

Ministry of Children and Family Development

2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report

August 2025



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Children and Family Development 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan published in 2024. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodie Wickens". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Jodie Wickens
Minister of Children and Family Development
August 5, 2025

Table of Contents

Minister's Accountability Statement	3
Letter from the Minister	5
Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report	6
Strategic Direction.....	6
Purpose of the Ministry	6
Operating Environment.....	7
Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results	8
Financial Report.....	21
Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations	23
Appendix B: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities	24

Letter from the Minister

I am honoured to be the Minister of Children and Family Development. Since becoming Minister in December 2024, I have met with people from across the child and youth service and care community and all these voices give me confidence that we are on the right path.

The ministry is advancing all the items in my mandate – continuing to support the advancement of Indigenous Peoples self-determination, leading the work across government on a comprehensive child and youth well-being action plan and working with the Ministry of Health to realign and improve services for children and youth with support and mental health needs.

Underpinning this is the ministry's continued commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Over the last year, the ministry has signed several coordination and community agreements to increase decision-making authority and uphold Indigenous child and family services jurisdiction. As well, an Indigenous child welfare director was appointed, a significant step in our work to reform the child, youth and family services system and reduce the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in care.

Last year's Representative for Children and Youth's report *Don't Look Away* detailed Colby's story and shone a light on the need for a fundamental shift in the way government supports vulnerable children, youth and families. This is why the ministry is leading an all-of-government response to create a child and youth well-being action plan that will break down silos and improve services to vulnerable children, youth and families, including getting the support they need before a crisis arises.

Additionally, over the past year, the ministry began the work to improve and align children and youth with support needs and mental health needs services with the health system; strengthened the network of care to proactively address children and youth in care's well-being; expanded the Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment program to enable youth and young adults to transition out of government care successfully; and continued to implement Specialized Homes and Support Services.

I want to express my gratitude to the staff at the ministry, the contracted agencies, Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies and all our community partners, for their work and for tirelessly supporting the well-being of children, youth and families across British Columbia.



Honourable Jodie Wickens
Minister of Children and Family Development
August 05, 2025

Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

This annual service plan report has been developed to meet the requirements of the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act (BTAA), which sets out the legislative framework for planning, reporting and accountability for Government organizations. Under the BTAA, the Minister is required to report on the actual results of the ministry's performance related to the forecasted targets stated in the service plan for the reported year.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2020 and Minister Grace Lore's [2024 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of Children and Family Development [2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

Territory Acknowledgement: The Ministry of Children and Family Development (ministry) acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out our work on these lands. We acknowledge the rights, interests, priorities and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit), respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws and governments.

The purpose of the ministry is to provide critical services and supports to British Columbia's vulnerable children and youth, and to their families that contribute to their safety, well-being and sense of belonging. In doing so, the ministry also upholds the inherent right to Indigenous Peoples self-determination.

The ministry provides a network of care across B.C. that encompasses early childhood development, children and youth with support needs, child and youth mental health, adoption, child safety, family support and children in care services, youth justice, and helping youth transition from government care to adulthood.

The ministry emphasizes the principles of early intervention, prevention and cultural and community connections to keep families together, where possible, and connecting children and youth with permanent living arrangements when needed.

The ministry approaches its work through a gender-based analysis plus lens, with the goal of delivering services that are inclusive, intersectional, responsive, accessible, trauma informed, and culturally safe, while upholding the vision of ensuring British Columbia's children and youth are safe and supported to achieve their full potential. The ministry respects the diverse

backgrounds and identities of children and youth including those who identify as Indigenous, Inuit, Métis, Black, a person of colour, 2SLGBTQIA+¹, and as a person with a disability.

The ministry delivers on its mandate by working in partnership with [Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies](#), [Indigenous governing bodies](#) and other levels of government, partners and communities, cross-government and social-sector partners, and the federal government, as well as approximately 4,200 contracted community social service agencies, for example, Specialized Homes and Support Services providers, and other direct care providers, such as foster caregivers and extended family care providers.

The ministry has approximately 5,190 active employees. Direct services are coordinated through a provincial office in Victoria and delivered through seven service delivery areas, a provincial centralized services centre and facilities, and through the 25 Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies.

Operating Environment

In 2024/25, the continued high cost of living and the ongoing challenges posed by the toxic drug crisis impacted the need for essential services for vulnerable children and continued to change the landscape for the delivery of child, youth, and family services. Budget 2025 further identified the economic and fiscal pressures facing the province and highlighted the expected impacts of the U.S. tariff threats, including negative impacts on jobs and employment rates.

