed in family-based care, meeting the target. Results for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children have been consistent over the last several years, demonstrating the ministry's commitment to placing children in family settings whenever it is safe to do so.

Higher percentages of children placed in family-based placements may indicate that child intervention services collaborate with parents and extended family to maintain familial, cultural and community connections to pursue reunifications of families and support child safety and wellbeing. Children and youth in these family-based settings often result in successful reunifications, adoptions or private guardianships.

Outcome Three: Reduction in the regulatory and administrative requirements imposed by legislation, regulations and associated policies and forms improves services for children, youth and families

Key Objectives

3.1 Implement the new *Early Learning and Child Care Act* and regulation to streamline licensing processes and empower child care operators to provide high-quality early childhood education and care to meet the needs of working parents.

The new *Early Learning and Child Care Act* and regulation came into force in February 2021. Since that time, policy, guidelines and forms have been amended, including program plans, inspections and licensing application/reapplications.

The *Early Learning and Child Care Act*:

- improves the standard for quality and safety in licensed child care,
- provides more information and transparency to parents and caregivers,
- streamlines and modernizes licensing processes and requirements, and
- reduces red tape and gives providers more flexibility to better support families in their communities.

Children's Services also reduced red tape by changing the way child care licenses are issued and renewed. Initial licenses for already established operators are now issued for up to three years, instead of one year. This results in fewer administrative tasks required to complete an initial and subsequent renewal license. After the license renewal, the license will no longer have an expiry date, whereas previously, operators had to renew every three years.

3.2 Improve online services and the management of digital information to simplify communication and interactions between government and Albertans and support greater efficiencies.

Having available and up-to-date electronic information for every child and family receiving child intervention services is a priority for Children's Services and the Government of Alberta.

Pathway to Paperless Initiative

In 2021-22 child intervention began the Pathway to Paperless Initiative. The purpose of this digital initiative is to increase efficiency and improve service delivery for all Albertans. Children's Services recognizes that having available and accessible access to child intervention records supports informed decision-making and improves outcomes for children, families and staff. For this reason, child intervention has been developing tools and information systems to support this Pathway to Paperless Initiative.

Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

Key Priority Two: Protecting livelihoods

Objective Two: Reducing red tape

- In 2021-22, Children's Services reduced regulatory requirements by 2,844 representing a 28.2 per cent reduction. The reductions are primarily from forms, guidelines, statutes and regulations.
- New legislation and digital tools cut red tape in child care to give providers more flexibility and make it easier for parents to access subsidy support.
- Online portals allow child care staff to securely sign-in and update their contact information, confirm program educator profiles, and upload documents.

Document Management

The pathway started with the implementation of Case Connect in 2019, a tool that allowed case workers to create and file contact logs electronically. In September 2021, an electronic document management system was integrated with the case management system to provide staff with the latest technology to upload, store and manage all child intervention electronic documents. Approximately 900,000 documents were migrated to the new system in 2021-22 using technology to make them searchable and editable. The new electronic document management system allowed for hundreds of additional types of documents to be accommodated in electronic format.

While efforts to capture child intervention records electronically continue, there are some records that remain in paper format. Finding a solution to digitally capture these physical records is the next pathway to paperless project.

Child Care Licensing Portal for Family Day Home Agencies

In June 2021, Children's Services launched the Child Care Licensing Portal for Family Day Home (FDH) Agencies, which simplified communication and streamlined services between FDH agencies and ministry licensing staff.

- The online portal allows FDH agencies to securely sign-in and update their contact information, confirm program educator profiles, upload documents into the portal, and view site visit completions and communicate about non-compliances directly with licensing officers. A total of 59 agencies accessed the portal in 2021-22.
- Children's Services licensing staff enter site visit completions, add non-compliances, and have the ability to communicate online with the family day home agency. They no longer have to receive documents by email or mail, since documents can be uploaded directly into the portal.

