

SASKATCHEWAN

Jurisdictional Profile

2023 Report

A profile of governance, programs, and services for the aging population in Saskatchewan

Written by: **Jeremy Piamonte**
Policy Engagement Coordinator
AGE-WELL Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The AGE-WELL National Innovation Hub, Advancing Policy and Practice in Technology and Aging (APPTA) welcomes comments about this report and would like to know how we can better meet your information needs. If you have any questions about the work APPTA conducts, please contact us.

EMAIL: info@appta.ca

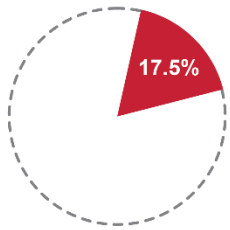
DISCLAIMER

The current document has been developed by AGE-WELL, APPTA, and other external reviewers for the purpose of advancing knowledge related to provincial programs and governance structures that serve older Canadians. The information included in this profile has been taken from publicly available information from government websites, reports, and strategies, and the author(s) has made every effort to ensure the information included is correct and up to date at the time of publication. Any use which a third party makes of this report, or any reliance on or decisions to be made based on this report, is the responsibility of such third parties. The author(s), AGE-WELL, and APPTA accept no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by any third party as a result of decisions or actions made, based on this report.

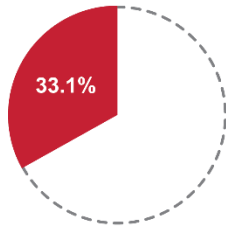
Preamble: Saskatchewan seniors policy lies with both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Services. At the ministerial level, seniors' policy is overseen by the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health, who is part of the Ministry of Health.

Saskatchewan Seniors Demographics

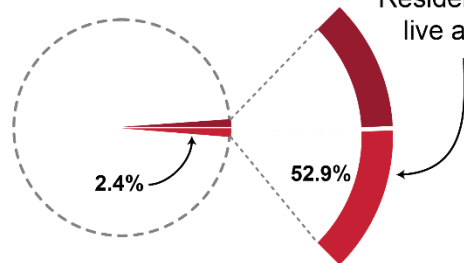
Residents 65 and older¹



Residents aged 75-84 that live alone²



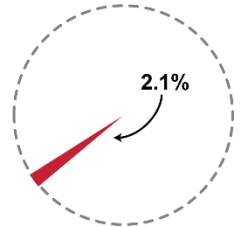
Residents aged 85 and older³



Residents that live alone⁴



Multi-generational households⁵



¹ Statistics Canada: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Saskatchewan&DGUIDlist=2021A000247&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

² Statistics Canada: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb1/en/tv.action?pid=9810013401&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1,105&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2,1&pickMembers%5B2%5D=3,10&pickMembers%5B3%5D=4,1>

³ Statistics Canada: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb1/en/tv.action?pid=9810002001&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1,111&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2,1>

⁴ Statistics Canada:

