

BACKGROUND

2007-2013 Spending on Disability Initiatives

Since 2007, the Government of Saskatchewan has invested almost \$219 million in funding and increases to disability programs, services and initiatives.

Ministry of Social Services

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) Program

- From 2010 to present, \$62.844 million has been allocated to the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability Program (SAID) including:
- \$2.3 million in 2011-12 for enhancements to SAID.
 - \$500,000 to provide a \$50 per month increase in SAID benefits to those living in residential care settings beginning in January 2012;
 - \$500,000 to continue the earnings exemption announced in February 2011;
 - \$150,000 to continue the inheritance exemption; and
 - \$1.1 million in one-time funding for further SAID program development, including assessments and enrolment.
- \$17.8 million in 2012-13 for further benefit enhancements.
 - Couples living independently received a \$230 increase in June 2012, expanding to an average of \$400 per month over four years. Benefits will increase over the next four years, with the largest increase in 2012-13;
 - Single individuals living independently received an increase of \$200 in June 2012, expanding to an average of \$350 per month over four years; and
 - People in residential care received an additional \$40 in June 2012, increasing to \$100 per month over four years.
- \$3.015 million in 2013-14 for enhancements to the SAID program:
 - Couples: Benefits will increase by an additional \$400/month over four years. Cumulative monthly increase by year: \$230 / \$290 / \$345 / \$400.
 - Single individuals: Benefits will increase by an additional \$350/month over four years. Cumulative monthly increase by year: \$200 / \$250 / \$300 / \$350.
 - Persons in residential care: Benefits will increase by an additional \$100/month over four years. Cumulative monthly increase by year: \$40 / \$60 / \$80 / \$100.
- \$418,000 is being committed for the indexation of the SAID living income benefit that pertains to shelter allowances.

Disability Rental Housing Supplement

- \$6.1 million has been allocated to the Disability Rental Housing Supplement since 2007 to help low-income families where at least one member has a disability gain access to quality and affordable rental housing.

Approved Private Service Homes (APSH)

- \$3.97 million in increases for approved private service homes that provide residential services, including \$3.33 million for a general Level of Care (LOC) increase for CBOs providing services to people with disabilities within the Approved Private Service Home Sector.

440 Waitlist Initiative

- Since 2008, \$62.5 million for the 440 waitlist initiative for people with intellectual disabilities. Services include specialized, residential and day program services, enhancing support for individuals with complex needs and implementing a new approach to day program funding.
- As of April 2013, services are now in place, or in development, for every person on the list, plus an additional 215 Community Living clients beyond the original waitlist.
- In 2013, the Province invested \$8.9 million to support front-line workers at agencies that provide services for people with intellectual disabilities.
- In addition, the Province invested \$1.8 million in 2013 to increase level of care rates at Approved Private Service Homes that provide services for Community Living clients.

CBO Staff Retention and Recruitment

- \$14.24 million in increases to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) providing supports for people with disabilities.
- \$8.94 million funding lift to recruit and retain qualified front-line staff for Community Living Service Delivery CBOs announced in December 2012.

Cognitive Disability Strategy

- \$805,000 increase to the Cognitive Disability Strategy to support individuals with cognitive disabilities who have significant behavioural and developmental challenges, including individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), Autism, and Acquired Brain Injuries.

Family Respite Program

- \$100,000 increase was provided in 2008 for the Family Respite Program so more Saskatchewan families could purchase alternate care for their child (or children) with an intellectual disability.

Ministries of Economy/Advanced Education, Employment and Labour

- \$358,000 increase to the Workforce Development program to provide individualized employment support for people with disabilities.

Ministry of Education

- \$14 million increase to the Supports for Learning component of the Education Funding Distribution Model (prior to 2011-12 this was the special needs/intensive supports factor of the school Foundation Operating grant) to provide individual programming, supports and services for students with learning difficulties/disabilities.
- \$1.55 million to support the inclusion of children with disabilities in child care facilities.
- \$1.06 million increase to Enhanced Accessibility grants to improve access to licensed child care.
- \$682,000 increase to early childhood intervention programs that deliver home-based support to children with disabilities.

Health

- \$7.5 million investment for autism programs and services.
- \$11.1 million to the Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living program to maintain benefits for people with long-term disabilities (orthotics, prosthetics, rehabilitation/mobility equipment, oxygen, and insulin pumps for children).
- \$600,000 for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) prevention programming including additional screening, diagnosis and assessment activities, additional educational and prevention activities and the development of community supports for individuals impacted by FASD; and
- \$1.2 million for three model projects in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert to provide intensive Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) prevention programming to pregnant women at high risk for having a child with FASD until the child reaches two years of age.

Ministry of Finance

- Substantial increases to disability related tax credit amounts annually since 2007:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Overall Increase
Caregiver Tax Credit	\$4019	\$8190	\$8395	\$8445	\$8563	\$8803	\$8979	\$4884
Infirm Dependant Tax Credit	\$4019	\$8190	\$8395	\$8445	\$8563	\$8803	\$8979	\$4884
Disability Supplement Tax Credit	\$4019	\$8190	\$8395	\$8445	\$8563	\$8803	\$8979	\$4884
Disability Tax Credit	\$6890	\$8190	\$8395	\$8445	\$8563	\$8803	\$8979	\$1958

Ministry of Central Services

- \$14.3 million to improve the physical accessibility of government buildings for people with disabilities.

Ministry of Government Relations

- The Transit Assistance for Persons with Disabilities (TAPD) program's 2013-14 operating budget of \$2,987,000 has received three increases since 2009-10 for a total of \$612,000 in additional operating grant money for participating municipalities that provide paratransit services.
- A \$275,000 capital grant increase in 2013-14 will accelerate the renewal of the paratransit fleet by doubling the capital budget to \$550,000 and increasing the number of annual vehicle grants available to program participants.

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

- \$3.0 million to establish a Community Vitality Program in 2010-11 to build sustainable communities and improve quality of life by supporting projects that will enhance the accessibility and use of community facilities, build community pride, engage Aboriginal and youth in community activities and improve access and inclusion for those who experience barriers to community involvement.

Rick Hansen Foundation Initiative

- \$300,000 to the Canadian Paraplegic Association for peer support, rehabilitation counselling and outreach services to engage Aboriginal people with disabilities who have sustained a spinal cord injury.
- \$600,000 for Spinal Cord Research.
- \$1.567 million to the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport in partnership with Sask Sport Inc. for funding to high-performance athletes with disabilities, a new sport participation program, and an accessible playground for people with disabilities.
- \$200,000 from the Office of the Provincial Secretary to fund the Clayton Gerein Legacy Fund.