

Provincial Approach to Homelessness

Background

The Government of Saskatchewan is investing \$40.2 million over the next two years, with immediate action in three pillars:

Supportive Housing

155 new supportive housing units

Emergency Shelter

120 new permanent emergency shelter spaces

Community Safety and Outreach

30 new complex needs emergency shelter spaces

Supportive Housing

\$7.165 million

Operating in partnership with community-based service providers, Government will develop 155 new supportive housing units in Regina and Saskatoon. Supportive housing provides on-site and visiting support and connection to wrap-around services to assist individuals to be safely housed and achieve stability.

Government will make a capital investment of \$500,000 in 2023-24 to create 100 new supportive housing units that will include repurposing some units owned by the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC). The Ministry of Health will work to identify community partners to provide programs and services, investing an additional \$665,000 in operating funding in 2023-24, and \$4 million in 2024-25.

A new partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) will provide supportive housing services to individuals and families in 55 housing units in the SHC-owned Kotawan property in Saskatoon (formerly known as Monarch Yards). The \$1 million annual investment will support the program to improve mental health and addictions outcomes for individuals and families at risk of homelessness and help them become successfully housed in the long term.

About Supportive Housing

People in vulnerable situations - like those who live with mental illness or complex needs - may need more than a home to stay connected to housing. Supportive housing provides on-site and visiting integrated support services, delivered by community-based service providers, that meet the needs of individuals who need some support to live independently.

The types of on-site and visiting services provided will vary depending on the needs of the individuals. Some may only require daily or twice daily visits from a support worker, while others with very complex needs may require 24-hour in-house professionals such as nurses and support workers.

Emergency Shelter

Up to \$14.1 million

Government is increasing the number of permanent emergency shelter spaces in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw and other communities based on need. This means there will be approximately 500 permanent emergency shelter spaces available this winter across Saskatchewan.

- The Ministry of Social Services will invest an additional \$1.2 million in 2023-24, annualized to \$5.9 million in 2024-25 to create up to 120 new permanent emergency shelter spaces.
- The ministry will begin work immediately with community partners and municipalities, including a capital investment of up to \$7 million in 2023-24 for the purchase or lease of physical emergency shelter locations where required.

The response to homelessness continues to evolve with learnings from partners and community feedback. Over time, the province will move to a model of smaller emergency shelters to avoid concentration of vulnerable people in one area, that also provides our partners with greater ability to deliver and connect individuals to services that are tailored to their unique needs.

Work is already underway with community-based service providers to determine the number of additional emergency shelter spaces in each community. Municipal governments will help to identify the location for any new emergency shelters with capacity limits appropriate for the neighbourhoods where they are located.

About Emergency Shelter

The Ministry of Social Services supports vulnerable people in need of shelter by connecting them with community organizations that offer emergency shelter spaces.

Government is moving towards a new service delivery model for traditional emergency shelters with two categories designed to meet the needs of those they serve.

- **Basic Emergency Shelters** provide clients with limited access to shelter (such as between the hours of 5 pm and 8 am), offer limited meals service and provide external referrals to government and other community agencies.
- **Enhanced Emergency Shelters** provide clients with full access to shelter (24 hours per day, seven days per week). Clients are also provided three meals per day, case planning and access to wrap-around supports to address wellness and cultural needs, with assistance in connecting to services such as financial supports and help to transition to appropriate housing along the housing continuum.

As previously announced in 2023-24 budget, an additional \$800,000 investment for emergency shelter spaces is ensuring that permanent shelter spaces and after-hours services developed with community partners over the previous year continue to be funded in 2023-24.

Community Safety and Outreach

\$19 million

About Complex Needs Emergency Shelter

Every province in Canada has some form of legislation that allows peace officers to take people into custody who are intoxicated in a public place. In Saskatchewan, Section 52 of *The Summary Offences Procedure Act, 1990* (SOPA) has been used for years by police and is a well-established practice.

Complex needs emergency shelters are a health-based space with dedicated on-site medical personnel that provide another option to the current method of holding intoxicated individuals in police cells with limited medical assistance.

About Outreach

In 2023-24, the Ministry of Social Services has invested \$656,000 to place up to 10 staff at community-based organizations to support clients where they are and provide support in understanding, navigating and connecting to programs and services available to them. This mobile outreach initiative is reducing barriers for clients, better engaging with community-based organizations in joint case planning, reducing service gaps and accelerating the path to stability for clients with complex needs.

To better support individuals in crisis and enhance community safety, two complex needs emergency shelters will be established in Regina and Saskatoon. These shelters will provide a secure and medically supervised place to go for up to 24 hours for individuals who are intoxicated and exhibiting behaviours that present a danger to themselves or the public. Each complex needs emergency shelter will provide up to 15 individuals in crisis with a safe place to stabilize while being monitored, and be connected to services such as inpatient addiction treatment.

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety (CPPS) will facilitate third-party health operations and security services at the newly developed sites.

- The Ministry of Health will invest \$1.95 million in operating funding in 2023-24, annualizing to \$7.7 million in 2024-25.
- CPPS will invest \$875,000 in operating funding in 2023-24, annualizing to \$3.5 million in 2024-25.
- Work is underway to identify the locations, supported by capital funding of up to \$5 million provided by the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement.

Government will also implement additional community safety and outreach responses.

- CPPS will partner with municipalities to invest \$400,000 in annual, cost-matched funding for community safety officers to improve safety around emergency shelters and other areas impacted by homelessness, mental health, and addictions issues.
- Building on the current Ministry of Social Services outreach services, an additional investment of \$600,000 in 2024-25 will develop additional outreach supports in collaboration with community partners.