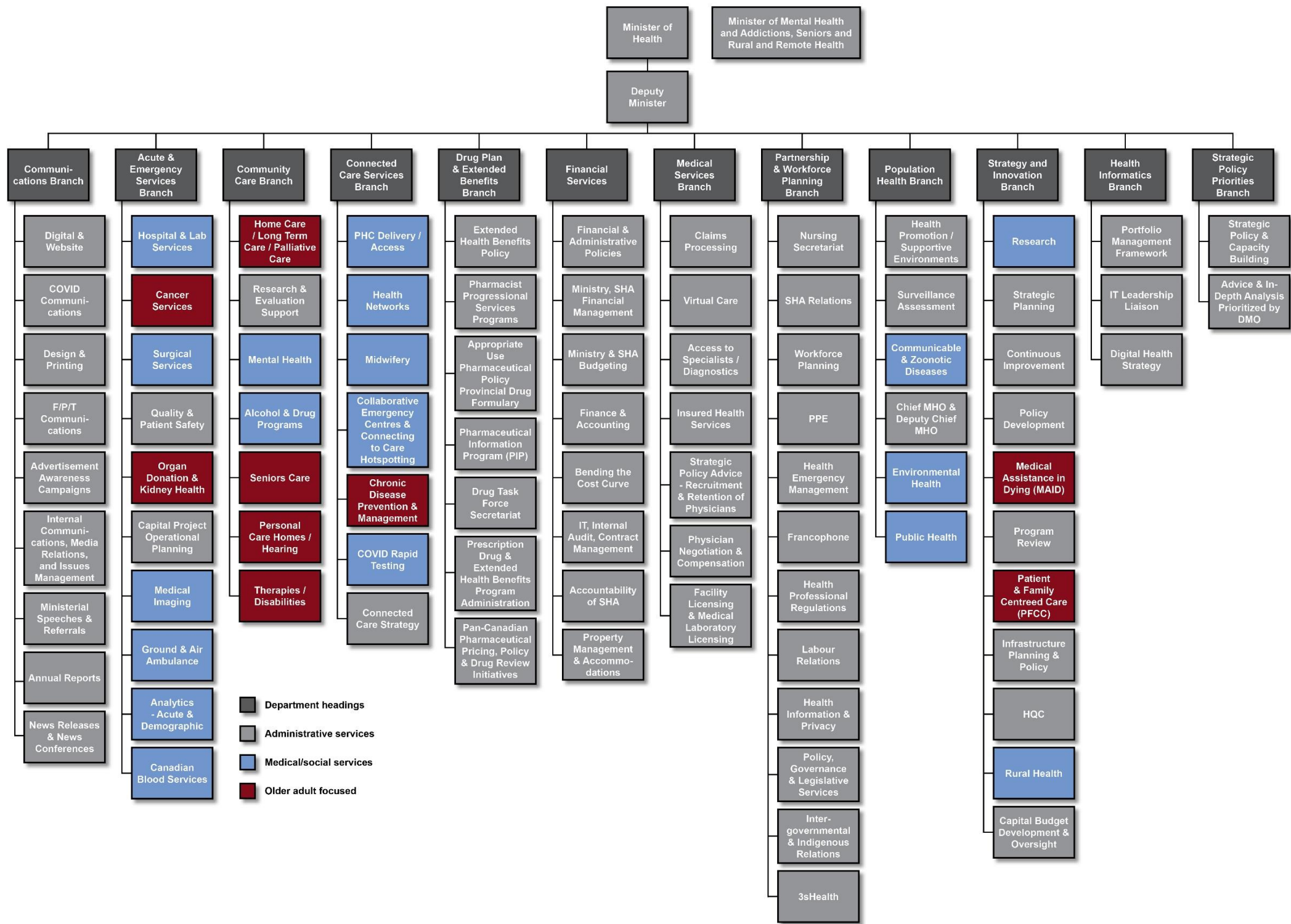
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb1/en/tv.action?pid=9810013401&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1,105&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2,1&pickMembers%5B2%5D=3,11&pickMembers%5B3%5D=4,1>

⁵ Statistics Canada: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Saskatchewan&DGUIDlist=2021A000247&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is focused on putting patients' needs first. Information and services available through this ministry include health card applications and changes, information on surgical wait times, emergency medical services, prescription drug plans, flu information and services for people with disabilities or long-term illnesses.

Governance Overview⁶



⁶ Saskatchewan Government Directory: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/directory?ou=d8890ea3-98ec-42b4-afac-51c922bbde37>

Strategies / Action Plans

This section includes strategies, action plans, and other relevant reports from government that outline commitments and progress toward serving seniors.

