

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) Benefit Structure Changes

Effective April 1, 2026

The Ministry of Social Services is simplifying the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disabilities (SAID) benefit structure to better address client needs and support them to receive all the benefits they are eligible for in the simplest and quickest way possible.

Changes to regulations, effective April 1, 2026, will primarily simplify and clarify existing benefits.

The changes will group highly specific niche benefits together into broader categories to allow flexibility to address client needs. This simplified structure of broader benefits takes individual needs into account while supporting quicker and more consistent service delivery.

To simplify, we are combining 30 niche benefits into five broader categories:



The Household Health and Safety Benefit for urgent household needs.

- Will cover furniture needs, garbage removal, methadone lock boxes, and other client needs that keep them safe.
- Managers have more discretion to use this benefit to address the health and safety needs of clients and the amount of the benefit required.



The Children's Benefit to replace multiple child-related benefits.

- Will cover maternity clothes, cribs, newborn clothing, etc. Instead of asking for each of these requests individually, clients will receive the entire \$400 a month until they are able to access the Canada Child Benefit.



The Service Animal Benefit that introduces a flat rate.

- There is no change to how the ministry defines service animals, the language is just being added to regulations. Clients that are receiving actual costs under the current Service Animal Benefit will continue to receive the same amount as they do today if the change would see them receive less under a new flat-rated amount.



The Employment and Training Benefit to replace several existing employment-related benefits.

- Will cover supplies that clients need to attend employment, training, or school, replacing the individual Participation Benefit and underused Expenses to Commence Employment or Education Benefit.
- This will be provided in addition to the Education and Training Incentive that clients receive if they are attending approved education or training programs.
- Clients that are currently receiving the Participation Benefit will continue to do so until they have completed their course.



The Emergency Benefit for unforeseen health and safety needs.

- This includes providing funds for replacing clothing, house locks, storage of belonging, obtaining ID, medical escorts, etc.
- Managers have more discretion to use this benefit to address emergency client needs and the amount of the benefit required.
- Referrals are also made to the Saskatchewan Emergency Repair Program which offers up to \$12,000 to help homeowners with low incomes complete emergency repairs to make their homes safe.

In addition to the five broader categories, the following changes are also of note:

- **The Respite Benefit is being discontinued as no clients use the benefit** (Respite is covered through the Ministry of Social Services Disability Programs and the Saskatchewan Health Authority).
- **The Canada Disability Benefit remains exempt** and is listed as exempt in the regulations.
- **The Clothing Benefit is being renamed as the Incontinent Supplies Benefit**, to reflect its use to cover incontinent supplies.

As with all Saskatchewan income assistance programs, SAID remains a last-resort income support program for individuals with significant and enduring disabilities who have exhausted other financial resources.

The program will continue to offer individuals access to long-term income support, greater choice of services, and support participation in their community.