

BUDGET 2022

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2022-25

Ministry Business Plan Seniors and Housing

Seniors and Housing

Business Plan 2022-25

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

The ministry consists of the Department of Seniors and Housing and the Alberta Social Housing Corporation. Seniors and Housing promotes the well-being and quality of life of Alberta seniors, and those in need of affordable housing. The ministry also supports Alberta's Recovery Plan by protecting the health and safety of seniors, assisting Albertans to attach to the workforce through providing stable and affordable housing options, and by creating jobs through capital housing projects.

As of December 2021, there were 700,000 seniors in Alberta. Seniors' benefits provide financial supports for seniors with low income to meet their basic needs. These benefits will continue to support seniors in need through the maintenance of one of the best financial support programs in Canada. Other initiatives focus on creating innovative community options through civil society partnerships in the priority areas of addressing ageism, elder abuse prevention, transportation, social inclusion, and engagement of diverse populations.

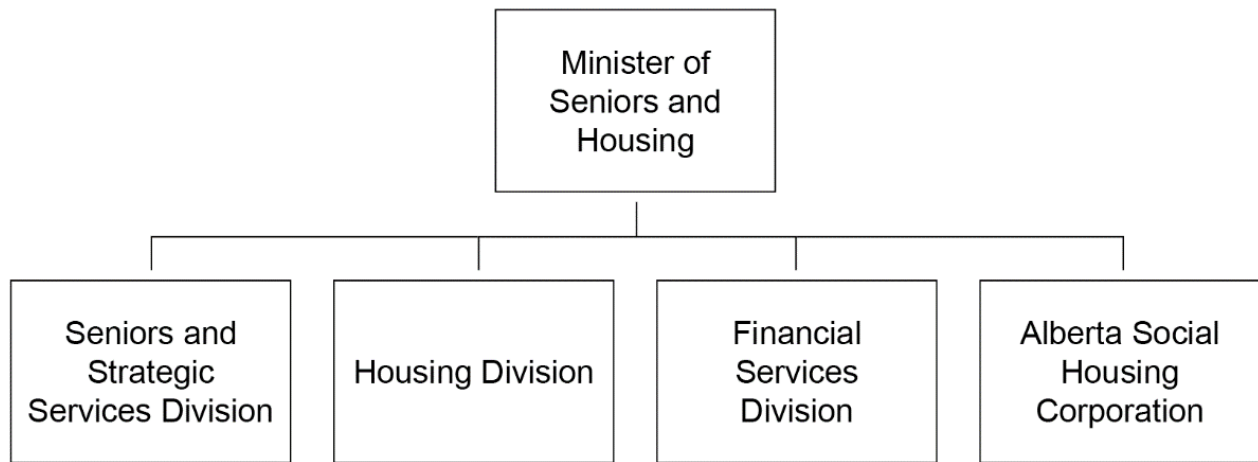
By 2035, Alberta is expected to be home to more than one million seniors, accounting for nearly 20 per cent of Alberta's total population. The ministry will continue to monitor trends related to the growing seniors' population, including the impact the increasing cost of living may have on seniors with low income. This is done by monitoring seniors' income relative to the income of all Albertans and trends related to the poverty rate of seniors based on data from Statistics Canada. The ministry will also continue to provide timely supports to seniors most in need both during the COVID-19 pandemic and as part of Alberta's recovery from the pandemic. Policies and programs will continue to be responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities of an aging population.

The ministry will continue to identify opportunities to enhance services to Albertans through innovative digital transformation initiatives, making it easier to access and navigate seniors financial assistance and affordable housing programs, and supporting the delivery of programs and services at the community level. This digital transformation will provide cost efficiencies while delivering improved outcomes for Albertans now and for the future.

Seniors and Housing is working with civil society organizations, housing management bodies, and other orders of government, and utilizing partnerships to build, renew, and maintain approximately 58,250 affordable housing units that serve more than 110,000 Albertans most in need. In response to the recommendations of the 2020 Affordable Housing Review Panel, the ministry is working to implement Stronger Foundations: Alberta's 10-Year Strategy to Improve and Expand Affordable Housing, to transform Alberta's affordable housing system. The strategy is part of Alberta's Recovery Plan and outlines changes that will build a sustainable system to provide flexible, fair, and inclusive housing options well into the future. This includes the implementation of an affordable housing asset management plan that will optimize the value of assets owned by the Alberta Social Housing Corporation. Where a disposition of assets occurs, all proceeds will be reinvested back into the affordable housing system.

Implementation of the Stronger Foundations strategy will also include the development and implementation of a mixed-income operating model, which will enable housing providers to increase the number of affordable housing units available for Albertans who pay more than 30 per cent of their income for housing. In addition, a new partnership program will be launched to support projects with other funding sources, such as federal and municipal governments and non-government organizations, to increase the supply of affordable housing units in areas with high demand.

Seniors and Housing also provides secretariat support and coordinates cross-ministry efforts to assist the Government of Alberta's Liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces to improve the experience of military members, their families, veterans, and reservists in Alberta. This support and coordination helps the Liaison build relationships and partnerships with these groups, military institutions, and military and veteran serving organizations. By liaising with civil society organizations, other jurisdictions and orders of government, the Liaison assists with the development and improvement of available services and resources.



