

Types of Service and Support Options to Consider – Disability Services in Saskatchewan

When considering whether you want to start a nonprofit in the Disability Service sector, there are a variety of service and support options that can be provided, including:

1. **Residential services and supports.** This might include Group Homes, Group Living Homes, Supportive Living Programs, Approved Private Service Homes, or assisting people to contract supports to come into their home.
2. **Day program services and supports.** This might include volunteering, leisure, or recreational activities, and life skills.
3. **Supported Employment.** This might include a variety of services provided by an organization to assist a person experiencing disability to prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment in the community.

In Saskatchewan, the provincial government supports organizations to create and enhance services to meet the needs of the people they support. Organizations must meet specific standards and requirements in order to qualify for funding and continue offering services. Each person's person-centred plan sets the stage for the services they will access; services and supports are tailored to whatever their needs, wants, and goals are.

Here are some of the service and support options:

1. Residential Options

There are a number of residential options available including Group Homes, Group Living Homes, Supportive Living Programs, Approved Private Service Homes, and Government Operated Group Homes. All residential options support people experiencing disability to live as neighbours within our communities.

- **Group Homes**

Group homes are staffed to provide a range of daily living and personal care supports to help people live as independently as possible. Support may be provided up to 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, and typically have between three to six people living in them, with each person having their own bedroom and sharing the other spaces in the home such as the kitchen, bathroom, and living room. The Government provides funding to the organization for the operation of the group home and staff wages.

- **Group Living Homes**

Group living homes are where two or more people share a home and are responsible for paying their share of basic shelter costs such as rent or mortgage and utilities. The Government then provides funding for staff who may provide support up to 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, depending on the needs of the people living in the home.

- **Supportive Living Programs**

Supportive living programs provide people living on their own with the limited support they need to live as independently as possible. The people in these types of living arrangements pay for their own basic living expenses. They do not require 24 hour a day support; rather they may need help with some activities of independent living such as budgeting, scheduling, and cooking.

- **Approved Private Service Homes**

In Saskatchewan, Approved Private Service Homes are not operated by an organization, rather they provide a supportive family-living environment, where the home operator lives in the home with the people being supported. The Government licenses and provides funding to the independent operator.

- **Government Operated Group Homes**

In Saskatchewan, Government operated group homes are run and staffed directly by the Ministry of Social Services, instead of an organization. These are specialized group homes throughout the province that are intended to provide specific, short-term services such as crisis support or respite.

2. Day Program Services and Supports

Day programs are operated by organizations and support people experiencing disability to develop a variety of skills and do whatever it is they wish to do as part of their day including working, volunteering, participating in leisure or recreational activities, and building life skills.

Support could be full-time or part-time, and takes place wherever the person requires it. Some people may prefer to do things on their own, while others may prefer to spend time with people who have similar interests — for many it might be a blend of the two.

The organization may have a facility or centre where some people may choose to spend their time participating in a variety of activities that emphasize life skills, socialization, and recreation. Others may want to work, volunteer, or participate in activities elsewhere in the community. Again, for many, it may be a blend of the two approaches.

3. Supported Employment

Many people experiencing disability choose to spend some of their time working. We all value being able to earn a living doing work we enjoy, and we all rely on some supports along the way. People experiencing disability are no different and that is what supported employment is all about.

As the Disability Service sector has advanced, many people experiencing disability have made successful transitions into the workforce. Employers have begun to



embrace the idea that diversity in their business includes employing people experiencing disability and that a diverse workforce is good for business.

Supported employment is when an organization supports a person experiencing disability to prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment in the community. The organization provides a variety of supports to both the job seeker or employee and the employer to ensure a successful working relationship. It is important to note that when we say 'employment', this means an employer-employee relationship where the employee is paid at a rate of minimum wage or better, or self-employment. This does not include volunteer work.

For some people, assistance may be needed to prepare for and find a job, such as writing a resume or preparing for interviews. For others, it may be job coaching, or support to help them learn how to do the job.

Some people may need long-term support throughout their careers to maintain their job. This could mean a job coach who works with them every day, or visits regularly to check on how things are going. It could also be someone available to call on for support when duties change or challenges arise. The level and type of support is personalized based on the person-centred plan.