Performance Measure 3.a:**Percent reduction of regulatory requirements to enhance services for children, youth and families**

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
Not available	Not available	8.2%	23.6%	20%	28.2%

This performance measure tracks the progress towards the one-third reduction and reports on the net reduction in regulatory burden. Children's Services succeeded in making it easier to do business in the province by reducing red tape and regulatory burden for child care operators and Alberta families. The ministry has achieved 28.2 per cent in reductions this year, exceeding the target of 20 per cent for 2021-22.

There are no results available for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 fiscal years as this is a new performance measure that was initiated in the department in 2019.

In June 2021, Children's Services launched the Child Care Licensing Portal for Family Day Home agencies, which simplified communication and streamlined services between family day home agencies and Children's Services licensing staff. The portal enables day home providers to submit information such as certifications and applications online versus through mail and significantly reduces the possibility of making errors, which means quicker processing of applications. Children's Services licensing staff are able to communicate online with the family day home agency.

The ministry improved service delivery through the simplification of application forms from youth applying to the Advancing Futures Program, to families applying for a child care subsidy, to streamlined post adoption registry processes – reducing red tape for Albertans trying to access their adoptions records.

Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology

Performance Measure 1.a:

Percentage change in the number of licensed child care spaces

This measure shows the percentage increase in the number of licensed child care spaces over time. The number of spaces within a child care program is the total net floor area divided by the number of required square meters per child. Daycare programs require three square meters for each child, while out-of-school and pre-school programs require 2.5 square meters per child.

The percentage increase in licensed child care spaces is calculated by using the difference in the available spaces between March of the previous year and March in the current year. March data is used in these calculations as it represents the end of the fiscal year. This number is then divided by the number of spaces in March of the previous year and expressed in percentage as indicated by the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage} = \frac{\text{spaces in March of current year} - \text{spaces in March of previous year}}{\text{spaces in March of previous year}} \times 100$$

Source: Child Care Information System

Performance Indicator 1.b:

Child Care Statistics: Daycare, Family Day Home, Out of School Care, Innovative and Group Family Child Care programs

This performance indicator shows the total number of licensed child care spaces, the number of children enrolled, the total enrollment rate and the number of children receiving subsidy. Spaces indicates the maximum number of children a child care center can accommodate. The number of children enrolled is the actual number of children served by child care programs. The total enrollment rate is the number of children enrolled divided by the number of spaces. The total number of children receiving subsidy is the total subsidy caseload count.

This performance indicator is typically reported at the end of March in a given year based on the claim reports submitted by the child care programs.

Source: Child Care Information System

Performance Measure 2.a:

Percentage of youth receiving supports from the Advancing Futures program who successfully completed their planned studies

This performance measure describes the percentage of youth who received funding from Advancing Futures and successfully completed a program this fiscal year or continue to be in attendance as of March in a given fiscal year.

The data for this performance measure is taken from April 1 to March 31. The total recipients identifies students who have been approved for supports and a bursary, those who applied but never attended a program, those who withdrew during the year, and those whose award was terminated by the institution. The students who finished their planned studies within the fiscal year or were in studies this fiscal year and will be continuing the following year are considered as those who successfully completed their planned studies.

$$\text{Percentage} = \frac{\text{total recipients in a fiscal year} - \text{never attended/withdrawn/terminated recipients in a fiscal year}}{\text{total recipients in a fiscal year}} \times 100$$

Source: Bursary Information Module

Performance Measure 2.b:
Percentage of children in care placed in family-based care

This performance measure describes the percentage of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth who are placed away from home in a family-based placement including kinship care, foster care and permanency placements in a given fiscal year.

This is calculated separately for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children using the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage} = \frac{\text{average monthly number of children in a family – based placement during a fiscal year}}{\text{average monthly number of children receiving services in care during a fiscal year}} \times 100$$

Source: Child Intervention Case Information Online

Performance Measure 3.a:
Percent reduction of regulatory requirements to enhance services for children, youth and families

The scope of the baseline count included in the performance measure result is based on the number of regulatory requirements in forms, guidelines and policies that cause regulatory burden. Regulatory requirements are defined as “any action that a citizen, business, or government must take to access government services or programs, carry out business or pursue legislated privileges.”

