

SECTOR SCANNER 2023 **SUMMARY**

KEY ISSUES IMPACTING COMMUNITY DISABILITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

FINANCIAL PRESSURES



91%

of service providers reported experiencing either a **moderate or significant increase in expenses** over the past year

Most significant increases in costs reported were for: utilities (by 65% of service providers), insurance (46%), and maintenance (38%).



52%

of service providers felt that their **PDD services were at moderate or high risk** in the next year **due to increasing unfunded costs**

42%

of service providers are anticipating a **deficit in their 2023/24 PDD budget**

51%

of service providers are considering **reducing or changing** aspects of their **non-PDD-funded services for individuals with disabilities** due to financial pressures

"While we are not operating a deficit, [...] this translates to minimum services being provided, not necessarily the services that are required/needed for the [individual accessing services] to be successful."

78%

of service providers have moved PDD funding from **Direct to Indirect** due to **rising costs** in the past year



92%

of service providers reported that **inflation** was one of the top three issues affecting their **workforce**

Inflation in Alberta, Nov 2022 to Nov 2023

+2.5% overall inflation

+4.6% food costs

+8.5% shelter costs

"Inflation is affecting our organization, its staff, and the individuals as a whole. The higher cost of living is making our daily lives difficult and [it is] hard to make ends meet."

A STRAINED WORKFORCE

WAGES



In late 2022, for the first time since 2014, the government announced a 10% increase in funding for staffing in the CDS sector.

However, as nearly half of all Canadians are living paycheck to paycheck and living wages continue to rise across Alberta, growing costs continue to challenge the health of the CDS workforce.

BURNOUT AND MENTAL HEALTH

72% of service providers reported **mental health** as one of the top three issues affecting their workforce, while 63% listed employee **burnout**.

Workers in health care and social assistance fields have a higher percentage of work-related stress than the general population, and the percentage of all Canadians who rate their mental health as very good or excellent has dropped 13% from 2015.



HOUSING



51%

of service providers felt that their **ability to provide housing services** was at **high or moderate risk** in the 2023/24 fiscal year

As housing prices and rental rates continue to increase across Alberta, service providers, CDS workers, and individuals in service are feeling the pressure of these increased costs.

In addition, interest rate shock may pose a concern as 45% of Canadian mortgages come up for renewal over the next two years, and many will face much higher interest rates than what they are currently paying.

OF THE 68 DISABILITY SERVICE PROVIDERS SURVEYED:

57%

provide services to individuals who are **having difficulty or are unable to make their rental or mortgage payments**

40%

provide services to individuals who are living in **unstable neighbourhoods with high rates of crime, poor city services, or excessive noise**

38%

support individuals who are living in **housing of inferior quality with inadequate plumbing or heat, leaks, holes, etc.**

35%

are providing services to individuals who are struggling with **hidden homelessness, and are unhoused and living with family or friends due to having no alternatives**

22%

have individuals in service who are **unhoused and living in a homeless shelter or on the street**

Access the full report at acds.ca