

BUDGET 2021

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2021-24

Ministry Business Plan Community and Social Services

Community and Social Services

Business Plan 2021-24

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

The Ministry of Community and Social Services supports Albertans’ participation and inclusion in their communities through the delivery of high-quality social programs. These supports and services are delivered in a timely, responsive manner, which 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many economic and social challenges for 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 their basic needs. 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 and abuse. Many community partnerships including ones with municipalities and civil society, 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.

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.

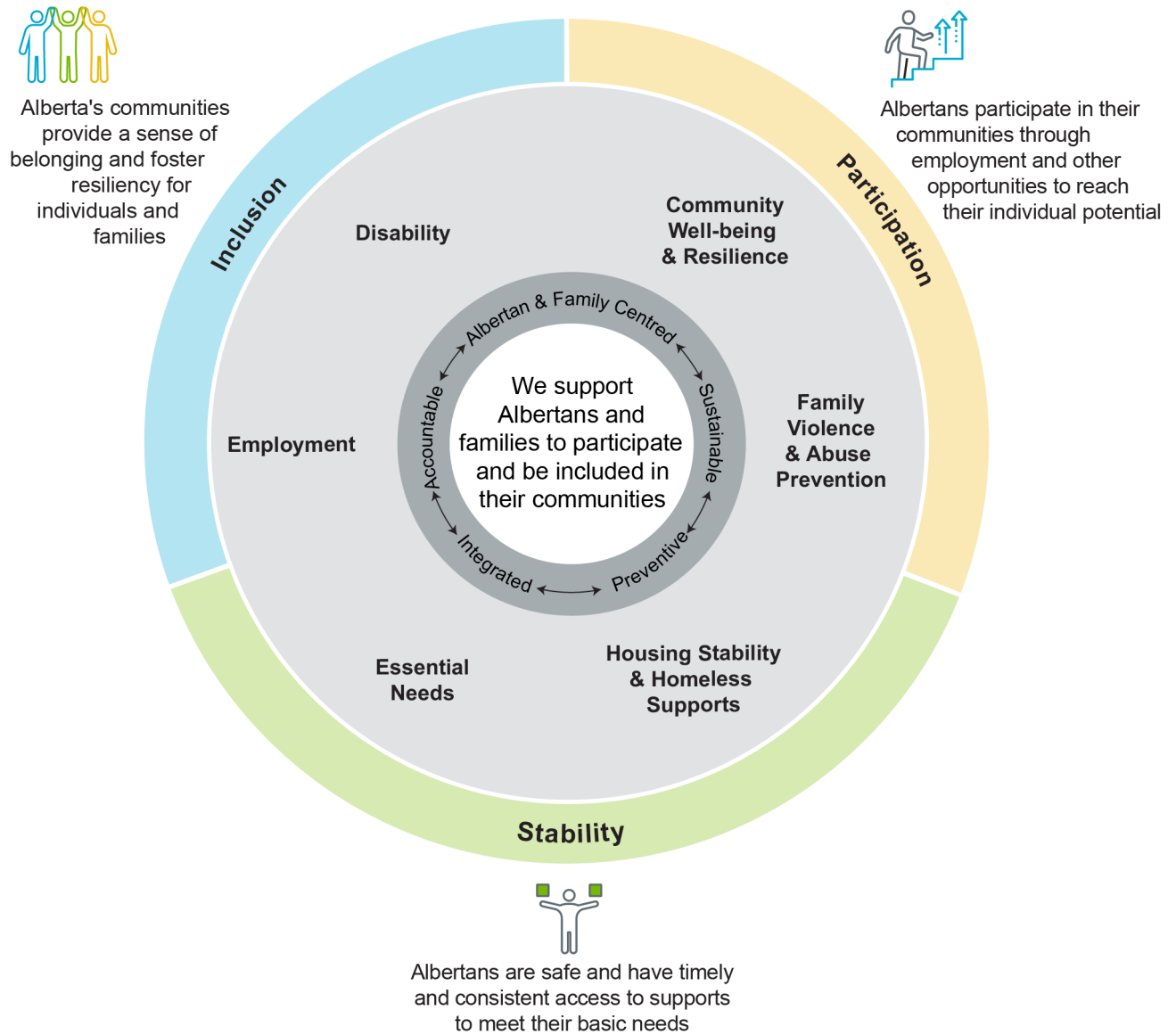


A more detailed description of Community and Social Services and its programs and initiatives can be found at www.alberta.ca/community-and-social-services.

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 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 work will improve service delivery for Albertans; foster economic growth, innovation and competitiveness; and create a strong and attractive investment climate.

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.