In order to determine the one-third reduction target for Children’s Services, the baseline count of regulatory requirements in acts and regulations concluded in October 2019. The count of regulatory requirements in associated forms, guidelines and policies was completed in February 2020.

The baseline count was retroactive to May 1, 2019 and, reflects the inventory of regulatory instruments that were in force on that date. Statutes, regulations, policies and forms that have been repealed after May 1, 2019 as well as statutes, regulations, policies and forms created after May 1, 2019 were excluded from the baseline count.

Progress towards the one-third reduction will consider red tape/regulatory requirements eliminated or merged as a result of amendments to statutes and regulations in accordance with or changes to associated forms, guidelines and policies included in the baseline count completed in 2019-20 and in accordance with Treasury Board and Finance guidelines. The performance measure reports on the net reduction in regulatory burden. New regulatory requirements that result from a change are to be included in the formula. Strategic Initiative unit coordinates and tracks red tape reduction initiatives.

$$\text{Percentage} = \frac{\text{new red tape} - \text{red tape eliminated or reduced}}{\text{baseline count}} \times 100$$

Source: Children’s Services

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Ministry Financial Highlights

Statement of Revenues and Expenses (unaudited)

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022		2021	Change from	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	2021 Actual
<i>(in thousands)</i>					
Revenues					
Services to First Nations Reserves	\$ 45,678	\$ 51,232	\$ 42,953	\$ 5,554	\$ 8,279
Other Federal Transfers	76,051	233,522	83,642	157,471	149,880
Premiums, Fees and Licences	55	42	60	(13)	(18)
Other Revenue	7,699	22,609	31,829	14,910	(9,220)
Ministry total	129,483	307,405	158,484	177,922	148,921
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	(2)	(37)	(2)	35
Adjusted ministry total	129,483	307,403	158,447	177,920	148,956
Programs					
Ministry Support Services	5,876	5,660	5,790	(216)	(130)
Child Intervention	881,396	864,827	847,835	(16,569)	16,992
Child Care	393,402	488,369	379,158	94,967	109,211
Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth	96,077	95,539	92,285	(538)	3,254
Policy Innovation and Indigenous Connections	9,379	6,495	6,452	(2,884)	43
Alberta Child Benefit	-	-	48,297	-	(48,297)
Alberta Child and Family Benefit	345,000	287,920	219,314	(57,080)	68,606
Ministry total	1,731,130	1,748,810	1,599,131	17,680	149,679
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	(13,700)	(7,226)	(9,432)	6,474	2,206
Adjusted ministry total	1,717,430	1,741,584	1,589,699	24,154	151,885
Annual deficit before inter-ministry adjustments	(1,601,647)	(1,441,405)	(1,440,647)	160,242	(758)
Inter-ministry adjustments	13,700	7,224	9,395	(6,476)	(2,171)
Adjusted annual deficit	\$(1,587,947)	\$(1,434,181)	\$(1,431,252)	\$ 153,766	\$ (2,929)

Revenue and Expense Highlights

Revenues

The total ministry revenue was \$307.4 million, approximately \$177.9 million higher than Budget 2021 and \$148.9 million higher than 2020-21.

Compared to Budget 2021

- The higher revenues were primarily due to increases in Other Federal Transfers from the Federal Government to support the expansion of accessible, affordable and high-quality child care through Canada-Alberta Early Learning Child Care and Workforce agreements. Other Revenue also increased due to service-provider contract surpluses and unused legal contingency. There was also increased recoveries from Indigenous Services Canada for services to First Nation Reserves attributable to on-reserve Child Intervention caseloads.

Compared to 2020-21 Actual

- Higher revenues were primarily due to increases in Other Federal Transfers from the Federal Government to support the expansion of accessible, affordable and high-quality child care through Canada-Alberta Early Learning Child Care and Workforce agreements. There was also increased recoveries from Indigenous Services Canada for services to First Nation Reserves attributable to on-reserve Child Intervention caseloads. This was partially offset by a reduction in Other Revenue resulting from a one-time reallocation of federal funding in prior year.

