



## Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections FAQ

### What is the SAJE Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections Funding for?

The SAJE Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections Funding is intended to support a young adult on the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program to achieve their skill development and learning goals under seven different learning domains. The [funding guidelines](#) acknowledge that there are many pathways to reaching one’s potential, such as restoring or strengthening one’s sense of identity, belonging, and community.

### What are the AYA life-skills learning domains?

Youth, young adults, Indigenous partners and community organizations provided suggestions during engagement sessions to expand and improve the AYA life-skills learning domains that shape goal development and planning. Based on these suggestions, seven life-skills learning domains emerged, which a young adult’s AYA life-skills goals and activities link to:

- Identity, Belonging, Community & Cultural Connections
- Parenting & Family Life
- Daily Living & Household Supports
- Money Management
- Education, Employment & Training
- Health & Wellness
- Social Skills

Descriptions about each of these life-skills learning domains can be found [here](#).

### What is the future state eligibility for the SAJE Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections program?

SAJE Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections		
Eligibility Criteria and Benefit Information		
	Early Eligibility Criteria (Late 2023) <sup>3</sup>	Future State Expanded Eligibility (spring 2024) <sup>4</sup>
<b>Age</b>	19-26 (up to 27 <sup>th</sup> birthday)	19-26 (up to 27 <sup>th</sup> birthday)
<b>Agreement Type</b>	Must be the following agreement type: 1. Agreement with Young Adult (AYA) under <b>Current Eligibility Criteria</b> <sup>2</sup>	One of the following applies: 1. ← Previous eligibility for AYA <b>AND</b> 2. <b>Future State AYA Expanded Eligibility (April 2024)</b> <sup>2</sup>
<b>Eligible Concurrent SAJE benefit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• THA</li> <li>• Expanded Medical Benefits</li> <li>• Counselling Benefit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• THA</li> <li>• Expanded Medical Benefits</li> <li>• Counselling Benefit</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rent Supplement</li> <li>• Agreements with Young Adults Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rent Supplement</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	\$11,000 lifetime maximum, up to \$5,500 per year	\$11,000 lifetime maximum, up to \$5,500 per year

**Can I combine different programs on an AYA? For example, can I do a mental health program and a life-skills program?**

Yes, you can talk to your worker about your needs and goals and develop a plan to pursue a combination of educational, rehabilitative and/or life-skills or cultural connections activities to meet the requirement of 5-hours per week. For example, this means you could do 4-hours of life-skills programming and 1-hour of mental health programming and meet the AYA program requirements, or any combination of programming that meets your unique needs.

**How are young adults supposed to access online services or materials to support them in their programs?**

MCFD recognizes that technology is a critical way for youth and young adults to remain connected. Given that many services and supports are offered online, technology is key for participation. If you do not have a laptop and/or technology to support your participation in the educational or other program linked to your AYA plan, speak with the SAJE Guide, MCFD Social worker or Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency (ICFSA) worker or other worker who is providing support to you to see what options are available.

Eligible youth in care, including in care or in out-of-care arrangements, between the ages of 13-18 may be eligible for the Phones4Youth (P4Y) program. The P4Y program ensures that reliable phones and plans are provided to youth in care.

Young adults with care experience who are eligible for AYA are eligible for the [TELUS Mobility for Good Program](#) (M4G), which offers young adults transitioning from care between the ages of 19 – 26 (inclusive) free cell phones and no-cost data plans for a two-year period and access to a low-cost plan thereafter. As of May 6, 2020, young adults who are accepted to the M4G program are also eligible for the TELUS Internet for Good program, which offers subsidized, high-speed internet plans to youth transitioning from care.

**Will Indigenous youth after they turn 19 still be able to have a roots/family and cultural connections worker?**

Root Workers provide support to youth under the age of 19. Over the age of 19, young adults can connect with a SAJE Guide and access the SAJE Life-skills Training and Cultural Connections funding through AYA. A SAJE Guide can support connections to family, community and culture, while the funding will support AYA-eligible young adults to access programs or activities related to maintaining and/or creating a greater connection to one’s family, community and culture.

