

**Ministry of
Children and Family
Development**

**2022/23 – 2024/25
SERVICE PLAN**

February 2022



For more information on the Ministry of Children and Family Development contact:

PO Box 9970
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9S5

1-877-387-7027

Or visit our website at

www.gov.bc.ca/mcfd

Published by the Ministry of Children and Family Development

Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Children and Family Development 2022/23 – 2024/25 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Dean".

Honourable Mitzi Dean
Minister of Children and Family Development
February 4, 2022

Table of Contents

Minister’s Accountability Statement	3
Purpose of the Ministry	5
Strategic Direction	5
Performance Planning	6
Financial Summary	14
Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals.....	15

Purpose of the Ministry

The primary focus of the Ministry of Children and Family Development is supporting the well-being of all children and youth in British Columbia – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous – to live in safe, healthy and nurturing families, and to be strongly connected to their communities and culture. The Ministry approaches its work through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus lens, delivering services that are inclusive, intersectional, responsive, accessible and culturally safe.

The Ministry supports children, youth and their families, emphasizing the principles of early intervention, prevention and cultural and community connections to keep families together, where possible, and to connect children and youth with permanent living arrangements when needed. Services include early childhood development, supporting children and youth with support needs, child and youth mental health, adoption, child protection, youth justice as well as helping youth transition to adulthood and adult services.

Strategic Direction

In 2022/2023, the Government of British Columbia will continue its whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on protecting the health, social and economic well-being of British Columbians. Building on our economic, environmental, and social strengths while looking to seize opportunities to improve outcomes for all British Columbians will be an important aspect of each ministry's work as we respond to COVID-19 and recover from devastating floods and wildfires. The policies, programs and projects developed over the course of this service plan period will align with the five foundational principles established by Government in 2020: putting people first; working toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation; supporting equity and anti-racism; ensuring a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets; and supporting a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2022/23 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Children and Family Development will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the [November 2020 Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Recognize the right of Indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child [UN Declaration]¹ and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action

Objective 1.1: Continue to work with Indigenous Peoples and the federal government, where applicable, regarding systemic transformation, including implementing increased decision-making authority and child and family services jurisdiction

The wording of this objective has been slightly adjusted since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, to provide greater clarity on the Ministry’s strategic direction. Objective 1.3 from the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan has been incorporated under Objectives 1.1 and 1.2.

Key Strategies

- Work with Indigenous Governing Bodies (alongside representatives from the federal government) towards exercising jurisdiction for child and family services under the federal *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the federal Act), through the development of tripartite coordination agreements, and continue an ongoing dialogue with Indigenous communities that are planning for increased decision-making authority or jurisdiction.
- Co-develop with Canada and Indigenous Peoples, a B.C. specific fiscal framework in alignment with B.C.’s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act), to support the transition of services as Indigenous Governing Bodies begin to exercise their inherent jurisdiction over child and family services.
- Engage with Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners in order to co-develop reform of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, in alignment with the Declaration Act and the federal Act.
- In collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners, along with federal and provincial partners, develop a cross-jurisdictional model for how to integrate and deliver services through multiple jurisdictions. This will include a policy and legislative framework to support this future system.

¹ UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Objective 1.2: In collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, design and implement restorative policies, practices and services with cultural humility and a commitment to eliminate racism and discrimination consistent with our responsibilities under the UN Declaration

The wording of this objective has been adjusted since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, to more clearly express the Ministry’s commitment to eliminate racism and discrimination.

Key Strategies

- Continue work to ensure transparency and accountability to Indigenous children, youth, families and communities, including working to implement information-sharing agreements (under s. 92.1 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*) and develop community agreements.
- Work with Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners, following the Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework, to transform policies, practices, services and programs that reflect the priority of keeping their children and youth safely at home and connected to their community and culture.
- With Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners, develop and continue to implement tools and resources to support Ministry staff to address systemic racism and implement practice changes to provide services in a culturally safe manner.
- Collaborate with Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners, to build on efforts to address the 40 Ministry-led responses to the calls for justice in the final report on the inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.1 Rate of children and youth (age 0-18) in care per 1,000 children and youth in the population				
All children and youth	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.0
Indigenous children and youth	36.4	35.3	34.3	33.5
Non-Indigenous children and youth	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7

Data source: Integrated Case Management (ICM) System

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

This performance measure tracks the rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth in care and the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care. MCFD is working to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in the child and family services system. The harmful impact of colonization, including the imposition of a legal regime foreign to the cultures and customs of Indigenous Peoples, and the undermining of family and community systems and the resultant inter-generational trauma, have all contributed to this overrepresentation.

