



Children and Family Services

Ministry Business Plan



Children and Family Services

Business Plan 2024-27

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

The Ministry of Children and Family Services (CFS) provides and funds programs and services for children, youth, and families to live safely and succeed in Alberta. Support for vulnerable children, youth, and families are at the core of the ministry's mandate.

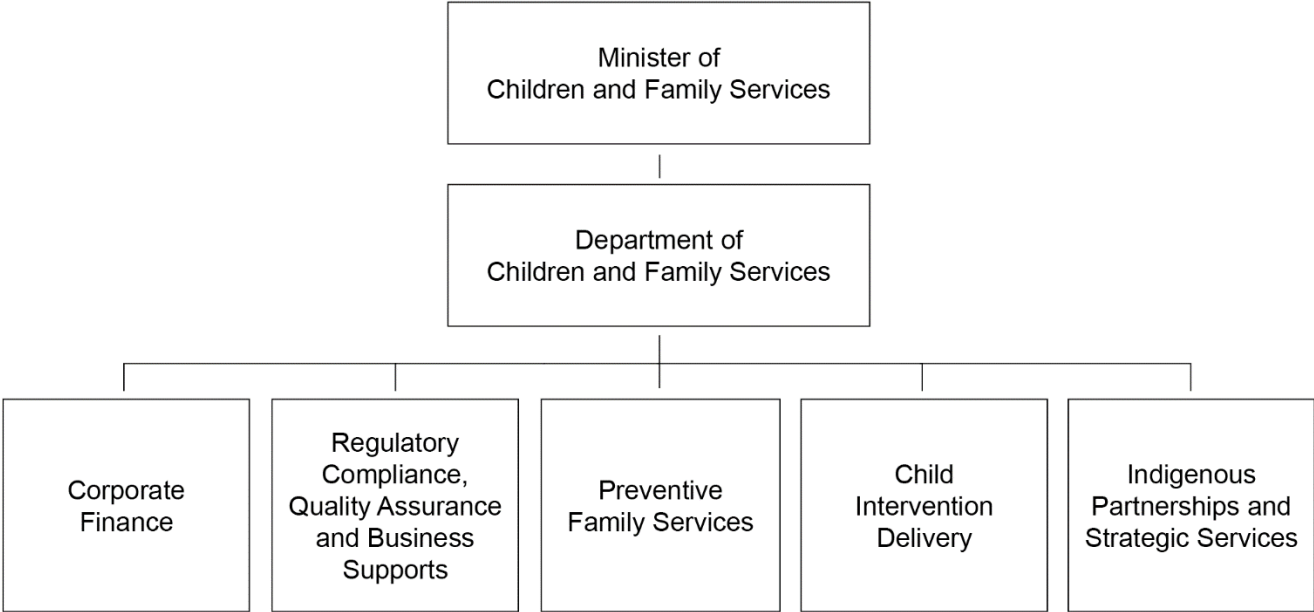
Continuing to invest in Albertans by ensuring children are protected, youth are supported, and families are resilient, CFS remains dedicated to modernizing and efficiently delivering programs and services. Mentoring and support services are available to youth in transitioning to healthy, productive adults. The ministry also invests in community-based groups to raise awareness and help prevent and respond to family violence, sexual violence and abuse.

CFS programs and services include:

- Prevention and early intervention services through community programs such as Family Resource Networks and post-intervention supports;
- A continuum of services through community programs to provide family violence and sexual violence supports;
- Providing targeted services, supports and resources to current and former youth in-care to assist in their successful transition to adulthood;
- Delivering services that honor and respect Indigenous cultural identities, traditions and histories to strengthen and improve outcomes for Indigenous children and youth receiving care;
- Delivering a range of services to children, as well as their families, at home and in-care in cases where children are found to need intervention;
- Overseeing adoption in Alberta, maintaining the post-adoption registry, and providing guardianship services to provide a stable, loving and permanent home to a child or youth; and
- Delivering funding through grant agreements, bursaries and subsidies to improve the lives of Albertans (for example the Advancing Futures Bursary).

The ministry works with partners to design services that are culturally appropriate, meet the needs of children and youth, and focus on the importance of the child's cultural, linguistic, religious, and spiritual upbringing and heritage. This is achieved through collaboration with other ministries, First Nations, Métis, Inuit, other levels of government, agencies, and community-based organizations, supporting enhanced well-being, resiliency, and cultural connections of children, youth and families and more open and meaningful relationships between the ministry and Indigenous peoples.

The ministry provides services, supports and resources to protect children and youth from harmful situations including abuse, neglect or those that put them in need of intervention. The child’s best interests as well as their physical, psychological, and emotional safety and well-being are most important when determining the best care options and supports if the child is placed in care. This includes kinship care with a family member, foster care, guardianship or adoption. The ministry is committed to honouring the cultural aspects of communities and the child’s involvement in those communities, recognizing the importance of lasting relationships with family and friends and collaborating with broader community services, school boards, primary care providers, parents and caregivers to identify and implement a system of supports that meet the child or youth’s needs such as mental health services.



A more detailed description of Children and Family Services and its programs and initiatives can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/children-and-family-services.aspx>.