- [Ministry of Health Annual Plan](#)
- [Safe Long-Term Care Fund](#)
- [Appropriateness of Care](#)
- [Continuous Quality Improvement](#)
- [Action Plan to Recruit, Train, Incentivize and Retain Health Professionals](#)
- [Encouraging Appropriate Drug Use](#)
- [Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan](#)
- [Patient and Family-Centred Care](#)
- [Patient First Review](#)
- [Pillars for Life: Saskatchewan Suicide Prevention Plan](#)

Legal Framework⁷

The legal framework consists of legislation passed in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan that direct the Ministry of Health and/or any agencies or non-governmental entities under its purview. This list is not exhaustive, and contains only legislation related to seniors care in the province.

- The Ambulance Act
- The Cancer Agency Act
- The Change of Name Act, 1995/Loi de 1995 sur le changement de nom
- The Emergency Medical Aid Act
- The Health Administration Act
- The Health Districts Act
- The Health Facilities Licensing Act
- The Health Information Protection Act
- The Health Quality Council Act
- The Hearing Aid Sales and Services Act
- The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2015
- The Mental Health Services Act
- The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act
- The Personal Care Homes Act
- The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act
- The Provincial Health Authority Act
- The Public Health Act
- The Public Health Act, 1994
- The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act
- The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act, 2021
- The Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act
- The Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act
- The Vital Statistics Act, 2009
- The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act
- The White Cane Act
- The Health Hazard Regulations
- The Residential Services Act
- The Residential Services Act, 2019

Programs and Services⁸

The following list provides an overview of some of the relevant and available programs and services for older adults.

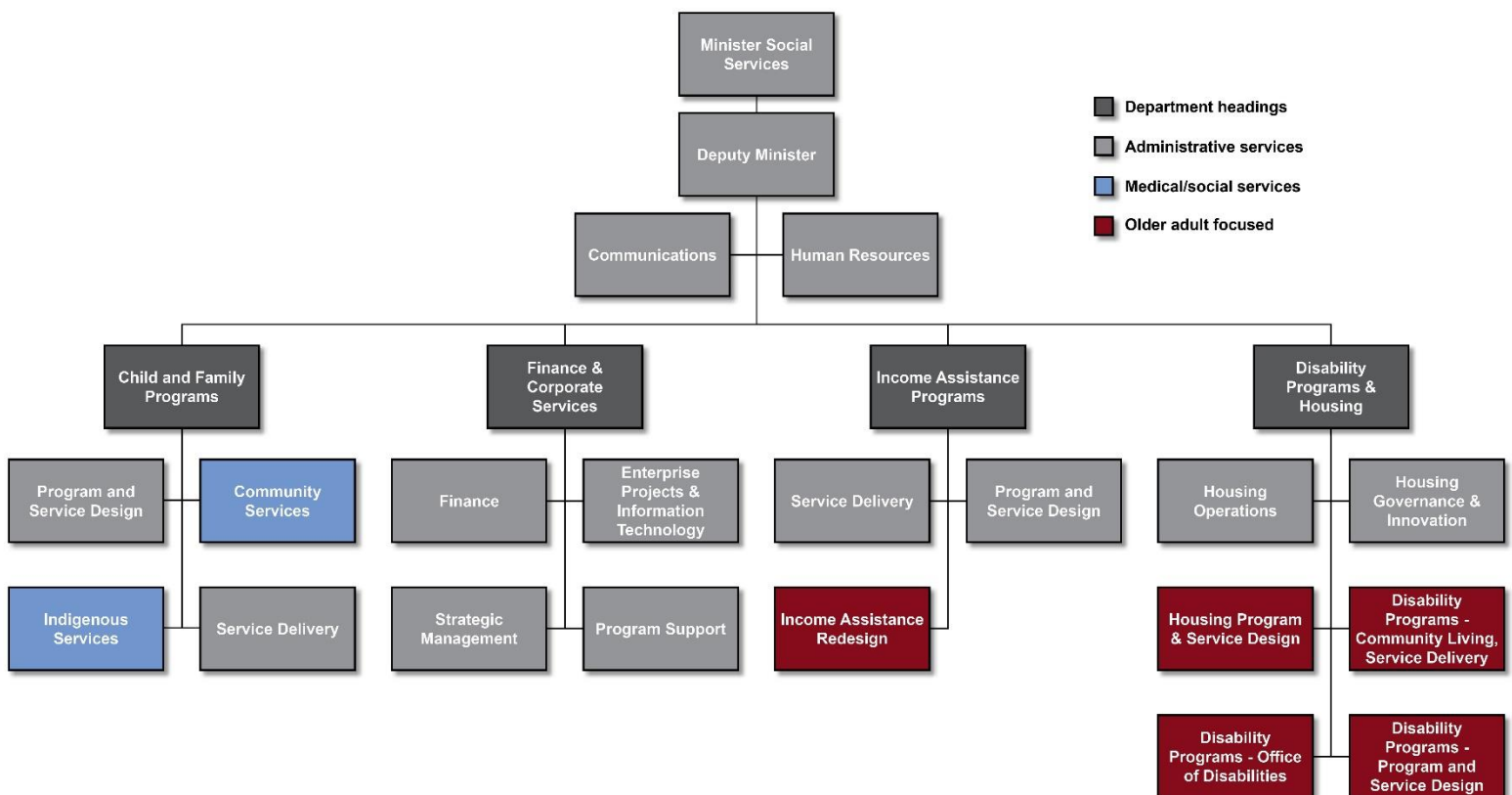
- [Continuing Care](#)
- [Health Benefits](#)
- [Immunization Services and Information](#)
- [Mental Health and Addictions](#)
- [Seniors' Drug Plan](#)
- [Medical Imaging](#)
- [Surgery](#)
- [Programs and Service for People with Disabilities](#)
- [Personal Care Homes](#)
- [Special Care Homes](#)
- [Senior Citizens' Ambulance Assistance Program \(SCAAP\)](#)