Discussion

Targets for 2022/23 and 2023/24 have been adjusted, based on forecasted performance, to capture better than expected results for Indigenous children and youth and to maintain relevance moving forward.

Goal 2: To support improved outcomes and keep families safely together, strengthen supports and prioritize resources for families and children based on their needs, and in collaboration with communities, partners and service providers

Objective 2.1: In collaboration with communities, partners and service providers, implement changes to the delivery of services to focus on prevention, early intervention and family supports

The wording of this objective has been adjusted since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, to provide greater clarity on the Ministry’s strategic direction. Objective 2.2 from the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, which related to child care, has been moved to the Ministry of Education and Child Care’s 2022/23 – 2024/25 Service Plan.

Key Strategies

- Begin to implement family connections centres in the Northwest and Central Okanagan to support an overall transformation of services for children and youth with support needs and provide families in those areas with accessible and inclusive services based on individual needs.
- In line with B.C.’s *A Pathway to Hope* roadmap, and informed by the voices of those we serve, continue to work with partners and service providers to implement the following child and youth mental health services and supports: Integrated Child and Youth Teams; Step Up Step Down Outreach Services; Step Up Step Down Bed-based Services; and a digital solution to support service delivery.
- Continue to develop, in collaboration with partners and service providers, a Prevention and Family Supports Service Framework that is informed by the voices of those we serve and in alignment with other systemic changes – including child and family safety, children and youth with support needs, child and youth mental health, early years and Indigenous early years, child care, and the national standards of the federal *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, which prioritize preventive care.
- Engage on social work regulation and oversight to explore challenges with the current model and develop an informed understanding of opportunities to strengthen the regulation and oversight system.
- Provide policy and practice guidance and training for Ministry employees and work together with partners and service providers to support 2SLGBTQ+ people to be safe, recognized, respected, supported and cared for in a manner that affirms their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
2.1 Percent of children assessed with a protection concern that can safely live with family or extended family ¹				
All children and youth	93.2%	93.7%	94.0%	94.3%
Indigenous children and youth	90.1%	91.0%	91.5%	92.0%
Non-Indigenous children and youth	95.1%	95.4%	95.5%	95.7%
2.2 Access to Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Services ²				
CYMH clients served	30,500	30,750	31,250	31,750

¹ Data source: ICM

² Data source: Community and Residential Information System (CRIS)

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

2.1 The percentage of children and youth assessed with a protection concern who can safely live with family or extended family is an established measure of family preservation. Children continuing to live with their family or extended family also have improved outcomes, such as better health and educational attainment.

2.2 The number of clients served is a measure of the accessibility of Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) services. Improving the uptake of these services directly supports improved outcomes for children and youth with mental health needs across the province.

Discussion

2.1 The targets for this measure have been increased for “All children” and for “Indigenous children” as the gap in family preservation rates between Indigenous children and non-Indigenous children is narrowing and expected to continue narrowing in the years to come. The family preservation rate gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous families has improved from 9.2% in 2016/17 to a forecasted 5% in 2021/22.

2.2 This performance measure is new to the Service Plan. It has been added to highlight the prevention and early intervention services that the Ministry provides, as well as to highlight the importance of mental health services and improved outcomes for children and youth.

Goal 3: Youth and young adults have the tools, resources, and social supports to transition successfully to adulthood and adult services

The wording of this goal, and objective underneath, have been slightly adjusted since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, to provide greater clarity on the Ministry’s strategic direction.

Objective 3.1: Support youth and young adults to successfully transition to adulthood and adult services

Key Strategies

- Through continued engagement with youth and young adults, as well as with those who serve and/or support them, build on COVID-19 emergency measures and continue to shift the adverse outcomes that young adults face as they transition out of government, care by providing holistic wrap-around services and supports, including housing, education, support benefits, early and needs-based transition planning, cultural connections, medical benefits (e.g., counselling and extended health and dental benefits), training, life-skills, and post-secondary opportunities.
- Provide coordinated and streamlined access to adult services systems and prevent youth homelessness, through ongoing collaboration across government, with partners and services providers, including Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners.
- In collaboration with cross-Ministry partners, begin to develop a digital solution for youth and young adults to navigate and access adult services and resources, and reduce digital barriers during the transition to adulthood.
- Continue to engage with partners and service providers, including Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners, to design a Youth Justice Service Framework that transforms youth justice services to better support youth, victims, and community needs, and address gaps that lead to the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the youth justice system.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
3.1a Percent of youth in care who turn 19 with a high school credential ¹				
All children and youth	58.5%	59.0%	59.5%	60.0%
Indigenous children and youth	56.5%	57.0%	57.5%	58.0%
Non-Indigenous children and youth	63.5%	64.0%	64.5%	65.0%
3.1b Youth under Continuing Custody Orders and youth aging into adulthood and adult services who receive an Agreements with Young Adults benefit payment within the next year ²	31.3%	33.3%	35.3%	37.3%

¹ Data source: ICM and Ministry of Education and Child Care enrolment data

² Data source: Resource and Payment System

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

3.1a There is strong evidence that completing high school is linked to future well-being. MCFD is working to ensure that children and youth in care have completed high school by the time they turn 19, acquiring the education and life skills needed to successfully transition to adulthood and adult services.