Over the last year, government received several reports from oversight bodies most notably the Representative for Children and Youth's (RCY), Don't Look Away report, which highlighted Colby's tragic story. The report documented systemic issues and identified the need for a fundamental shift in the way government supports vulnerable children, youth and families. It called for fundamental change in government's approach, one which brings together this and other ministries' partners to collaborate on a whole-of-government approach to enable better outcomes for children.

Given this operating environment, over the last year, the ministry refined our direction in a new, comprehensive strategic framework.

The framework reflects the ministry's continued commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and the ongoing work to continuously improve child, youth and family services work that is shifting government's focus toward child and family well-being and building the foundation for happier, healthier lives. The framework aligns the ministry's mandate and includes three key goals:

¹ An acronym for Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and additional identities. There are many variations of this acronym.

- Honouring Indigenous jurisdiction over the care of children and families and continuously reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in our system of care
- Leading the implementation of a provincial child and youth well-being action plan and outcomes framework that aligns services across ministries and agencies
- Striving to ensure that children and youth in our system of care realize comparable outcomes to their peers

Government-mandated items are priorities noted throughout the strategic framework and are also incorporated into the ongoing work the ministry does each day.

Within this environment, over the last three years the ministry has significantly increased staffing levels, including frontline staff. To maintain this momentum, the ministry released a comprehensive workforce plan. The three-year plan builds on work already in progress and incorporates key recommendations from the RCY's two No Time to Wait reports, strengthening workforce capacity and resilience through evidence-based actions, enhancing training for child and family services, improving recruitment initiatives, and focusing on staff health, safety, and mental well-being to support job satisfaction and stability.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

The following goals, objectives and performance measures have been restated from the 2024/25 – 2026/27 service plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2025/26 – 2026/27, please see the [latest service plan](#).

Goal 1: Recognize and uphold Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services, consistent with the rights of the child [UN Declaration]² 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 upholding child and family services jurisdiction

This objective focuses on working with Indigenous governing bodies, First Nations, and Modern Treaty Nations, as well as the federal government to advance implementation of

² [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) and [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

increased decision-making authority and upholding Indigenous child and family services jurisdiction.

Key results

- The ministry signed five bilateral community agreements under the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA) and four tripartite coordination agreements pursuant to section 20 (2) of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families and one bilateral interim coordinating agreement under the CFCSA.
- The First Nations Leadership Council and the Province signed the Rising to the Challenge Accord, which recognizes and upholds that First Nations have the inherent right to self-determination.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The ministry continued to work in collaboration with First Nations on a range of agreements to enable the exercise of decision-making authority and jurisdiction over child and family services. These agreements include bilateral agreements under the CFCSA, and tripartite coordination agreements with Canada and B.C. in accordance with An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families (federal Act). As part of this work, the ministry signed the following jurisdiction-related agreements:

- On June 24, 2024, the ministry signed a tripartite coordination agreement with Cowichan Tribes. Cowichan Tribes will deliver the full scope of child and family services to members on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands pursuant to Snuw'uy'ulhtst tu Quw'utsun Mustimuhw u' tu Shhw'a'luqwa'a' i' Smun'eem (Laws of the Cowichan people for Families and Children).
- On September 6, 2024, the ministry signed a coordination agreement with Sts'ailes which supports Sts'ailes's exercise of jurisdiction in relation to the provision of child and family services, through their Snowoyelh te Emi:melh te Sts'ailes, Sts'ailes's child and family services law.
- On September 12, 2024, the ministry signed a coordination agreement with Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations which affirms and restores Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw's jurisdiction over children and families.
- On December 21, 2024, T'kwenm7íple7tens re Kíkwe, Tsqéscen First Nation's child well-being law, came into force. The law is an expression of Tsqéscen jurisdiction and legislative authority over child and family services. On December 20, 2024, the ministry signed an interim coordinating agreement under section 90 of the CFCSA with Tsqéscen and Élksts re Kíkwe. This agreement supports Tsqéscen's exercise of jurisdiction under its law.
- On March 27, 2025, the ministry signed a coordination agreement with Tšilhqot'in National Government and Tl'etinqox Government which supports their exercise in relation to prevention services, post-majority support services (a term used to refer to

the suite of supports provided to eligible young adults as per ministry policy) and T̓silhqot'in dispute resolution services.