Expenses

The total Ministry's operating expense was \$1,748.8 million in 2021-22, \$17.7 million or 1 per cent higher than budget and \$149.7 million or 9.4 per cent higher than 2020-21.

Compared to Budget 2021

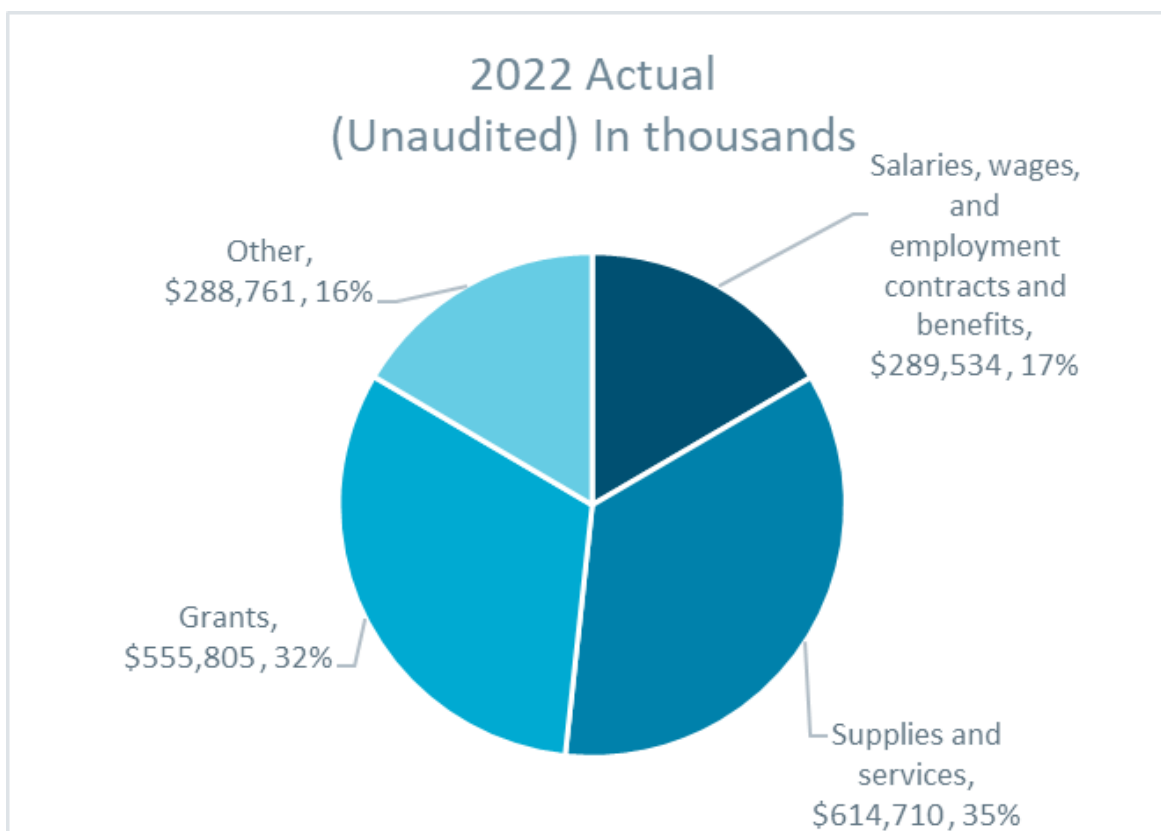
- Ministry Support Services expense of \$5.7 million was \$0.2 million or 3.7 per cent lower than budget.
- Child Intervention expense of \$864.8 million was \$16.6 million or 1.9 per cent lower than budget primarily due to vacancies resulting from hiring delays, and lower caseloads for at-home-placements and intake and assessment.
- Child Care expense of \$488.4 million was \$95.0 million or 24.1 per cent higher than budget due to the additional support for expansion of accessible, affordable and high-quality child care from the Canada-Alberta Early Learning Child Care and Workforce funding agreements. This increase was partially offset by a provincial child care surplus due to lower enrollment than planned resulting from the pandemic
- Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth expense of \$95.5 million was \$0.5 million or 0.6 per cent lower than budget due to contracted agencies not operating at full capacity due to the pandemic, offset by additional uptake in the Advancing Futures Bursary program.
- Policy Innovation & Indigenous Connections expense of \$6.5 million was \$2.9 million or 30.7 per cent lower than budget due to lower appeals, Inter-governmental supports, delayed training, temporary adjustment to online stakeholder meetings, and recruitment delays.
- Alberta Child and Family Benefit (ACFB) expense of \$287.9 million was \$57.1 million or 16.5 per cent lower than budget due to higher than expected household incomes, likely connected to federal pandemic income supports.