⁸ Ministry of Health: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/health#annual-reports>

Ministry of Social Services

The Ministry of Social Services provides information and programming in areas such as income support, child and family services, affordable housing and supports for persons with disabilities. Key programs and services include childcare subsidies, adoption services, child protection, foster care, financial assistance, and housing programs.

Governance Overview⁹



⁹ Ministry of Social Services 2021-2022 Annual Report

Strategies / Action Plans

This section is inclusive of strategies, action plans, and other relevant reports from government that outline commitments and progress toward serving seniors.

- [Seniors Income Plan](#)
- [Rental Housing for People with Low Incomes](#)
- [Rental Housing in rural and Northern Communities](#)
- [Ministry of Social Services Business Plan](#)
- [Rental Housing for Seniors](#)
- [Life Lease Housing for Seniors](#)
- [Home Repairs and Renovations Tax Credit](#)

Legal Framework¹⁰

The legal framework consists of legislation passed in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan that direct the Ministry of Social Services and/or any agencies or non-governmental entities under its purview. This list is not exhaustive, and contains only legislation related to seniors care in the province.

- The Social Services Administration Act
- The Donation of Food Act, 1995
- The Executive Government Administration Act
- The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- The Health Information Protection Act
- The Human Resources, Labour, and Employment Act
- The Rehabilitation Act
- The Residential Services Act
- The Saskatchewan Assistance Act
- The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Act
- The Saskatchewan Income Plan Act
- The Social Workers Act

¹⁰ Ministry of Social Services 2021-2022 Annual Report

Programs and services¹¹

The following list provides an overview of some of the relevant and available social programs and services for older adults.

