

Social Programs

ISC Alberta Region

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Presenter: Jessica McDougall-Ireland
and Marla Townsend



Indigenous Services
Canada

Services aux
Autochtones Canada

Canada

Assisted Living Program in Alberta

- This program provides funding for non-medical, social support services to seniors and adults with disabilities to help them maintain their independence in their home communities.
- To provide funding to eligible, low-income individuals who are ordinarily resident on reserve, and meant to align with similar provincial programs.

There are 3 major components:

1. In-home care
2. Adult foster care
3. Institutional care

Reports are due annually on May 31

Assisted Living Client Eligibility

To qualify, the person must meet all of the following:

1. Be 18 years of age or older.

2. Live on-reserve or be temporarily off-reserve for medical or social reasons.

- They live on reserve and do not have a main home off-reserve.
- OR they are off-reserve to receive medical or social care that isn't available on-reserve.
- They must have lived on reserve right before needing that care.

3. Have low income and no other options for support.

- Cannot afford the services themselves and have no access to other programs. Income and family situation will be reviewed during the assessment.

4. Be formally assessed as requiring help by a social or health professional.

Assisted Living Program in Alberta

1. In-Home Care

- Non-medical support services, personal and home support for clients living in their home.

2. Adult Foster Care

- Non-medical support for clients living in supportive living accommodations such as seniors' lodges, group homes for individuals with development disabilities, residential homes, and other supportive living accommodations in Alberta.

3. Institutional Care

- Non-medical supports for clients requiring Types I and II care such as designated supportive living facilities and long-term care facilities in Alberta.
- The client must be assessed as needing Type I or Type II care in these facilities to be eligible.
- If assessed as Type III+, a client is ineligible for AL supports.

In-Home Care

- In-Home Care/Homemaker Services means the minimum set of household tasks required to maintain a safe and supportive environment for the client.
- Services support the home environment (e.g., light housekeeping, meal prep) — not hands-on personal care that nursing, home health aides, or personal care aides would provide.
- Not intended for clients who require 24-hour care or facility-level care (e.g., long-term care homes).

Examples of Eligible Expenditures

Meal
Programs,
Preparation
& Planning

Short-term
Respite Care

Non-medical
Transportation

Minor Home
Maintenance &
Light
Housekeeping

Day
Programs

Attendant
Services

Chopping &
Carrying Wood
and Water

Laundry and
Mending

Adult Foster Care & Institutional Care

In Alberta, supports are provided to clients living in:

- **Adult Foster Care** - seniors' lodges, group homes for individuals with development disabilities, residential homes, and other supportive living accommodations in Alberta.
- **Institutional Care** - designated supportive living facilities and long-term care facilities in Alberta.

ISC has the authority to fund:

Type I Care: For people who mostly need supervision and help with daily routines.

Includes light personal support and social or recreational activities.

About 30–90 minutes of assistance per day.

Type II Care: For people who need help available 24/7, but not full medical care.

Often includes medication reminders or monitoring, short term respite, etc.

About 90–150 minutes of care or supervision per day.

ISC has no authority to fund:

Type III, IV, V non-medical level care

All Albertans are eligible to receive long-term institutional care funded by the provincial government when they are no longer able to live independently within their homes and community. The Government of Alberta is responsible for providing funding for higher levels of care (e.g. Type III, IV, & V).

Service Delivery

Resources are provided under Service Delivery funding to support the administration of the program. Funds can be used for eligible service delivery expenditures including the following:

Salaries	Salaries, wages, and benefits for AL Coordinators and administrative staff
Travel	Staff travel costs related to the AL program (ex. travel to visit clients or attend training)
Training	Training for professional administrators and case workers
Data Collection Activities	Activities related to collecting and managing data required for program management.
Developing Operational Policy	Developing operational policy and related documents, and delivery options to encourage local integration, where possible, of education, health and social services needed to effectively deliver and administer the program.
Case Management	Supporting staff to assess clients, make care plans, refer to services, and check in regularly.

Income Assistance in Alberta

- This program provides financial support to eligible individuals and families living on reserve who do not have other means to meet their basic needs.
- It is considered a program of last resort — intended for those with no other financial resources.