3.1b One of the ways in which the Ministry helps ensure successful youth and young adult transitions is through the Agreements with Young Adults program. The program provides young adults with financial assistance for education, training, and life skills. Improving the uptake of the program will help ensure better transitions and, therefore, better outcomes for young adults as they age into adulthood and adult services.

Discussion

3.1a Targets for 2022/23 and 2023/24 have been adjusted to reflect better-than-expected results.

3.1b The forecast and targets for this performance measure have been lowered since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, as fewer youth aging into adulthood have received an Agreement with Young Adults benefit payment. Youth aging into adulthood have increasingly been supported through alternative funding programs implemented during the pandemic, such as Temporary Housing Agreements/Temporary Support Agreements.

Goal 4: Services and supports provided in the network of care are driven by a child or youth’s needs and focused on developing and strengthening belonging to family, community and culture

The wording of this goal, and objective underneath, have been adjusted since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, to provide greater clarity on the Ministry’s strategic direction.

Objective 4.1: In collaboration with partners and service providers, implement an integrated network of care providing services and placements that meet a child or youth’s needs, nurture a sense of love and belonging, and prioritize cultural and family connections

Key Strategies

- Begin to realize a responsive network of Specialized Homes and Support Services for children and youth needing more than what community-based and outreach services can provide – starting with early implementation in North Fraser and the Okanagan.
- Continue implementing an outcomes-based Quality Assurance Framework, ensuring that the quality of services (across all types of care) is responsive to feedback from children, youth, families and communities.
- Finalize and begin to implement a new Procurement Strategy, including a modern digital solution, to provide greater clarity and an increased focus on deliverables and improved outcomes that support children, youth and their families.
- Complete a review of the licensed adoption agency model, regulatory framework and the provision of intercountry adoption services.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
4.1 Percentage of children and youth in care with no moves in the first 12 months since their last admission to care	67.0%	67.0%	67.3%	67.5%

Data source: ICM

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Placement stability is essential for children and youth to develop a secure attachment to a caregiver, which is a fundamental determinant of their well-being and sense of belonging. Children and youth with stable placements that are driven by their needs achieve better outcomes in terms of safety, permanency, attachment and well-being.

Discussion

The COVID-19 pandemic is believed to have had a positive impact on this performance measure as more children and youth in care remained in their existing placements. The targets are revised upward as we expect to continue to build on the performance seen during the pandemic.

Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Estimates ¹	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Early Childhood Development	40,256	40,256	40,256	40,256
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs	441,091	480,381	486,404	488,582
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	116,408	119,471	122,197	122,197
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	807,579	835,781	841,170	851,015
Adoption Services	35,829	36,451	36,451	36,451
Youth Justice Services	51,320	51,320	51,320	51,320
Service Delivery Support	152,195	161,426	161,426	161,426
Executive & Support Services	16,730	16,959	16,967	16,967
Total	1,661,408	1,742,045	1,756,191	1,768,214
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Service Delivery Support	527	1,000	884	884
Total	527	1,000	884	884
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
Executive & Support Services (Human Services Providers Financing Program)				
Receipts	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Total Receipts	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Total Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2021/22 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2022/23 Estimates.

Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

As of March 31, 2022, the Minister of Children and Family Development is responsible and accountable for the following:

BC College of Social Workers

[The British Columbia College of Social Workers](#) regulates the social work profession in British Columbia. Its mandate is to protect members of the public from preventable harm while they are interacting with Registered Social Workers. The College maintains an online registry of all social workers authorized to practice as Registered Social Workers.

Minister's Advisory Council for Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN)

[The Minister's Advisory Council for CYSN](#), which includes parents/caregivers, an Indigenous Elder, a youth representative, and others, provides a forum to build collaborative and respectful relationships through ongoing communications and engagement; discusses important issues related to the planning and delivery of the full range of CYSN services; and provides advice on the CYSN services model and how to implement new services in a coordinated and collaborative way.