

BACKGROUNDER

2016-17 Income Assistance Changes Decision

- In Budget 2016-17, the Government of Saskatchewan announced a number of changes to Income Assistance programs. Beneficiaries received letters about these changes in August 2016. These changes were then put on hold in mid-August 2016 to allow Government and our clients more time to work through the impact.
- The program changes that were announced were:
 - Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID): consider the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement when calculating benefits for families and people with disabilities who receive extra or “excess” living income through SAID;
 - Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) and SAID: end the grandfathering provision of “excess shelter” benefits under both programs in communities that previously had low vacancy rates;
 - SAP and SAID: include Seniors’ Income Plan (SIP) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) top-up benefits when calculating SAP or SAID benefits; and
 - Saskatchewan Employment Supplement (SES): end the practice of grandfathering benefits for families with children aged 13 and over.
- The Government of Saskatchewan has determined that the changes as announced will not apply to existing beneficiaries. These beneficiaries will be “grandfathered.”
- The new rules apply to all new clients and beneficiaries entering these programs or for those current beneficiaries whose circumstances change. For example, if a client moves or they begin to receive income support for people over 65, the new rules would likely be applied.

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