



What is the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program?

SAID is a new income support program specifically for people with significant and enduring disabilities.

Why a new program?

Persons with disabilities have asked government for an income support program that is separate from the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP). They asked for a program that is more responsive to the unique needs of people with significant disabilities. The program is based on recommendations made by a joint community-government Task Team.

Who is eligible?

You are eligible to receive SAID benefits if you:

1. Are 18 years of age or older; and
2. Are living in either:
 - a) a residential care facility or family home and have an assessed level of care of 2 or higher; or
 - b) a Community Living Division or Mental Health group home; and
3. Meet financial eligibility requirements.

What types of residential care facilities qualify?

- Personal Care Homes;
- Special Care Homes;
- Family Homes;
- Mental Health Services Approved Homes; and
- CLD Approved Private Services Homes.

How do I apply for SAID?

If you are not currently receiving benefits from SAP and think you may be eligible for SAID, please call 1-888-567-SAID (7243); in Regina 798-SAID (7243); TTY 1-866-995-0099; TTY in Regina 787-1065 for determining your eligibility.

If you are already receiving benefits from SAP and meet the eligibility criteria noted under "Who is eligible?" please contact your SAP worker regarding enrollment in SAID.

If you previously received a package of information and an invitation to enroll in SAID, you do not need to apply. Please read the information in the package, either accept or decline enrollment in SAID, sign and send the Confirmation of Enrollment Form to your SAP worker. Once the enrollment is received, a welcome letter will be sent to you. The letter will indicate when you will receive your first SAID payment.

Who can sign the Confirmation of Enrollment Form?

It is preferred that the person to be enrolled in SAID indicate their consent in writing, either by their signature or with an 'x'. However, other persons may also sign the form on behalf of the SAID enrollee such as: the Public Guardian and Trustee office or a Ministry appointed trustee; a legal decision-maker; a family member; or, another responsible person on behalf of the enrollee.

I am currently on SAP. Why should I enroll in SAID?

SAID is a new program specifically for people with significant and long-term disabilities. People with disabilities have told us they want their own separate and unique program. SAID is that program.

SAID has its own name, its own cheque, and will require less intrusive reporting — you will not be required to reconfirm your disability each year. In larger urban centres, your staff contact will be an Assured Income Specialist who specializes in providing services to individuals with disabilities.

Over time, government will consider other changes to specifically address the unique needs of people with disabilities because this program will only be for people with disabilities.

Do I have to enroll in SAID?

No you do not. Enrollment is completely voluntary. If you are currently receiving benefits under SAP, you may choose to continue in that program. You may choose to enroll in SAID at any time in the future. However, you are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to be better served through this new program now.

If I enroll now, can I move back to SAP later, and if so how?

Yes, you may terminate your involvement with SAID at any time and proceed to apply back to the Saskatchewan Assistance Program.

I have a disability but have been told I am not eligible. Why not?

The program is only available to people who meet specific eligibility criteria (please refer to “Who is eligible?”). The eligibility criteria do not currently include all people with disabilities. Development of a new assessment tool is being considered that could identify other individuals who may be eligible in the future.

Why are so many other people with disabilities not able to enroll in SAID?

The Task Team described the SAID project as “one of the most significant social policy initiatives to be pursued in a generation” and for that reason full implementation may take several years. Given the scale of the project, it is important to get started immediately but also to proceed carefully over time to ensure the program is developed with policies and practices that best meet the needs of the individuals SAID is intended to serve.

How much are SAID benefits?

The initial focus is to create a new, separate and unique program. The program has a new name, new reporting requirements, a different cheque and in larger communities a dedicated Assured Income Specialist. Benefit amounts will mirror the benefits available under the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP). Over time, government will have the opportunity to review the benefit to ensure it meets the unique needs of people with significant and long-term disabilities.

I understand the benefit amounts are the same as SAP? Will I get more money in the future?

The SAID program will evolve over time to respond to the needs of people with disabilities. We do not know for sure when benefit amounts might change, but benefits are one of the things that are frequently reviewed. As a separate and unique program, we will now have the opportunity to ensure any future review of rates specifically considers the needs of people with disabilities.

If I qualify for the SAID program who in the Ministry will I deal with?

Once you are enrolled, your point of contact will be a dedicated SAID Assured Income Specialist in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert or a Ministry employee in other local Social Services offices.