A more detailed description of Seniors and Housing and its programs and initiatives can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/ministry-seniors-housing.aspx>

The Ministry of Seniors and Housing 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

Life is better for Alberta seniors and their caregivers

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Maintain financial stability for seniors with low income, and work with other ministries to support the health, safety, and well-being of seniors, their ability to participate in their communities, and for their communities to support seniors’ independence.
- 1.2 Prevent elder abuse by raising awareness, supporting coordinated community responses, promoting system coordination, and encouraging stronger protective policies.
- 1.3 Continue to reduce red tape for Alberta seniors through digital transformation initiatives that will improve access, application processes, and service delivery.
- 1.4 Recognize and support diverse older adult populations by addressing a range of social priorities for seniors.
- 1.5 Collaborate with community-based seniors-serving organizations, health and other sectors, and all orders of government to plan and deliver initiatives and programs that support aging well at home and in community.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2022-23, seniors financial assistance programs will support more than 174,000 seniors with low income to meet their basic needs, afford essential health and personal supports, and age safely in their homes through the provision of \$490.7 million in grants and \$19.7 million in low-interest home equity loans.
- In 2022-23, \$900,000 is allocated for strategic investments to address the needs of a growing seniors’ population by funding research, coordinated actions, and other initiatives that focus on priority issues, such as aging in community, elder abuse prevention, caregiver supports, age-friendly communities, and recognizing seniors’ contributions to the province.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Measure: Online Seniors Financial Assistance (SFA) Application Utilization

This measure describes the percentage of first-time SFA applications completed online among the total number of first-time SFA applications received within a fiscal year. It speaks to the ministry’s red tape reduction efforts in providing fast and easy access and efficiency in application to SFA programs.

In 2021-22 (as of December 31, 2021), the SFA applications completed online represented 26 per cent of the total SFA applications received from first-time applicants. Only partial-year data is available because the online SFA application services were implemented at the end of March 2021. Targets are set based on the currently available data to achieve incremental increases in the uptake of online SFA applications in future years.

Targets	2022-23	30%	2023-24	35%	2024-25	45%
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1.b Performance Indicator: Seniors’ Income Relative to Population

This indicator provides a comparison between seniors’ median income in Alberta and the median income of all Albertans, as well as a similar comparison in the Canadian context.

	Alberta 2018	Canada 2018	Alberta 2019	Canada 2019
Seniors’ median income as a proportion of population median income	74.6%	78.6%	76.6%	79.4%

1.c Performance Indicator: Seniors' Sense of Belonging to Local Community

The sense of belonging indicator is a proxy for social inclusion and community connectedness, and ties directly to the ministry's work related to social isolation, age-friendly communities, ageism, and aging in community.

	2018	2019	2020
Percentage of Alberta seniors reporting positive sense of belonging to local community	74%	76%	73%

Outcome 2

Housing is affordable and accessible for Albertans

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Implement Stronger Foundations: Alberta's 10-Year Strategy to Improve and Expand Affordable Housing, to make the housing system financially sustainable, accessible and equitable.
- 2.2 Implement a strategic affordable housing asset management plan to optimize the affordable housing portfolio owned by the Alberta Social Housing Corporation, as part of the Stronger Foundations strategy.
- 2.3 Utilize federal funding under the National Housing Strategy to support housing affordability for Albertans.
- 2.4 Reduce red tape and guide Albertans through the process of finding and accessing affordable housing by further implementing the Find Housing online tool.
- 2.5 Assist the Government of Alberta's Liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces to improve the experience of military members, their families, veterans, and reservists in Alberta.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2022-23, \$296.1 million will be allocated to build, renew, maintain, and operate affordable housing in Alberta through the government-supported Community Housing, Seniors Self-contained Housing, Seniors' Lodge, Special Needs Housing, and Rent Supplement programs.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: New Affordable Housing Units and Rental Subsidies Available for Albertans with Low Income

This measure reports on the ministry's ability to build and regenerate affordable housing units, as well as offer new rental subsidies, for Albertans in need. Targets for the combined number of new and regenerated units and number of new rental subsidies to households are set to reflect the Stronger Foundations strategy and approved projects, and may be adjusted in future years as new developments are approved.

Targets	2022-23	400	2023-24	500	2024-25	3,000
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2.b Performance Indicator: Core Housing Need

Core housing need is an indicator to identify those in need of housing assistance. A household is considered in "core housing need" if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, affordability, or suitability standards and it would have to spend 30 per cent or more of its total before-tax income on housing.

	2001	2006	2011	2016
Alberta households in core housing need	10.5%	10.1%	10.7%	11.4%

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						
Other Transfers from Government of Canada	90,768	94,386	113,186	162,933	159,475	163,457
Investment Income	1,931	5,560	1,636	1,737	1,822	1,907
Other Revenue	28,564	10,764	13,183	32,440	41,955	51,470
Internal Government Transfers	-	1,200	1,200	-	-	-
Ministry Total	121,263	111,910	129,205	197,110	203,252	216,834
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	-	(1,200)	(1,200)	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	121,263	110,710	128,005	197,110	203,252	216,834
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	4,742	4,561	4,561	4,220	4,220	4,220
Seniors Services	20,379	25,977	23,477	26,631	26,631	26,631
Alberta Seniors Benefit	403,258	449,910	410,410	476,158	479,158	479,158
Housing	10,971	10,398	10,398	10,399	10,399	10,399
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	296,550	276,815	337,201	297,330	284,510	289,714
Ministry Total	735,900	767,661	786,047	814,738	804,918	810,122
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(1,389)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	734,511	767,661	786,047	814,738	804,918	810,122
Net Operating Result	(613,248)	(656,951)	(658,042)	(617,628)	(601,666)	(593,288)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Ministry Support Services	-	25	25	25	25	25
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	143,225	89,899	65,492	44,535	34,821	31,621
Consolidated Total	143,225	89,924	65,517	44,560	34,846	31,646