

BUDGET 2022

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2022-25

Ministry Business Plan Community and Social Services

Community and Social Services

Business Plan 2022-25

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

The Ministry of Community and Social Services provides a social safety net to support Albertans’ participation and inclusion in their communities and Alberta’s workforce through the delivery of high-quality social programs. The ministry works with community partners and civil society to ensure supports and services are delivered in a timely, responsive manner, and puts the individual at the centre of an integrated service delivery model that recognizes the unique circumstances, experiences and strengths of individuals, families and communities. The ministry is committed to ensuring services are innovative, delivered in a fiscally responsible manner, and meet targeted outcomes that support Albertans.

It is critical that the social supports Albertans rely on to meet their needs are available now and in the future. The supports the ministry provides include income support and other benefits to help meet the basic needs of Albertans. The social services system provides a social safety net for Albertans, while providing opportunities to foster individual resilience, self-reliance and self-sufficiency. A continued focus on helping unemployed Albertans and people with disabilities or other barriers to employment find meaningful work will benefit the economy while making Community and Social Services programs more sustainable. The ministry also works with municipalities and civil society to take action against homelessness by making sure everyone has a safe place to stay and can be connected to housing with appropriate supports. In addition, investments are provided to community-based groups that help prevent and respond to family violence, sexual violence and abuse. Many community partnerships, including ones with municipalities and civil societies, are important to quickly provide appropriate responses to community needs. The ministry will continue to work with individuals, families, and community-based supports and resources to promote inclusion, improve the lives of Albertans with disabilities and provide supports and resources to help connect Albertans to jobs.

As the pandemic continues to have a significant impact on the lives of vulnerable Albertans, Community and Social Services is working with community partners and civil society to identify how pressing needs are changing and quickly address these challenges. While the pandemic has created several challenges for the economy, through collaboration with our partners, we will make opportunities available for more Albertans to participate in Alberta’s recovery.

Through all of these actions and the partnerships with civil society, Community and Social Services is helping improve Alberta’s capacity and resilience, ensuring families and communities will recover, grow and thrive.





A more detailed description of Community and Social Services and its programs and initiatives can be found at: www.alberta.ca/community-and-social-services.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services continues to review programs to ensure Albertans receive efficient and client-focused services from their government. As part of this ongoing review, the ministry is committed to protecting and supporting Albertans and job creators by reducing red tape by one-third by 2023, modernizing regulations, eliminating unnecessary regulatory requirements, and reducing administrative burden through more efficient processes including digital solutions.

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.

Business Plan – Core

Outcome 1

Stability - Albertans are safe and have timely and consistent access to supports to meet their basic needs

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Modernize and digitize financial support systems to simplify and enhance service delivery for low-income Albertans while maintaining program integrity and ensuring long-term sustainability.
- 1.2 Develop a coordinated community response to homelessness model, with consideration of provincial Coordinated Community Response to Homelessness Task Force recommendations and in partnership with service providers, civil society, other orders of government and the business community.
- 1.3 Enable civil society organizations to provide timely and culturally appropriate supports and resources to Albertans impacted by family and sexual violence.
- 1.4 Continue to work with our partners to help eligible Albertans access Registered Disability Savings Plans.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2022-23, \$89.6 million is allocated to provide safe supportive housing to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and the supports they need to maintain long-term housing stability.
- In 2022-23, \$48.7 million is allocated to homeless shelters to provide safe temporary accommodations, basic needs services, and support clients to access housing and recovery-oriented supports and services.
- In 2022-23, \$13.8 million is allocated to provide services and supports to Albertans impacted by sexual violence through Alberta’s 16 sexual assault centres.

Performance Metrics

1.a **Performance Measure: Median time between when an Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) application is ready for medical adjudication and an eligibility decision is made (in weeks)**

The target processing time of 6.5 weeks to determine AISH eligibility demonstrates the ministry’s commitment to provide Albertans with permanent disabilities timely access to financial supports. In 2020-21, the median time between when an AISH application is ready for medical adjudication and eligibility decision was 5.9 weeks.

Targets	2022-23	6.5	2023-24	6.0	2024-25	5.8
----------------	----------------	-----	----------------	-----	----------------	-----

Outcome 2

Participation - Albertans participate in their communities through employment and other opportunities to reach their individual potential

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Support Alberta’s Recovery Plan through effective and targeted career and employment information services to connect Albertans experiencing long-term unemployment to the labour market.
- 2.2 Promote participation for Albertans with disabilities in Alberta’s recovery by partnering with post-secondary institutions to facilitate post-secondary opportunities and to help build a skilled, professional workforce.
- 2.3 Continue to support persons with disabilities to participate in community life and families to promote the development of their children with disabilities.
- 2.4 Collaborate with Alberta’s Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Service Networks to offer programming and resources for prevention, diagnosis, assessment and support for Albertans.

