

# About the Community Disability Services (CDS) Sector



Community-based service providers have delivered high-quality services to individuals with disabilities for the past 65 years. As a result of the deinstitutionalization movement across Canada in the 1960s, community-based service delivery was introduced as an alternative to government-run, hospital-like facilities [1].

Today, 98% of Albertans with developmental disabilities who are supported through the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program receive services through contracted community-based service providers or by staff hired directly through Family Managed Services (FMS) [2]. These service models enable individuals to access skilled supports in the communities where they live and throughout their lives.

The Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS) is proud to have been the collective voice for community disability service providers in Alberta since 1972. With over 150 members located widely across Alberta, ACDS works to advocate for effective policy, advance excellence and best practices through standards development, build organizational capacity, and provide professional development and training for community disability workers.

**13,600+**  
adults with developmental disabilities  
are supported through PDD [3]

All government-contracted  
CDS providers are **accredited**

**84%**  
of individuals in the PDD program **receive  
services from** approximately  
**160+ CDS providers**

**21%** from Family Managed Services

**1.5%** from government-run  
operations [2]

\*some individuals receive services from  
more than one service model

**81%**  
of ACDS members are  
**non-profits** [4]

**90%**  
of the workforce are  
**frontline workers** [5]

**65%**  
of workers have a **post-secondary**  
degree, diploma, or certificate [5]  
and **all workers** must take  
**mandatory training** to  
work in the sector

## REFERENCES

- [1] Sonpal-Valias, N. July 2019. History of developmental disability policy in Alberta. *The School of Public Policy Publications*, 12:20. <https://doi.org/10.55016/ojs/sppp.v12i1.68184>
- [2] Government of Alberta Open Data. March 18, 2022. *PDD Data Visualization - to December 2021*. <https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/pdd-historical-caseload>
- [3] Seniors, Community and Social Services, Government of Alberta. June 2025. *Seniors, Community and Social Services 2024–2025 Annual Report*. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2817-2639>
- [4] Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS). November 2025. Data for ACDS membership and accreditation statistics. Unpublished raw data.
- [5] Alberta Council of Disability Services. April 2024. *ACDS Survey 2023: Workforce Fundamentals*. Calgary, AB. [acds.ca/workforce/ACDS-annual-surveys/index.html](https://acds.ca/workforce/ACDS-annual-surveys/index.html)