During 2024/25, the ministry signed four community agreements, which increased the total signed agreements to six. These agreements support Indigenous communities to be directly involved in child welfare planning through consultation and cooperation with the director delivering services under the CFCSA.

- On May 23, 2024, the ministry signed a bilateral section 92.1 community agreement with Tla'amin Nation.
- On September 13, 2024, the ministry signed a bilateral section 92.1 community agreement with the Tl'etinqox Government.
- On September 18, 2024, the ministry signed a bilateral section 92.1 community agreement with Binche Whut'en.
- On September 20, 2024, the ministry signed a bilateral section 92.1 community agreement with the Toquaht Nation.

On April 25, 2024, amendments were made to the Adoption Act and CFCSA that expanded the range of powers and authorities under those acts for which a section 6 joint or consent-based Declaration Act agreement could be entered into. The amendments broadened the role Indigenous governing bodies (IGBs) may have in decisions concerning their respective children and youth in the provincial adoption or child protection systems. Additional amendments to the CFCSA enabled IGBs to use the provincial court system for dispute resolution under Indigenous child and family services laws.

The ministry continued its work to fulfill action 4.16 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) Action Plan, to co-develop a B.C.-specific fiscal framework with First Nations and key Indigenous organizations including in-person workshops and ongoing virtual co-development sessions. The ministry hosted over 10 meetings of representatives from the Province, First Nations and Indigenous organizations to work towards this, including two in-person workshops held in April and August 2024. An [Interim What We Heard Report](#) was released in July 2024.

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

This objective outlines the ministry's delivery of services for Indigenous children and youth that focus on working with Indigenous Peoples in the development of policy, practices, and services. The intention of this objective is to ensure that ministry services are delivered without racism or discrimination.

Key results

- The Indigenous child welfare director (ICWD) was appointed on September 30, 2024. The ICWD holds powers equal to the provincial director of child welfare, with both roles designated at the assistant deputy minister level.
- The ministry participated in the Our Children Our Way Society's MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA+³ Steering Committee, which is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+⁴ individuals, and Indigenous communities.
- The ministry engaged with First Nations and Métis communities to strengthen youth justice services and address factors contributing to the overrepresentation of Indigenous and other racialized youth in the justice system.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

A Canada-wide recruitment effort to fill the newly created role of Indigenous child welfare director concluded at the end of June 2024 and the position was filled effective September 30, 2024. Ministry staff collaborated with IGBs, Modern Treaty Nations, Métis partners, First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies (ICFSAs) to co-develop the roles and responsibilities of the position. Establishing the ICWD position is a vital step in the ministry's reconciliation journey and commitment to making the fundamental changes in the system of care that are required to ensure that all Indigenous children are safe, connected, and thriving within their families and Nations.

B.C. First Nations Justice Council representing 204 Nations across B.C. engaged with communities to hear what was needed to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the justice system and used this information to develop their own strategy. The ministry has incorporated the feedback into its youth justice service framework that is currently in approval stages.

³ An acronym for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
1a. Rate of children and youth (age 0-18) in care per 1,000 children and youth in the population			
All children and youth ¹	5.1	5.2	4.8
Indigenous children and youth ²	34.5	34.3	33.4
Non-Indigenous children and youth ³	1.7	1.8	1.7

Data source: MCFD's Integrated Case Management (ICM) System

¹PM 1a targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 5.1 and 5.0, respectively.

²PM 1a targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 33.9 and 33.6 respectively.

³PM 1a targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 1.8 and 1.7 respectively.

This performance measure tracks the rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth (age 0-18) in care per 1,000 children and youth in the population, including the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care.

The ministry met this performance target. The number of children and youth in care remains at the lowest it has been in over 30 years, with the lowest number of Indigenous children in care in over 20 years. As IGBs are exercising jurisdiction over child and family services, the ministry anticipates that more Indigenous children and youth will remain with their families and communities, resulting in fewer Indigenous children and youth in government care.

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 current focus of this work is on prevention and early intervention services designed to improve child development and mental health outcomes.