2.5 Promote awareness of and increase access to culturally sensitive supports and services for Indigenous persons with disabilities living both on- and off-reserve and on Metis Settlements.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2022-23, an additional \$33.6 million, for a total of \$105.9 million, is allocated to connect Albertans, including those with disabilities, to meaningful employment and training opportunities.
- In 2022-23, \$1.5 million is allocated to support Family Resource Centres across the province to assist families to manage their family managed services.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: Percentage of participants employed after leaving Income Support

The target of 62 per cent demonstrates the ministry’s commitment to help Albertans get back to work after leaving Income Support. In 2020, 59 per cent of participants were employed after leaving Income Support.

Targets	2022	62%	2023	62%	2024	64%
----------------	-------------	-----	-------------	-----	-------------	-----

Outcome 3

Inclusion - Alberta's communities provide a sense of belonging and foster resiliency for individuals and families

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Develop a Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework to provide clarity to municipalities and Metis Settlements so that they are better able to design and deliver preventive social programs.
- 3.2 Raise awareness on matters relating to persons with disabilities through the Premier’s Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities and the Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities.
- 3.3 Continue to develop and implement a family violence primary prevention framework.
- 3.4 Through the Premier’s Council on Charities and Civil Society, expand civil society capacity to address emerging social issues and improve supports for Albertans.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2022-23 \$100 million is allocated through Family and Community Support Services to communities and Metis Settlements to develop and deliver preventative social services programming.
- In 2022-23, \$6 million is allocated through the Civil Society Fund to help build civil society’s capacity to address social issues in Alberta’s diverse communities.

Performance Metrics

3.a Performance Measure: Satisfaction of families/guardians of clients accessing the Persons with Developmental Disabilities program that services are helping the client to be a part of their community (biennial survey)

The target of 88 per cent demonstrates the ministry’s commitment to support adult Albertans with developmental disabilities to be included in their community as much as they want to be. In 2019-20, 88 per cent of families/guardians were satisfied Persons with Developmental Disabilities services helped the client be a part of their community as much as they want to be.

Targets	2022-23	N/A ¹	2023-24	88%	2024-25	N/A ¹
----------------	----------------	------------------	----------------	-----	----------------	------------------

¹ This is a biennial survey. No targets included for years when the survey is not conducted.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2022-23 Estimate	2023-24 Target	2024-25 Target
	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Investment Income	3	-	-	-	-	-
Services on First Nations Reserves	52,642	51,226	52,643	53,143	53,643	54,143
Labour Market Development	83,128	85,128	85,128	85,128	85,128	85,128
Premiums, Fees and Licences	-	257	-	-	-	-
Other Revenue	49,932	13,964	20,215	20,215	20,215	20,215
Ministry Total	185,705	150,575	157,986	158,486	158,986	159,486
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(14,893)	(2,546)	(2,546)	(2,546)	(2,546)	(2,546)
Consolidated Total	170,812	148,029	155,440	155,940	156,440	156,940
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	16,393	14,776	15,376	15,496	15,496	15,496
Employment and Income Support	764,933	855,283	751,033	816,453	765,778	766,178
Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped	1,314,425	1,359,407	1,327,507	1,371,218	1,444,888	1,513,288
Disability Services	1,308,281	1,353,248	1,354,948	1,413,859	1,420,664	1,444,764
Homeless and Outreach Support Services	252,365	193,008	223,208	193,208	193,208	193,208
Community Supports and Family Safety	142,285	136,737	131,637	137,637	131,637	131,637
Services Provided to Other Ministries	14,580	2,546	2,546	2,546	2,546	2,546
Ministry Total	3,813,262	3,915,005	3,806,255	3,950,417	3,974,217	4,067,117
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(39,640)	(27,546)	(27,546)	(27,546)	(27,546)	(27,546)
Consolidated Total	3,773,622	3,887,459	3,778,709	3,922,871	3,946,671	4,039,571
Net Operating Result	(3,602,810)	(3,739,430)	(3,623,269)	(3,766,931)	(3,790,231)	(3,882,631)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Employment and Income Support	84	-	-	-	-	-
Disability Services	218	547	1,047	547	547	547
Consolidated Total	302	547	1,047	547	547	547