Compared to 2020-21 Actual

- Ministry Support Services expenses was \$5.7 million, a decrease of \$0.1 million or 2.2 per cent.
- Child Intervention expense was \$864.8 million, an increase of \$17.0 million or 2.0 per cent from 2020-21 primarily due to cost-per-case increases in caregiver program, cost-per-case and caseload increases in facility placements.
- Child Care expense was \$488.3 million, an increase of \$109.2 million or 28.8 per cent from 2020-21 due to additional federal support for expansion of accessible, affordable and high-quality child care from the Canada-Alberta Early Learning Child Care and Workforce funding agreements.
- Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth expense was \$95.5 million, an increase of \$3.3 million or 3.5 per cent from 2020-21 primarily due to Advancing Futures Bursary caseload growth, additional grants funding to early intervention on-reserves, Home Visitation Services and community based direct costs.
- Policy Innovation and Indigenous Connections expense was \$6.5 million, an increase of \$0.04 million or 0.7 per cent from 2020-21.
- Alberta Child Benefit (ACB) expense was nil, a decrease of \$48.3 million due to the consolidation of ACB into the ACFB program in 2020-21.
- Alberta Child and Family Benefit (ACFB) expense was \$287.9 million, an increase of \$68.6 million or 31.3 per cent from 2020-21 due to the consolidation of ACB into the ACFB program and a full year of families receiving the benefit compared to three quarters in prior year.

Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (unaudited)

The following information presents expenses of the ministry that were directly incurred by object. The objective of disclosure of expenses by object is to provide information that is useful in evaluating the economic impact of government acquiring or consuming various types of resources.



- The ministry’s largest operating expense was supplies and services, which totaled \$614.7 million, made up 35 per cent of total operating expense and was primarily in the Child Intervention program (\$595.3 million). Included in Supplies and Services was approximately \$404.9 million in contract payments which were paid primarily to contracted service providers and caregivers who provided services directly to Albertans on behalf of the ministry.
- The next largest operating expense was grants, which totaled \$555.8 million (32 per cent) primarily for Child Care programs, including subsidy, Affordability grants, and wage-top ups.
- Expenditures for salaries, wages and employee benefits totaled \$289.5 million (17 per cent) and were primarily in the Child Intervention program.
- Other expenses totaled \$288.8 million (16 per cent) were primarily for the Alberta Family Child Benefit program which provides support to lower-income families focusing on maintaining incentives for families to join and remain in the workforce.

Other Financial Information

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Trust Funds Under Administration (unaudited)

(in thousands)

The ministry administers trust funds that are regulated and other funds consisting of public money over which the Legislature has no power of appropriation. As the ministry has no equity in the funds and administers them for the purpose of various trusts, they are not included in the ministry's financial statements.

At March 31, 2022, the trust funds under administration were as follows:

	2022	2021
Child Resources Rebate Trust Fund	\$ 661	\$ 664

Statement of Remissions, Compromises, Write-offs (unaudited)

The following Statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 23 of the *Financial Administration Act*. The Statement includes all Remissions, Compromises and Write-offs of the Ministry of Children's Services made or approved during the Fiscal Year.