Key results

- The ministry enhanced family support through respite and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) services to reduce caregiver stress; the FASD Key Worker program added 41 new workers to better serve an estimated 2,500 additional families.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the ministry supported the expansion of Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) teams to eight new communities in and around the Central Coast, Cowichan Valley, Delta, Gold Trail, Nicola Similkameen, Peace River South, Qualicum and Surrey.
- The ministry developed and launched prevention and early intervention mental health resources, videos, courses, and tools for parents, caregivers, and educators supporting children and youth experiencing mild to moderate anxiety, depression, self-harm and suicidal behaviours.
- Designed to inspire external applicants to explore CYMH careers, the ministry launched a [recruitment marketing video](#) to showcase the work of the ministry and our employees, and connect with those passionate about making a meaningful difference in the lives of B.C.'s children and youth.
- To realize an all-of-government approach to improving child and youth well-being in B.C., the Province established a cross-ministry group of senior public officials with the ministry as the lead.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The ministry expanded children and youth with support needs (CYSN) therapeutic services and early interventions: Since 2022, over 170 new full-time therapy professionals and assistants have been added to foundational and early intervention programs, improving access to pediatric therapies (for example, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language pathology) across B.C., including through a new provincial pediatric therapy network and enhanced school outreach services. In addition, the ministry also began the early planning work as per the Minister's mandate letter to improve and align CYSN and children and youth with mental health needs (CYMH) services with the health system.

The four pilot Family Connections Centres continue operations, enhancing coordinated and accessible support in Central Okanagan, Smithers/Bulkley Valley, Terrace/Kitimat, and Prince Rupert/Haida Gwaii.

The ministry has expanded CYMH provincial outreach services by providing young people with severe and enduring mental health and behavioural challenges more treatment options. While service was previously provided only to young people in ministry care, services have expanded to enable access to children living with family or any in-care arrangement, and children from seven years to 18 years old. The ministry has implemented a collaborative model that engages not only the young person but also the complex systems surrounding them (for example, family, care teams, community supports).

The e-CYMH team has successfully delivered virtual mental health services in communities with high staff vacancies and long wait times, reducing waitlists and improving access for children, youth, and families while assisting local teams. Through intakes, brief interventions, group therapy, and waitlist management, the team addressed service gaps in four communities, identified system improvements, and is now expanding group offerings province-wide and piloting centralized intake and waitlist management monitoring and support services in two Northern communities.

Additionally, the ministry revised the Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators K-7 and 8-12 online courses and resources, incorporating feedback from educators and service providers.

To realize government's new approach to child welfare, and in response to the RCY Don't Look Away report released in July 2024, the Province launched a deputy-minister project board to develop a comprehensive child and youth well-being action plan. This group plan is focused on systemic improvements to promote early intervention and to support families before they reach a crisis.

An independent third-party report was released in July 2024 to help the ministry determine the number of children and youth in care who receive private, in-person visits by a child protection worker, according to policy. The report found that the ministry has improved visitation standards so regular contact is maintained with children and youth in care, with 99 per cent of children and youth in care receiving a visit at least once every 90 days.

In April 2024, the ministry updated its Standards for Children's Contracted Staff Resources. The updates responded to the RCY report, *The Right to Thrive*, which recommended that all ministry-staffed care services include requirements for policies and training specific to gender-affirming care. The updated standards now require ministry-staffed care services to develop gender-affirming care policies, respect and support the gender identity of 2STNBGD5 children and youth, and ensure all staff complete mandatory training.

To inform the development of the Social Work Oversight Engagement report, the ministry engaged with social workers, ministry partners, key stakeholders and the public on a range of topics, such as including practice requirements, standards and ethics; recruitment and retention; equity, inclusion, anti-racism; and Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Engagement concluded in 2023, and the final report was released publicly in June 2024. The ministry has been analyzing the insights gathered through the engagement process and is using these learnings to explore the impacts and effectiveness of various approaches by participants. This work is ongoing and will help shape the ministry's response to the recommendations in the RCY report *No Time to Wait Part 2*.

⁵ An acronym for two-spirit, transgender, non-binary and other gender-diverse children and youth.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
2a. Per cent of children assessed with a protection concern that can safely live with family or extended family			
All children and youth ¹	91.8%	92.1%	91.2%
Indigenous children and youth ²	87.1%	88.1%	85.6%
Non-Indigenous children and youth ³	94.6%	94.6%	94.5%

Data source: MCFD's Integrated Case Management (ICM) System

¹PM 2a. targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 92.6%; and 93.0% respectively.

²PM 2a. targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 89.1% and 90.1% respectively.

³PM 2a. targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 94.7% and 94.8% respectively.

