Proposed Ontario Works Act Amendments

Proposed amendments are being tabled as part of the *Supporting Recovery and Competitiveness Act, 2021* to make key updates to the *Ontario Works Act* that support a new <u>vision for social assistance</u>



What would happen?

No immediate program changes as a result of passing the proposed amendments.



Changes would require regulations to implement proposed updates, which would be brought forward *after* codesign work with municipal and DSSAB partners

What would be updated?

Proposed Updates to program delivery designations to enable realigning Ontario Works delivery functions

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services Can be designated a delivery agent

- Deliver centralized financial assistance
- Administer financial controls and back-office functions suited to centralization or automation
- Accountable for program decisions

Municipalities & District Social Service Administration Board Can be designated a delivery partner to the Ministry

- Deliver services such as life stabilization, including needs assessment, service planning, warm referrals, discretionary benefits
- Person-centred, connected supports, and navigation of broader system (e.g., housing, employment, health)

Proposed Update Employment Assistance to Employment and Life Stabilization Assistance



- Enhanced focus on life stabilization as a component of the Ontario Works program
- Recognizes that providers of Ontario Works have greater flexibility in providing life stabilization services and supports

What is not changing?



First Nations

In acknowledgement of the unique needs and priorities of First Nations communities, the province will continue working with First Nations on a separate plan to renew social assistance for First Nations.



The Program

The focus of the proposed changes is on changing the program's delivery to improve efficiency and better help clients.

No supports or services in the program's legislation would be taken away

Cost Sharing & Apportionment

The program costs would continue to be a shared responsibility and it would be the ministry's expectation that cost-sharing arrangements and apportionment for administration would be maintained (including 100% provincial components)