



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) SAJE Housing Agreements & SAJE Support Agreements

1. What are SAJE Housing Agreements (SHA) and SAJE Support Agreements (SSA)?

SAJE Housing and Support Agreements are financial supports that help maintain your pre-19 housing or smooth your transition into independence by helping to cover your living expenses. You may be eligible for monthly payments of up to \$1,250 in funding.

2. What is an SSA?

A SAJE Support Agreement (SSA) gives you access to financial support to help cover your expenses while living independently between the ages of 19 and 21.

3. Am I eligible for an SSA?

If you are between the ages of 19 and your 21st birthday you could be eligible for an SSA for up to two years if you:

- Reached your 19th birthday on a Youth Agreement or Continuing Custody Agreement or under the personal guardianship of a director,

OR

- Achieved permanency (i.e., adoption after being in care, or under section 54.1 or 54.01) between the ages of 12-19,

OR

- Had 24 months of cumulative time in care between the ages of 12-19, in any care status excluding 54.1, 54.01 or adoption,

OR

- Were in a comparable arrangement under Indigenous law.

4. What is an SHA?

A SAJE Housing Agreement (SHA) allows you to continue living in your pre-19 living arrangement, if mutually agreed to by you, your caregiver/care provider, and your SAJE Guide or Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies (ICFSA) worker. In this arrangement, your caregiver/care provider will continue to receive financial support from the ministry to enable you to live in your pre-19 home.

5. Am I eligible for an SHA?

If you are between the ages of 19 and your 21st birthday, you could be eligible for an SHA for up to two years if you:

- Were living in a foster home arrangement, contracted agency placement or out of care living arrangements immediately prior to turning 19,

AND

- Reached your 19th birthday on a Youth Agreement or Continuing Custody Agreement or under the personal guardianship of a director,

OR

- Achieved permanency (i.e., adoption after being in care, or under section 54.1 or 54.01) between the ages of 12-19,

OR

- Had 24 months of cumulative time in care between the ages of 12-19, in any care status excluding 54.1, 54.01 or adoption,

OR

- Were in a comparable arrangement under Indigenous law.

6. How can I apply for an SSA or an SHA?

To apply for an SSA or SHA, or if you have questions about your agreement, you can visit [SAJE \(Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment\) - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/saje) or contact a SAJE Guide or MCFD's SAJE Provincial Support Services (SPSS) at [1-866-623-3001](tel:1-866-623-3001) or MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca to find out more.

Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies (ICFSAs) may also have dedicated workers to assist Indigenous youth with planning for their transition to adulthood and accessing the SAJE program. If you are looking for an ICFSA please visit [Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies/Delegated Aboriginal Agencies in BC - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/indigenous-child-family-service-agencies)

7. What other options do I have if I do not want to remain in my current home?

You can apply for an Unconditional Income Support Agreement (UIS) or Conditional Income Support Agreement (CIS) to further support your living expenses. To find out more, please see the Income Supports FAQ.

You can also apply for a Rent Supplement if you are on an SSA and meet the eligibility criteria. To find out more, please see the Rent Supplement FAQ.

8. Can I switch from an SHA to an SSA?

Yes, if you are eligible for or currently on an SHA, you can transition to an SSA on your 19th birthday or between your 19th and 21st birthdays.

9. Can I receive an SHA if I am living in a group home?

Yes. This is possible if you, the group home provider, and MCFD or ICFSAs mutually agree, you may be able to stay in the home on an SHA until your 21st birthday.

10. Can I get financial support for housing expenses, such as damage deposits, pet fees, strata fees, and insurance?

The SAJE supports that you receive can be used to assist or cover these expenses. If you have specific questions, contact a SAJE Guide or MCFD's SAJE Provincial Support Services (SPSS) at [1-866-623-3001](tel:1-866-623-3001) or MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca.

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11. What other SAJE supports am I eligible for while on an SHA or SSA?

If you are on an SHA or SSA, you are also eligible to receive:

- SAJE Income Supports
- SAJE Medical benefits
- SAJE Mental Health and Counselling benefit
- Transition support from a SAJE Guide or ICFSAs worker
- Rent Supplement (only if on SSA, not SHA)
- Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and Learning for Future Grant