

BACKGROUNDER

World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 (WHODAS 2.0)

- On November 14th, the Ministry of Social Services will begin a research project that will help government continue to explore ways to improve the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) application process. In partnership with the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, the Ministry is piloting a different instrument to assess the impact of disability.
- Currently, SAID applicants complete a *Disability Impact Assessment* that measures the impact of their disability on their daily living activities and the supports required for those activities. The Saskatchewan Abilities Council works with clients to complete this assessment. During the pilot, SAC will ask clients to also complete a second assessment: the *World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0* (WHODAS 2.0).
- The WHODAS 2.0 pilot will explore whether this instrument more effectively measures impact of disability and could be a better instrument to use as part of the SAID eligibility process. This research project will provide information for future decisions and will have no impact on current clients or applicants' eligibility.
- The World Health Organization developed WHODAS 2.0 after conducting extensive research and clinical trials in different cultures and situations. The WHO also continuously reviews and evaluates the instrument to ensure it remains one of the best in the world to assess the impact of disability.
- This pilot is voluntary for applicants. Each new applicant to the SAID program will be asked if they are willing to participate and will be asked to provide signed consent. The Ministry will outline the purpose of the pilot to participants and the reasons why we are undertaking two assessments.
- Participation in the WHODAS 2.0 pilot will have no effect on an applicant's eligibility for SAID. The Ministry of Social Services will collect information from the pilot strictly for the purposes of evaluating WHODAS 2.0 as a potential enhancement to SAID.
- The Saskatchewan Abilities Council, which currently conducts assessments for SAID, is partnering in the pilot by conducting WHODAS 2.0 with new applicants. Their expertise in working with applicants will be an important part of learning more about how this alternative instrument could work in practice for SAID applicants and their families, as well as the staff who are involved in program administration.
- WHODAS 2.0 has some attractive features, such as standardized procedures. It is simple to administer, and applies equally across different cultures and adult populations.

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