The ministry did not meet this target. Over the past year, there was a small change in the result compared to the 2023/24 actuals. This change is attributed to the ministry's ongoing work to better identify when a child or youth has a protection concern, recognizing where services, other than removing a child or youth from their caregiver and placing them into care of the director may be more appropriate. As a result, a smaller percentage of children and youth have been identified with a protection concern, which has led to a decrease in the family preservation results.

The ministry's goal is to ensure that children and youth remain at home with their families when it is safe to do so. The importance of early and ongoing support for families who may be struggling not only helps keep families together when it is safe to do so, it also provides children and youth with the strong foundations they need to reach their full potential. To support this, the ministry has service contracts across the province with community social services providers to deliver supports to enable children and youth to stay at home. When all other service offerings fail and a child or youth is not able to stay safely at home, then they are brought into care.

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
2b. Distinct People Served by CYMH services			
All children and youth ¹	31,000	31,250	31,369

Data source: MCFD's Community and Residential Information System (CRIS) plus an estimate of contracts for core CYMH services that do not use CRIS such as Vancouver Coastal service delivery area (SDA) which is served by Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

¹PM 2b targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 31,500 and 32,000, respectively.

The ministry met this target. The number of clients served is a measure of the accessibility of CYMH services. An increase in the use of these services will translate to improved outcomes for children and youth with mental health needs across the province. The ministry continues to find this performance measure important to assess the prevention and early intervention services provided, 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

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

This objective focuses on the expansion of ministry services to support youth and young adults from government care to have strong transitions to adulthood, adult services or to the greater community.

Key results

- In spring 2024, the ministry enacted legislative and regulatory amendments that expanded program eligibility, resulting in more young adults receiving post majority supports through the Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) program.
- As of August 31, 2024, SAJE Guides and Navigator roles have been fully staffed across the province.
- In August 2024, SAJE functionality was improved to provide online options for young people to apply directly for SAJE supports and services, connect to their workers, enroll in direct deposit, and view their SAJE transition plan.
- In September 2024, the new Learning Fund for Young Adults (LFYA) was launched, which supports youth with care experience to participate in a range of learning opportunities through a one-time grant of \$1,500.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

Effective April 4, 2024, the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program was phased out and replaced by the [SAJE program](#). The SAJE program builds and improves upon what AYA historically offered. Through SAJE, youth and young adults who have government care experience can receive continued housing, financial, training, cultural, mental health and relational supports to help them build independence and make strong transitions to adulthood.

SAJE Navigators and Guides are ministry workers who provide support to youth and young adults connected to or are interested in enrolling in the SAJE program. SAJE Navigators support

transition planning activities for youth starting at age 14 and until age 19½. They work with youth and support circles to identify needs, develop a SAJE plan, and provide young people with guidance and support with planning. SAJE Guides are responsible for assisting SAJE Navigators and the support circle with transition planning activities starting at age 18½, and then becoming the main contact for young adults until their 25th birthday.

In addition to the above, the ministry continued to implement enhanced functionality in the youth portal which provides online options for eligible youth and young adults to access transition services and benefits provided by SAJE.

[Agedout.com](https://agedout.com), an online resource for youth and young adults who were in government care, was updated with SAJE programming information to help young people understand what supports are available and how to apply.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
3a. Per cent of youth in care who turn 19 with a high school credential			
All children and youth ¹	61.5%	63.0%	tbd
Indigenous children and youth ²	56.9%	60.5%	tbd
Non-Indigenous children and youth ³	68.2%	66.2%	tbd

Data source: The ministry's Integrated Case Management (ICM) System and Ministry of Education and Child Care Data Warehouse, MyEdBC. Credential data excludes all on reserve schools and Dogwood equivalent diplomas obtained through university.

¹PM 3a. targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 63.5%; and 64.0%; respectively.

²PM 3a. targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 61.0% and 61.5% respectively.

³PM 3 a. targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 66.7% and 67.2% respectively.

The data for this measure is provided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) and is combined with ministry data. There is a lag in reporting. At the end of the school year, five months past the end of the ministry's fiscal year (August compared to March) MECC collects and collates the data and then shares it with the ministry in December. The actuals are publicly reported on the [ministry's reporting portal](#).

Overall, the ministry considers the data to be reliable, though some graduations may be missed if they occur on reserve or at a university. This measure is based on approximately 400 children and youth in care and includes a target increase of two children per year.

