

# Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) Program



## OUR VISION

The vision for the future places youth and young adults at the centre, with the wraparound supports and services they need to transition into adulthood and build towards independence.

## EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY

Support young adults with at least 24 months of government care experience between the age of 12 -19, regardless of their legal care status, up until age of 27.

Indigenous partners  
Youth & young adults  
MCFD staff  
Caregivers  
Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies  
Community partners

## WHAT WE HEARD

9 Through the voices of over 3,000 British Columbians, nine key domains of need were identified to support young adults transition into adulthood & build towards independence.



Eligibility



Housing



Financial support



Education & employment



Navigation & transition planning



Relationship, belonging, identity & culture



Life-skills & training



Mental health & wellness



Information technology

## Effective Now

### Mental Health & Wellness

- New mental health and counselling benefit.
- Enhanced medical benefits including expanded dental and optical coverage.

### Navigation & Transition Planning

- SAJE Navigators and Guides available in all areas of the province.

### Life-skills & Training

- Enhanced funding for life-skills, training, and cultural programming.

### Financial Support

- Unconditional income support at age 19, up to 20th birthday.
- Conditional income support at age 20, up to 27th birthday, if participating in life-skills, vocational, post-secondary, rehabilitative or cultural programming.
- No-limit earnings exemption so that benefits are not reduced or impacted based on employment.

### Housing

- MCFD's \$600-a-month rent supplement program to support eligible young adults with their rent.
- SAJE Housing Agreements (SHA) and SAJE Support Agreements (SSA) are options that young adults can access to remain in their homes up to age 21.

## Still to come in 2024!

### Information Technology

SAJE Online Portal that allows young adults to apply for services and benefits they may be eligible for.

## Questions?

Contact MCFD's SAJE Provincial Support Services at 1-866-623-3001



Ministry of Children and Family Development

TO LEARN MORE VISIT [www.gov.bc.ca/SAJE](http://www.gov.bc.ca/SAJE)