

Community Disability Services Sector Priorities 2023 – 2026

Collaboration Opportunities with Alberta Government

About ACDS

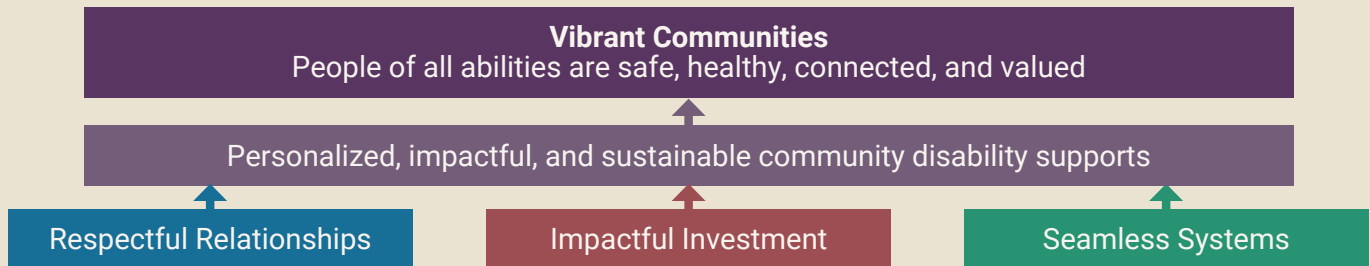
Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS) is a nonprofit association of over 140 community disability service providers, representing 85% of agencies contracted by the PDD program. Our members employ about 14,000 disability professionals to support over 11,000 adults with developmental disabilities to live full lives in their communities.

We are a trusted partner, working closely with the Alberta Government and community stakeholders to strengthen policies, programs, and services in the Community Disability Services (CDS) sector.

ACDS Impact and Sustainability Framework

Vibrant communities thrive when all citizens feel safe, healthy, connected, and valued.

We believe three principles are foundational for impactful and sustainable programs to support Albertans with disabilities participate in and contribute to vibrant communities.



CDS Sector Priorities and Collaboration Opportunities with Alberta Government

Respectful Relationships

The delivery of government-contracted supports by agencies thrives on relationships built on a common vision, trusted mechanisms, evidence-based decisions, and transparent processes for mutual accountability.

what we are asking for:

1. Continued engagement by Alberta Government on the Service Provider Partnership Committee to strengthen community disability services

2. Comprehensive and timely data

- 2a. Data about current and potential program beneficiaries so service providers can prepare for changing demands
- 2b. Forecasting model to support policy development, program delivery, and service capacity growth

how we can help:

ACDS and members are committed to investing time and resources on this trusted mechanism to benefit Albertans with disabilities.

ACDS is ready to provide input to Alberta Government on data and analytics needed by service providers for effective forecasting and planning

CDS Sector Priorities and Collaboration Opportunities with Alberta Government

Impactful Investment

Investing in community disability services helps people become contributing citizens and strengthens society. Impactful investment occurs when the network of service delivery partners is sustainable, there is a skilled and dependable workforce, and quality and innovation are encouraged.

what we are asking for:

- 3. Support the sustainability of service providers so they can increase their service capacity to help reduce the PDD waitlist**
 - 3a. Fund the full costs of service delivery
 - 3b. Address organizational capacity challenges by reducing red tape, leveraging government resources, and supporting organizations to explore capacity-development opportunities with community and business partners
- 4. Planned, ongoing increases in wage funding to address challenges caused by chronic low wages in the sector**
 - 4a. Close existing wage disparity with competing sectors
 - 4b. Provide annual inflation-indexed adjustments
- 5. Support the implementation of recommendations from Project Blueprint CDS to address workforce challenges and increase service capacity**
 - 5a. Earmark a portion of the increase in 2023-24 SCSS budget to support one or more of Blueprint CDS immediate-term (Year 1) recommendations
 - 5b. Dedicate for next two years, a portion of the remaining increase in SCSS budget to support one or more Years 2-3 recommendations
 - 5c. Identify other grants in government that align with Blueprint CDS
 - 5d. Identify related workforce development or job barrier removal initiatives in other ministries that may inform or leverage Blueprint CDS

how we can help:

ACDS and members have the expertise to identify capacity limitations and generate multiple solutions to support Alberta Government's goal to eliminate the PDD waitlist so that all individuals receive required services.

ACDS is willing to explore various cost estimate scenarios with SCSS for fair, ongoing, and sustainable wage increases. With member input, ACDS can also advise on efficient roll-out processes to minimize administrative burden for government and service providers.

ACDS' sector-driven Blueprint CDS provides a comprehensive strategy and evidence-based plan to jointly address workforce challenges with the Alberta Government.

In addition to partnering with SCSS, ACDS will seek other funding sources and continue to provide project management support for Blueprint CDS.

Seamless Systems

Individuals with disabilities intersect with multiple programs and policy areas. Deliberate review of these intersections can reduce costs, increase efficiency and sustainability, and improve outcomes for individuals.

what we are asking for:

- 6. Seamless access to appropriate systems for non-PDD services**
 - 6a. Review intersections between PDD and other systems to reduce duplication due to the creation of an unintended "parallel system", improve access, and eliminate gaps so that individuals receive services from the most appropriate ministry for their needs
- 7. Supportive and effective regulations for PDD-funded community living homes**
 - 7a. Exempt all PDD-funded community living homes, except accommodations where the setting resembles a facility-based care site, from licensing requirement, AND
 - 7b. Develop a new set of simplified standards appropriate for all PDD-funded community living homes (regardless of number of residents), based on principles and practices supporting dignity and self-determination

how we can help:

ACDS members have extensive experience on navigating multiple systems and how these impact individuals.

Through member engagement, we can help identify solutions to reduce duplication, increase efficiency, and eliminate unintended negative consequences

ACDS proposed these recommendations as part of the Continuing Care Legislative Review in February 2021.

The recommendations will create a more appropriate licensing solution for Albertans receiving PDD-funded home living supports.