Since 2001/02, the ministry has been seeing a higher proportion of children and youth in care reconnecting with school and completing high school as adult learners prior to turning 19. In

2023/24 (the most recent year that data is available for), of the 61.5% of youth in care who turned 19 with a high school credential, 29% of youth had a Dogwood credential, 14% had an adult diploma, and 18% had a completion certificate. Dogwood diploma (that is, the B.C. Adult Graduation Diploma (BCAGD) awarded to adult learners who complete high school courses to obtain their adult high school diploma) achievement was the same (29%) for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth.

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
3b. Percentage of eligible youth transitioning into adulthood that received a Post Majority Service benefit payment ¹ within the next year ²	54.5%	71.2%	71.4%

Data source: The ministry's Integrated Case Management System, CAS, and RAP Systems.

¹Post Majority Service benefit payment includes Agreements with Young Adults, Housing Agreements or Support Agreements benefits and/or rent supplement payments.

²PM 3b targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 76.0% and 82.0%, respectively.

The ministry met this performance target. There are more young adults accessing post-majority supports than ever before due to the expanded eligibility, enhanced supports, and transition planning with SAJE Navigators and Guides.

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
3c. Total number of Young Adults who receive rent supplements during the fiscal year ¹	1,630	1,700	1,728

Data source: 2023/24 counts include 181 rent supplements provided by BC Housing

¹PM 3c targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 1,364 and TBD, respectively.

The ministry met this performance target. Finding and maintaining safe housing can be a significant challenge for young people with government care experience. The rent supplement program is designed for the most vulnerable young adults with government care experience to support them as they transition to independence and to help prevent homelessness. This performance measure tracks the total number of young adults who received rent supplements during the fiscal year. Recipients receive the supplement for up to two years or until the month of their 27th birthday, whichever comes first.

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

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

This objective focuses on the work the ministry, along with our partners, is advancing to improve the network of care.

Key results

- The ministry continued a phased implementation of Specialized Homes and Support Services (SHSS) with completion of early implementation areas (EIAs) transitioned to SHSS in April 2024. A phased approach continues across the province, leveraging lessons learned from the EIAs and service provider feedback.
- The ministry developed and delivered over 1,000 hours of training to ministry staff to support the implementation of SHSS.
- The ministry held 16 training sessions with over 450 service providers between August 2024 to March 2025 to ensure knowledge and understanding of the SHSS model and associated contract requirements, deliverables and outcomes to support implementation.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

SHSS provides four service types: emergency care, respite, low-barrier short-term stabilization, and long-term specialized care. Provincial rollout continues in a phased approach to complete the transition of over 455 contracts with over 80 service providers. To facilitate implementation, a learning website was developed to provide ministry staff and service providers with the tools and information they need to transition to the SHSS model of care. Additionally, there were practice support circles and one-on-one consultations with staff and leadership on an as-needed basis.

Another area of focus for the ministry in 2024/25 was the development of Youth Emergency Shelter (YES) services, which was piloted in Maple Ridge in 2023. YES services are designed to meet the needs of youth aged 15 to 18 who are in crisis or at risk of harm or homelessness. In June 2024, a second YES pilot site in Cowichan Valley was announced to be implemented in 2025. The Cowichan Valley pilot reflects the collective efforts of Indigenous and community partners, including Cowichan Tribes, which played a pivotal role in this development. The

program builds on SHSS design principles and from earlier engagements with Indigenous child and family service agencies and community organizations.

In response to the RCY report, *Skye's Legacy*, the ministry has made significant progress towards its Comprehensive Review of Care Planning. Through the support of the advisory circle and the co-leadership of youth and Indigenous partners, completed reports include: a current state summary report; Honouring Past Wisdom Summary; Jurisdictional Scan: Leveraging Successes; and a report detailing the engagement results, Listening & Learning: Survey responses. Additionally, the advisory circle has conducted substantial public engagements and tabled success reports.

The Enhanced Out of Care model has continued to provide elevated levels of supports to kinship caregivers caring for children and youth with significant complex mental health, trauma and support needs. These supports have assisted children and youth to remain in community, connected to family and culture.

In fiscal year 2024/25, the ministry implemented several improvements to the contract model, via the Contract Management Modernization Project, to support role clarity, process definition and improved experience for both service providers and the ministry. This includes a roles and responsibilities matrix, role-specific checklists to support consistency across activities, training materials and sessions for contract managers and staff, streamlined and improved financial materials to support contract financial discussions, and standardized communications to improve information sharing within the ministry and with service providers.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
4a. Per cent of children and youth in care with no moves in the first 12 months since their last admission to care ¹	68.2%	67.0%	69.7%

Data source: Integrated Case Management System

¹PM 4a targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 67.5% and 68.0%, respectively.