		<i>(in thousands)</i>
Remissions	under Section 21 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> :	\$ -
Compromises	under Section 22 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> :	-
Bankruptcies:		-
Write-Offs:		
	Child Care Subsidy	116
	Other	53
Sub total		169
TOTAL		\$ 169

Lapses/Encumbrances (unaudited)

	Voted Estimate ⁽¹⁾	Supplementary Estimate	Adjustments ⁽²⁾	Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals ⁽³⁾	Over Expended (Unexpended)
	(in thousands)					
Program - Operating Expense						
1 Ministry Support Services						
1.1 Minister's Office	\$ 742	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 742	\$ 675	\$ (67)
1.2 Deputy Minister's Office	756	-	-	756	713	(43)
1.3 Strategic Services	495	-	-	495	438	(57)
1.4 Corporate Services	3,883	-	-	3,883	3,708	(175)
	<u>5,876</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,876</u>	<u>5,534</u>	<u>(342)</u>
2 Child Intervention						
2.1 Program Planning and Delivery	8,736	-	-	8,736	7,698	(1,038)
2.2 Child Intervention Services	576,672	-	-	576,672	560,711	(15,961)
2.3 Supports for Permanency	67,292	-	-	67,292	67,374	82
2.4 Kinship & Foster Care Support	227,123	-	-	227,123	230,256	3,133
	<u>879,823</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>879,823</u>	<u>866,039</u>	<u>(13,784)</u>
3 Child Care						
3.1 Child Care Subsidy and Supports	279,606	107,559	-	387,165	348,523	(38,642)
3.2 Child Care Worker Supports	113,796	28,167	-	141,963	139,392	(2,571)
	<u>393,402</u>	<u>135,726</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>529,128</u>	<u>487,915</u>	<u>(41,213)</u>
4 Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth						
4.1 Early Intervention and Early Childhood Development	81,669	-	-	81,669	78,238	(3,431)
4.2 Youth in Transition	14,408	-	-	14,408	17,366	2,958
	<u>96,077</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>96,077</u>	<u>95,604</u>	<u>(473)</u>
5 Policy Innovation & Indigenous Connections						
5.1 Policy and Innovation	6,807	(1,000)	-	5,807	4,422	(1,385)
5.2 Indigenous Connections	2,572	-	-	2,572	2,158	(414)
	<u>9,379</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,379</u>	<u>6,580</u>	<u>(1,799)</u>
Total	\$1,384,557	\$ 134,726	\$ -	\$1,519,283	\$ 1,461,672	\$ (57,611)
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						\$ (57,611)
Program - Capital Investment						
2 Child Intervention						
2.2 Child Intervention Services	350	-	192	542	21	\$ (521)
3.1 Child Care Subsidy and Supports	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	\$ (1,000)
Total	\$ 350	\$ 1,000	\$ 192	\$ 1,542	\$ 21	\$ (1,521)
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						\$ (1,521)

⁽¹⁾ As per "Expense Vote by Program" and "Capital Investment Vote by Program" page 45 of the 2021-22 Government Estimates.

⁽²⁾ Adjustments include encumbrances, capital carry over amounts, transfers between votes and credit or recovery increases approved by Treasury Board and credit or recovery shortfalls. An encumbrance is incurred when, on a vote-by-vote basis, the total of actual disbursements in the prior year exceed the total adjusted estimate. All calculated encumbrances from the prior year are reflected as an adjustment to reduce the corresponding voted estimate in the current year.

⁽³⁾ Actuals exclude non-voted amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments.

Annual Report Extracts and Other Statutory Reports

Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

Section 32 of the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* reads:

- 32 (1) Every chief officer must prepare a report annually on all disclosures that have been made to the designated officer of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature for which the chief officer is responsible.
- (2) The report under subsection (1) must include the following information:
- (a) the number of disclosures received by the designated officer, the number of disclosures acted on and the number of disclosures not acted on by the designated officer;
 - (b) the number of investigations commenced by the designated officer as a result of disclosures;
 - (c) in the case of an investigation that results in a finding of wrongdoing, a description of the wrongdoing and any recommendations made or corrective measures taken in relation to the wrongdoing or the reasons why no corrective measure was taken.
- (3) The report under subsection (1) must be included in the annual report of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature if the annual report is made publicly available.

There was no disclosures of wrongdoing filed with the public interest disclosure office for Children's Services from the period April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022.