

March 20, 2020

Dear Stakeholder:

I know many of you have questions and are seeking clarity on government's approach to support contracted service providers during this unprecedented time. We recognize the significant work of contracted service providers and the importance of the ongoing provision of these services. To that end, I would like to communicate the following:

- Provincial funding arrangements with contracted service providers remain in place to maintain social services that people count on every day.
- We continue to take advice from public health authorities on how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support health and safety while continuing to provide important social services (see attached PHO Letter).
- Contracted service providers should work with the contract manager in MCFD to determine how to adapt the way in which they can provide services to minimize transmission of COVID-19.
- If services are reduced or suspended after consultation with your contract manager in MCFD, then contracted service providers will continue to receive funding they would have otherwise received in situations where service provision is compromised as a result of COVID-19.
- Service providers are expected to continue to pay staff and operating costs with this continued cash flow.
- Contracted service providers experiencing increased costs due to staff shortages, increased overtime and/or increased demand as a result of COVID-19 can receive incremental funding to continue the delivery of essential services in the immediate term (through to April 30, 2020).
- The COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving situation. We will continue to take advice from public health authorities and will communicate any new information or changes related to the provision of social services.
- We will continue to work with the Ministry of Finance – taking into account updates from public health authorities – on the approach in the months ahead.
- However, the intent of the BC government remains the same – to support and sustain the provision of these important social services now, where possible, and in the future once we get through the COVID-19 pandemic together.

Your continued dedication and support are appreciated in this challenging time.

Thank you,

Allison Bond, Deputy Minister

*Sent on behalf of the Deputy Minister by:*