The ministry exceeded this performance target. This performance measure tracks the percentage of children and youth in care with no moves (that is, they have remained with the same caregiver) in the first 12 months since their last admission to care. 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. As more specialized homes and support services are implemented, and additional foster homes are made available through recruitment, the ministry expects to see a continued positive impact on this performance measure.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Early Childhood Development	45,701	376	46,077	43,146	(2,931)
Services for Children and Youth with Support Needs	590,207	56,710	646,917	648,192	1,275
Child and Youth Mental Health Services	128,213	4,374	132,587	129,096	(3,491)
Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services	1,064,630	199,073	1,263,703	1,269,136	5,433
Adoption Services	40,224	383	40,607	34,490	(6,117)
Youth Justice Services	54,295	3,429	57,724	46,859	(10,865)
Service Delivery Support	174,142	38,854	212,996	228,493	15,497
Executive and Support Services	23,785	6,183	29,968	31,167	1,199
Sub-total	2,121,197	309,382	2,430,579	2,430,579	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	(846)	(846)
Total	2,121,197	309,382	2,430,579	2,429,733	(846)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Service Delivery Support	2,230	0,075	2,305	2,305	0
Total	2,230	0,075	2,305	2,305	0
Other Financing Transactions					
By Core Business (and Purpose)					
Receipts ³	(31)		(31)	(31)	0
Disbursements	0		0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)		(31)	(31)	0
Summary					
Total Receipts	(31)		(31)	(31)	(31)
Total Disbursements	0		0	0	0

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)		(31)	(31)	(31)

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the "Estimated Amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of 0.846 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

³ Human Services Providers financing program receipts represent the repayment of one outstanding loan by a community social services provider. The funding for capital purposes was provided for under the Human Resource Facility Act.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of August 7, 2025, the Minister of Children and Family Development is responsible and accountable for the following organization:

[British Columbia 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.

Appendix B: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister Grace Lore's [2024 Mandate Letter](#).

2024 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
Engage in deeper consultation with parents and caregivers, First Nations, Indigenous Peoples, communities, experts and practitioners, and other stakeholders with lived experience to build a better system of supports for children and youth with support needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engagement closed on December 1, 2024. Work to analyze the findings of engagement progressed through winter 2024 and spring 2025. A “what we heard report” will be released in summer 2025 with the expectation that it will shape the path forward for services for children and youth with support needs.
Continue work to expand supports for young adults transitioning from government care to support their transition to independence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fully implemented in April 2024, the SAJE program supports young adults with government care experience build toward independence and make strong transitions to adulthood by offering expanded housing, financial, training, cultural, and mental health supports.There are more young adults accessing post-majority supports than ever before due to the expanded eligibility, enhanced supports, and transition planning with Navigators and Guides.

2024 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>Implement B.C.'s historic legislation on Indigenous jurisdiction over child welfare and continue to address and reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in government care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of the Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act (Bill 38) is in force. Eight Bill 38 provisions are not yet in force, including provisions relating to IGB adoption consent, court-related processes, electronic systems access, and regulation-making authority to prescribe additional powers, duties and functions for the Indigenous child welfare director. • The ministry has now entered into five coordination agreements under the federal Act supported by these amendments, including with Cowichan Tribes, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations, Splatshin, Sts'ailes, and Tâsilhqot'in National Government.

2024 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>Continue improving B.C.'s in-care system to ensure that it meets the unique needs of every child and youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ministry continued a phased implementation of SHSS with completion of early implementation areas (EIAs) transitioned to SHSS in April 2024. A phased approach continues across the province leveraging comprehensive lessons learned from the EIA and service provider feedback. Continued expansion and ongoing discussions with Indigenous partners and rights and title holders on SHSS are guided and informed by the phased implementation across the province. • In-person and virtual learning opportunities were available to provide all caregivers with current theories and information to support their care of children and youth and improve caregiver retention rates. A total of 3,586 kinship, foster and contracted agency caregivers engaged in 297 virtual learning sessions. In-person learning opportunities were provided specifically for foster caregivers and a total of 160 foster caregivers attended six learning sessions where an opportunity for networking and connection was also provided.