The Ministry of Children and Family Services remains committed to regulatory approaches and program delivery that reduce unnecessary government oversight and emphasizes outcomes, in order to improve access to government services, attract investment, support innovation and competitiveness, and grow Alberta businesses.

Ministry business plans should be considered in conjunction with all budget documents - including the Fiscal Plan, Government Strategic Plan, and Estimates - which work together to provide a complete overview of government’s commitment to responsible fiscal management.

2024-27 Business Plan

Outcome 1

The safety, resiliency, and cultural connections of children, youth, and families are supported and children and youth are protected

Partnerships, services, and programs provide children, youth and families with the supports needed to ensure their autonomy, maintain their safety and well-being, and prepare youth for the transition to adulthood.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Provide targeted supports for youth to successfully transition from government care into adulthood and build on available support services, mentorship, educational attainment, and employment readiness.
- 1.2 Work with First Nations and the Government of Canada to implement *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* which enables transfer of authority over child and family service delivery.
- 1.3 Improve access to a range of prevention and early intervention programs and services for children, youth and their families that support child safety, well-being, development, and caregiver capacity and support.
- 1.4 Provide accessible and culturally relevant programs and services to Albertans impacted by family and sexual violence by enabling community-based organizations to support a continuum of programming that prevent and address family violence and sexual violence.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2024-25, \$981.3 million will support youth with child intervention involvement, transition to adulthood, mentoring supports, and the Advancing Futures Bursary program.
- In 2024-25, \$66.7 million is allocated to support prevention and early intervention services through the Family Resource Networks.
- In 2024-25, \$84.6 million is allocated to support a continuum of programming through funded community-based organizations that provide family violence and sexual violence supports.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Measure: percentage of youth receiving supports from the Advancing Futures program who successfully complete their planned studies

This demonstrates how well the ministry is addressing the needs of youth transitioning from government care to post-secondary education.

In 2022-23, 91.5 per cent of youth receiving supports successfully completed their planned studies.

Targets	2024-25	89%	2025-26	89%	2026-27	89%
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1.b Performance Indicator under Development: percentage change in Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP) young adult outcomes

This indicator demonstrates the self-assessed progress of TAP clients across education, employability, life skills and connections domains.

1.c Performance Measure: percentage of children in care placed in family-based care

This demonstrates the ministry’s commitment to prioritizing the best interests of children by placing them with parents and relatives or in kinship care, foster care or through permanent placements.

In 2022-23, 86 per cent of Indigenous children and 84 per cent of non-Indigenous children were placed in family-based care.

Targets						
Indigenous	2024-25	87%	2025-26	87%	2026-27	88%
Non-Indigenous	2024-25	87%	2025-26	87%	2026-27	88%

1.d Performance Indicator: number of First Nations children and youth served by Delegated First Nation Agencies (DFNAs)

There is a significant proportion of First Nations children and youth receiving services by DFNAs through 20 Agreements with 37 of the 48 First Nations in Alberta. This includes children and youth residing on-Reserve within the boundaries of their reserve and off-Reserve in circumstances where DFNA provisions are in place.

On January 1, 2020, the federal government enacted *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families* providing a path to exercise authority over child and family services. Once a First Nation in Alberta enacts their Indigenous governing body (IGB) Law under the federal Act, CFS works with the IGB on the transition and transfer of authority of child intervention case files from the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* (CYFEA) to the IGB Law. As of December 31, 2023, the ministry has transferred 196 child intervention case files to four IGBs. As CFS transfers authority to IGBs, the proportion of children and youth receiving services from DFNAs may decline.

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
First Nation children and youth receiving child intervention services (not in care and in care) from a DFNA ¹	1,887	1,904	1,920	2,033	2,014
First Nation children and youth receiving child intervention services ¹	6,239	6,382	6,350	6,302	6,142
Proportion of First Nation children and youth served by a DFNA	30%	30%	30%	32%	33%

¹Data reflects monthly average.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable		2024-25 Estimate	2025-26 Target	2026-27 Target
	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Forecast			
REVENUE					
Services to First Nations Reserves	45,678	45,678	45,678	45,678	45,678
Other Federal Transfers	40,830	43,380	40,830	40,830	40,830
Other Revenue	7,699	7,699	7,699	7,699	7,699
Consolidated Total	94,207	96,757	94,207	94,207	94,207
EXPENSE					
Ministry Support Services	6,083	6,083	6,255	6,379	6,474
Child Intervention	871,379	869,979	895,711	927,151	937,747
Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth	148,803	148,803	152,340	155,772	156,055
Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence	80,005	87,555	84,554	84,603	86,141
Indigenous Partnerships	10,237	10,237	10,382	10,529	10,641
Alberta Child and Family Benefit	345,000	324,000	355,000	365,000	375,000
Affordability Supports and Inflation Relief – Families with Children	271,200	198,200	-	-	-
Ministry Total	1,732,707	1,644,857	1,504,242	1,549,434	1,572,058
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustment	(6,670)	(6,670)	(6,670)	(6,670)	(6,670)
Consolidated Total	1,726,037	1,638,187	1,497,572	1,542,764	1,565,388
Net Operating Result	(1,631,830)	(1,541,430)	(1,403,365)	(1,448,557)	(1,471,181)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT					
Child Intervention	-	4,127	2,597	-	-
Consolidated Total	-	4,127	2,597	-	-