

Budget 2023 Summary – March 14, 2023

ADWA reviewed three documents as the basis of this summary:

1. The Ministry Business Plans - focusing on the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services. (You can find the complete [plan](#) or the Ministry's [section](#).)
2. The Fiscal Plan - focusing on *Support for Vulnerable Albertans*. (You can find it [here](#).)
3. Government Budget Estimates. (You can find the estimates [here](#).)

The Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services has three outcomes related to Community Disability Services (CDS). Each of these outcomes have key objectives, statements of how these objectives will be financially supported and then performance metrics (ways to measure success). You need to keep in mind that this Ministry supports more than CDS. The objectives we see as connected to CDS, specifically the workforce, are:

- **Outcome 1: Stability - Albertans are safe and have timely and consistent access to supports to meet their basic needs.**
 - 1.5 Work with the social services sector to create capacity within the Persons with Developmental Disabilities program to bring more individuals into services and address work force challenges, including assessment and actions with respect to social sector worker wages.
- **Outcome 2: Participation - Albertans participate in their communities through employment and other opportunities to reach their individual potential.**
 - 2.2 Modernize and digitize supports and services for persons with disabilities to further support their participation in community life, and for families to promote the development of their children with disabilities.
 - 2.3 Continue to collaborate with Alberta's Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Service Networks to offer a continuum of supports for Albertans impacted by FASD.
- **Outcome 3: Stability Inclusion - Alberta's communities provide a sense of belonging and foster resiliency for individuals and families.**
 - 3.3 Raise awareness on matters relating to persons with disabilities through the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities and the Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities.

There are other objectives that CDS may come under but the details are not there so we are not making any assumptions.

Next, we can look at the finances that are associated with the outcomes/objectives related to CDS. This is a little more difficult as the specific details of where the dollars are going is not within these documents.

In the Ministry's Business Plan projecting over the next 3 years:

- 2023-24 is \$1,551,241,000
2024-25 is \$1,611,141,000
2025-26 is \$1,675,441,000

There are projected increases between from year to year. There is no indication where these increases will be allocated in the Ministry.

On the [Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca) website the government announced \$102 million increase for wages in the 2023-24 budget for our sector, homeless shelters and family violence prevention programs. This was to continue the 10% increase announced for CDS in December 2022. No additional increases are indicated in this announcement and supporting documents.

On March 6th, the SCSS Ministry re-announced the money that was presented in the December 2022 announcement regarding the 10% increase to wages for that increase to continue in the budget years ahead.

We are hoping over the next couple of weeks to get more details of how money will be allocated specifically for Community Disability Services. If and when we receive this information, we will pass it on to ADWA membership.

In the meantime, please take a few minutes to **complete a short survey by March 31st**, in response to Budget 2023 and the related announcements.

<https://forms.office.com/r/NuPGYXpER2>

Alberta Disability Workers Association (ADWA) does not endorse any political party and offers no opinion on who to vote for. All references are based on information publicly available at the time of writing. The information is offered to people who are employed in Community Disability Services and/or others who have an interest in CDS.