Community and Social Services Strategic Mandate



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 financial support systems to simplify and enhance service delivery for low-income Albertans.
- 1.2 Provide safe emergency shelter for vulnerable Albertans, ensuring appropriate measures are in place in response to COVID-19.
- 1.3 Review homeless support programs for vulnerable individuals and families that lead to improved housing stability.
- 1.4 Enable civil society organizations to provide timely and culturally appropriate supports and resources to Albertans impacted by domestic and sexual violence.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2021-22, \$100,000 is allocated to shift 44 single year agreements to multi-year funding agreements for women’s shelters and sexual assault centres, enabling organizations to focus on effective service delivery.
- In 2021-22, \$200,000 is allocated to implement the *Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence (Clare’s Law) Act* which allows people at potential risk of domestic violence to obtain the information they need to make informed choices about potentially harmful relationships.

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 7.0 weeks to determine AISH eligibility demonstrates the ministry’s commitment to provide Albertans with permanent disabilities timely access to financial supports. In 2018-19 and 2019-20, the median time between when an AISH application is ready for medical adjudication and eligibility decision was 12.9 weeks and 2.6* weeks respectively.

Targets	2021-22	7.0	2022-23	6.5	2023-24	6.0
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* In 2019-20, several process improvements were implemented as part of a pilot with temporary support of additional adjudicators.

Outcome 2

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

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Promote participation in Alberta’s recovery through effective and targeted employment support services and by facilitating post-secondary opportunities for Albertans with disabilities.
- 2.2 Improve supports for persons with disabilities to participate in community life and for families to promote the development of their children with disabilities.
- 2.3 Collaborate with Alberta’s Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Service Networks to offer programming and resources for prevention, diagnosis, assessment and support for Albertans.
- 2.4 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 2021-22, \$2 million is allocated to provide post-secondary opportunities for students with developmental disabilities.
- In 2021-22, \$5 million is allocated to support new employment partnerships to create job opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- In 2021-22, \$1 million is committed to restore the Wellness, Resiliency and Partnerships (WRaP) program to increase the academic success and enhance the social, emotional and physical well-being of students with FASD.

Performance Metrics

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

The target of 65 per cent demonstrates the ministry's commitment to help Albertans get back to work after leaving Income Support. In 2019-20, 68 per cent of participants were employed after leaving Income Support.

Targets	2021-22	65%	2022-23	66%	2023-24	67%
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Outcome 3

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

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Provide funding to municipalities and Metis Settlements 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, Minister's Disability Advisory Forum and other mechanisms.
- 3.3 Develop and implement a family violence prevention framework, increase awareness in Alberta's communities and ensure inclusion and support for survivors.
- 3.4 Through the Premier's Council on Civil Society and Charities, expand civil society capacity to address emerging social issues and improve supports for Albertans.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2021-22, \$7 million from the Civil Society Fund is allocated to help build capacity in the civil society sector and support recovery from COVID-19.
- In 2021-22, \$100 million is allocated through Family and Community Support Services to fund preventive social programs to improve the well-being of individuals, families and 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 89 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	2021-22	89%	2022-23	N/A	2023-24	90%
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STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2021-22 Estimate	2022-23 Target	2023-24 Target
	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Investment Income	26	-	-	-	-	-
Services on First Nations Reserves	55,071	50,398	50,398	51,226	52,070	52,931
Labour Market Development	74,755	84,128	83,128	85,128	85,128	85,128
Premiums, Fees and Licences	26	257	257	257	257	257
Other Revenue	33,543	29,045	29,045	13,964	13,964	13,964
Ministry Total	163,421	163,828	162,828	150,575	151,419	152,280
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(15,849)	(17,627)	(17,627)	(2,546)	(2,546)	(2,546)
Consolidated Total	147,572	146,201	145,201	148,029	148,873	149,734
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	12,510	11,664	11,664	10,689	10,809	10,809
Employment and Income Support	1,009,955	938,834	809,334	856,643	840,779	781,604
Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped	1,310,098	1,289,565	1,326,065	1,359,407	1,425,918	1,494,288
Disability Services	1,353,066	1,359,424	1,356,924	1,354,575	1,370,086	1,387,591
Homeless and Outreach Support Services	227,276	195,851	248,251	193,008	193,008	193,008
Community Supports and Family Safety	137,827	135,487	137,187	136,737	136,937	136,937
Services Provided to Other Ministries	15,547	17,627	17,627	2,546	2,546	2,546
Ministry Total	4,066,279	3,948,452	3,907,052	3,913,605	3,980,083	4,006,783
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(40,630)	(37,627)	(37,627)	(27,546)	(27,546)	(27,546)
Consolidated Total	4,025,649	3,910,825	3,869,425	3,886,059	3,952,537	3,979,237
Net Operating Result	(3,878,077)	(3,764,624)	(3,724,224)	(3,738,030)	(3,803,664)	(3,829,503)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Employment and Income Support	123	-	-	-	-	-
Disability Services	43	547	547	547	547	547
Consolidated Total	166	547	547	547	547	547