- [Saskatchewan Housing Benefit](#)
- [Home Repair Program – Adaptation for Independence](#)
- [Emergency Home Repairs](#)
- [Developing Affordable Housing](#)
- [Seniors Education Property Tax Deferral Program](#)
- [Life Lease Housing for Seniors](#)
- [Rental Housing for People with Low Incomes](#)
- [Rental Housing for Seniors](#)
- [Rental Housing in Rural and Northern Communities](#)
- [Personal Care Home Benefit](#)
- [Individualized Funding for Home Care](#)
- [Employability Assistance for Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [Health Services for People with Disabilities](#)
- [Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability \(SAID\)](#)
- [Employability Assistance for Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living](#)
- [Seniors Income Plan](#)
- [Discounted Bus Passes for Income Assistance Clients](#)
- [Cognitive Disability Strategy \(CDS\) Support](#)

¹¹ Ministry of Social Services: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/social-services#programs-and-services>

Government of Saskatchewan Agencies

This section lists bodies that may have influence over policy or practice that impacts the delivery of services and supports to seniors.

- Health Quality Council¹²
 - Has a mandate to monitor and assess the quality of health and health care, help partners build their capacity for quality improvement, and promote research and education leading to improvement in health and health care.
- eHealth Saskatchewan¹³
 - A Treasury Board Crown Corporation comprised of many different business areas that all share the same overall mission to support and improve health care in Saskatchewan.
- saskdocs¹⁴
 - Part of the Saskatchewan Health Authority that works with students, trainees, physicians, international medical graduates, communities, health facilities and other partners to recruit and retain physicians in Saskatchewan.
- Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF)¹⁵
 - SHRF is the provincial funding agency that funds, supports, and promotes the impact of health research. Its strategic goals are to strengthen research capacity and competitiveness, increase investment in research and innovation, and align research with stakeholders' needs.

Provincial Priorities/New Initiatives/Announcements

The following section comprises a review of recent government announcements and budgets that have dedicated resources and action to improving programs, policy, and services offered to older adults in Saskatchewan. These priorities span both government departments highlighted above.

Assistance for seniors to live independently

- The province announced a \$250,000 one-time grant funding program called the *Facilitating Independence of Older Adults in the Community* program. It is directed to senior-serving organizations, community groups, and other interested organizations to support the development

¹² Health Quality Council: <https://www.saskhealthquality.ca/about-us/health-quality-council-history/>

¹³ eHealth Saskatchewan: <https://www.ehealthsask.ca/>

¹⁴ saskdocs: <https://www.saskdocs.ca/>

¹⁵ SHRF: <https://www.shrf.ca/>

- and testing of new ways of supporting seniors to maintain independence at home. At least ten organizations will receive up to \$20,000.¹⁶

Health Spending

- In Budget 2022, the province announced \$6.8 billion in health spending, which represents an increase of \$288.2 million from the previous year. The funding is allocated to the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, eHealth Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, and 3sHealth.¹⁷

Support for Seniors

- Budget 2022 includes an increase of \$17 million on seniors supports. \$4.8 million has been earmarked for home care services, \$4.1 million for high-dose influenza vaccines for seniors, \$1.6 million for the operation of the Meadow Lake Northwest Community Lodge and \$6.5 million to hire 117 additional continuing care aides.¹⁸

Surgical and Diagnostics Waitlists

- The province announced a \$21.6 million increase to clear surgical waitlists and to fund additional surgeries in 2022-2023. The plan aims to reduce surgical wait times to pre-COVID level by March 2025.¹⁹
- \$4.9 million has been earmarked for to increase the number of CT and MRI scans and reduce wait times.

Recruitment and Retention of Health Care Workers

- The province has promised to establish an independent agency that will focus on recruiting and retaining health care workers in Saskatchewan.²⁰
- \$1.5 million was aimed in Budget 2022 to support recruitment initiatives for healthcare workers. One goal is to recruit health care workers from the Philippines, with 300 expected over the next two years.²¹
- Budget 2022 also calls for \$3.5 million to recruit and retain physicians, including family physicians in rural areas.²²
- As part of the Health Human Resources Action Plan, Saskatchewan is aiming to recruit internationally trained nurses living in Saskatchewan and Canada who may qualify for training or employment in the province. They will fund health system navigators to secure employment and/or training.²³