Can people get the Rental Housing Supplement if they receive benefits from SAID?

Yes, you can still receive benefits from other Ministry programs that are now available to people with disabilities.

What health benefits are provided?

People receiving benefits through SAID will continue to receive Supplementary Health Benefits from Saskatchewan Health.

What is covered under the Supplementary Health Benefit program?

The Ministry of Health provides the following coverage through the Supplementary Health Benefit program:

- Prescription drugs (varying plans);
- Dental;
- Eye exams and glasses;
- Prescribed medical supplies and appliances;
- Chiropractic services

(maximum of 12 treatments per year);

- Chiropractic services; and
- Emergency ambulance in Saskatchewan.

For details about the amount and type of coverage please contact the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch of the Ministry of Health at 1-800-667-7581.

What will happen to existing Trustee Agreements? Will a new Trustee Agreement be required?

If you have a trustee helping you with your financial affairs, this support will continue. Your move to the new program will not affect the current Trustee Agreement. Your trustee will still be required to provide an accounting of your funds.

How will changing from an annual review to a review every three years be done?

Active SAP clients who are enrolled in SAID will automatically have their next mandatory review month scheduled three years from the month the most recent review was completed. For example, a SAP client who had a review completed in December 2008, and is enrolled in SAID for the November 2009 benefit month, will have the next mandatory review automatically scheduled for December 2011.

Can people still receive Canada Pension Plan (CPP) or other disability income benefits and be eligible for SAID?

Yes, you can still receive benefits from other programs such as CPP. However, these benefits will be considered income and will be included when calculating the amount of your benefits.

Are people living on reserve eligible for SAID?

No, SAID is not available to on-reserve residents. The Federal Government is responsible for providing basic income support for people living on-reserve.

Can people work or seek work if they are receiving benefits from the new program?

Yes, you can work. However, earnings over a certain amount will impact the amount of benefit received.

Are SAID benefits taxable income?

No, SAID benefits are a non-taxable benefit the same as social assistance. SAID benefits over \$500 must be reported to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) in the same way that social assistance benefits are reported, but the benefits are not considered taxable income by the CRA.

How do I report the SAID payments I received to the CRA?

The Ministry of Social Services will provide a statement of benefits referred to as the T5007 form that reports all payments received through Ministry programs, including social assistance and SAID. This form is for you to send to the CRA when you submit your Income Tax Return.

Will I get a separate T5007 just for SAID payments?

No, you will only receive one T5007 for all payments received through SAID, social assistance, or other provincial supplements.

If you received both SAID and social assistance during the year, the total amount of both these benefits will be displayed in a box on the T5007 statement entitled "Social Assistance and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability".

I have a disability and have been told I am not eligible for SAID. Can I appeal?

Yes, applicants and beneficiaries have the right to appeal decisions made by Ministry employees. For more information, contact your local Social Services office.

I currently live in another province. If I move to Saskatchewan, would I be eligible and how much would I get on SAID?

To be eligible you need to reside in Saskatchewan and meet the eligibility criteria (please refer to "Who is eligible?") The specific benefits vary based on each individual's living arrangements and assessed level of disability. Base benefits (effective May 1, 2010) will range from \$893/month to \$2,061/month. Other special need allowances may be provided as required.

If you have already moved to Saskatchewan, please call 1-888-567-SAID (7243) for more information.

Who is on the Program Implementation Advisory Team (PIAT)?

There are nine individuals appointed by the Minister of Social Services who will represent the disability community. Community members are as follows:

Merv Bender, Prince Albert
Dave Nelson, Regina
Bev Duncan, Regina
Mike Richter, Regina
Cindy Leggott, Regina

Maritza Tello, Regina
Clarence Neault, La Ronge
Linda Napope, Saskatoon
Ian Wilkinson, Saskatoon

The PIAT will provide advice to the Ministry on the implementation of SAID.

Where can I get more SAID information?

General information can be found on the Ministry's website at: <http://www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca/SAID>

or call

the Client Service Centre at **1-888-567-SAID (7243)**.

Are alternate communication formats such as Braille or TTY available for SAID information?

Yes, when you contact the Client Service Centre, please indicate the type of service you need. The TTY phone numbers are 1-866-995-0099; TTY in Regina 787-1065.