There are 4 components:

1. Basic Needs
 - Core Benefits (Core Essential, Core Shelter)
2. Supplementary Benefits
3. Special Needs
4. Employment Supports

Income Assistance Client Eligibility

To qualify, the client must meet all of the following:

1. One member of the household must be 18 years of age or older

2. Live on-reserve or be temporarily off-reserve for services not available on reserve

- They live on reserve and do not have a main home off-reserve.
- OR they are off-reserve for medical care, education or services/supports not available on reserve.

3. Have low income and no other options for support

4. Eligible for basic or special financial assistance

- Meaning the individual qualifies for support based on their assessed needs, income, and household situation, as determined through the IA program's application and review process.

Basic Needs – Core Benefits

- Provides monthly support to meet basic day-to-day living expenses.
- Amount is determined by household category and family composition.
 - Includes Core Essential and Core Shelter

Core Essential Examples

- Food
- Clothing (including diapers)
- Household needs (including furniture, appliances, household supplies)
- Basic transportation
- School transportation
- Installation and use of a telephone
- Laundry
- Vehicle expenses (registration, insurance, fuel, maintenance, etc.)

Core Shelter Examples

- Rent or Mortgage
- Utilities and Heating fuel
- Home insurance
- Minor home maintenance
- Damage deposit



Shelter Benefit Notes:

- Shelter support covers rent or housing costs for:
 - Private Homes
 - CMHC Section 95 homes (must have a signed tenancy agreement)
- For band-owned homes, rent can be covered only if there is a:
 - Universal or community-wide rental regime, and
 - Rental agreement in place and rent must be collected

Supplementary Benefit

- Supplementary benefits to Core Essential benefits
- Consists of Continuous Needs and Non-Continuous Needs benefits
 - Amount is determined by household category, eligibility, family composition and actual need.

Continuous Needs Examples

(Ongoing monthly supports, reviewed regularly)

- **Personal Needs Supplement**
 - For clients with long-term conditions that require ongoing hygiene, clothing, or mobility-related items.
- **Earning Replacement Allowance**
 - Issued to households where all adults are temporarily not able to work due to short term health concerns or family responsibility.
- **Special Diets**
 - (e.g., diabetes, renal failure, celiac disease)

Non-Continuous Needs Examples

(One-time or short-term supports; case by case)

- **Funeral Costs**
 - To cover basic funeral costs
- **Minor Home Maintenance**
 - Fixing doors, windows, steps or other safety hazards
- **Utility hookup, reconnection or deposit fees**

* All benefits must be assessed based on client needs, household type, and available supports.

Special Needs Benefit

- Supports for specific, often urgent or exceptional needs that are not covered under basic needs/core benefits.
- Must be based on an individual assessment and not funded by other programs (like NIHB).

Special Needs Examples

- **Prenatal & natal expenses**
(e.g., vitamins, maternity clothes, baby supplies)
- **Emergency allowance**
(e.g., escaping family violence, crisis situations)
- **Relocation support**
(when moving due to safety, housing loss, or medical need)
- **Essential household items**
(e.g., beds, bedding, cookware — if starting over or in crisis)
- **Childcare (not employment-related)**
(e.g., during medical appointments, emergencies)

Employment Supports

- Supports for clients who are ready to move toward employment or training, helping them gain skills, build confidence, and reduce long-term reliance on Income Assistance.

Programs Included:

- **1. Income Support Transfers (IST)**

- For clients transitioning from IA to another full-time program. IA funding is transferred to a service provider (e.g., SAET or PESP)

- **2. Social Assistance for Employment & Training (SAET)**

- Helps fund community-based services for low-income families and parents — especially those working toward education or employment.

- **3. Pre-Employment Support Program (PESP)**

- Offers management, education, life skills, and employment supports to Income Assistance clients.

Client Categories and Reporting

There are 3 Client/Household Categories

- **Expected to Work (ETW): A, B, C and D**
- **Barriers to Full-time Employment (BFE): A, B, and C**
 - **Income Support Transfer (IST)**

Reporting Due Dates

Q1 (Apr, May, Jun):	Due July 30
Q2 (Jul, Aug, Sept):	Due Oct 30
Q3 (Oct, Nov, Dec):	Due Jan 30
Q4 (Jan, Feb, Mar):	Due April 30