¹⁶ Government of Saskatchewan: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2022/september/20/provincial-grants-announced-to-help-seniors-live-independently>

¹⁷ Budget 2022: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/budget-2022-23/budget-documents>

¹⁸ Budget 2022: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/budget-2022-23/budget-documents>

¹⁹ Budget 2022: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/budget-2022-23/budget-documents>

²⁰ Budget 2022: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/budget-2022-23/budget-documents>

²¹ Budget 2022: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/budget-2022-23/budget-documents>

²² Budget 2022: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/budget-2022-23/budget-documents>

²³ Health Human Resources Action Plan: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/health-human-resources/action-plan>

- The province will provide incentive packages valued at \$50,000 over three years to healthcare workers. They will also add new full-time positions, convert 150 part-time positions to full-time permanent, and offer flexible staffing approaches where possible.²⁴

Intensive Care Unit and High Acuity Beds

- The province is funding 11 additional ICU beds with \$12.5 million. There is also \$3 million for 10 additional high acuity beds.²⁵

Emergency Medical Services

- Budget 2022 calls for an investment of an additional \$10.8 million to improve emergency medical services in rural and remote areas, including ambulance services and community paramedicine.²⁶

Mental Health and Addictions

- The province is investing \$470 million to support mental health and addictions programs and services, including counselling and addiction spaces in treatment centres.²⁷
- The Ministry of Health is looking to engage with partner organizations to implement the Saskatchewan Suicide Prevention Plan and the Mental Health and Addictions Information System.²⁸

Seniors Income Plan

- The maximum payment to seniors will increase from \$30 to \$330, along with an additional \$3 million investment.²⁹

COVID-19³⁰

- The Ministry of Health Business Plan calls to ensure that PCR testing continues to be available for priority populations, outbreaks are managed in high-risk settings, and encouragement to receive vaccination and booster doses.
- High priority ventilation projects in ten long-term care homes are still being completed.

Improved Outcomes for Indigenous Clients

- The Ministry of Social Services has announced that they are actively trying to recruit more Indigenous staff into the Ministry and support Indigenous training and education. The goal is to

²⁴ Health Human Resources Action Plan: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/health-human-resources/action-plan>

²⁵ Budget 2022: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/budget-2022-23/budget-documents>

²⁶ Budget 2022: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/budget-2022-23/budget-documents>

²⁷ Budget 2022: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/budget-2022-23/budget-documents>

²⁸ Ministry of Health Business Plan: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/health#annual-reports>

²⁹ Budget 2022: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/budget-2022-23/budget-documents>

³⁰ Ministry of Health Business Plan: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/health#annual-reports>

- have at least 12.6% of Ministry staff who self-identify as Indigenous and to have all middle-management of the Ministry complete Indigenous cultural training by March 31, 2023. ³¹
- They are also trying to establish new partnerships with Indigenous organizations and communities to ensure effective structures and processes are implemented.

Key Stakeholders in Saskatchewan

This list only includes Saskatchewan organizations that serve older adults.

- [Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan](#)
- [Arthritis Society of Canada – Saskatchewan Chapter](#)
- [Assisted AdvantAGE](#)
- [Canadian Association of Retired Persons \(CARP\) – Saskatchewan Chapter](#)
- [Canadian Cancer Society – Saskatchewan Chapter](#)
- [Diabetes Canada - Saskatchewan](#)
- [Heart and Stroke Foundation – Saskatchewan Office](#)
- [In motion](#)
- [LutherCare Communities](#)
- [Prairie Hospice Society](#)
- [Saskatchewan Hospice Palliative Care Association Inc.](#)
- [Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism](#)
- [Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association](#)
- [Saskatoon Council on Aging](#)
- [Saskatoon Crisis Centre](#)
- [Saskatoon Home Support Ltd.](#)
- [Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning Inc.](#)

³¹ Ministry of Social Services Business Plan: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/health#annual-reports>