

SAJE | Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment

Program Overview Presentation

FCSSBC hosted Regional Sessions

Date: Tuesday, February 27th

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Island





Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement

With gratitude and respect, acknowledging all Indigenous people on whose territories we have the privilege to live, work, and learn.



Working with SAJE

- Team Leaders, Navigators and Guides are located in communities across the province
 - Leadership team is Provincial
- **Connect with local Team Leaders for information and questions**

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Implementation Update
3. Transition Planning Supports
4. Post-Majority Benefits
5. Questions



Introduction



Program Vision

SAJE is a program within the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) that supports youth and young adults with lived care experience in making strong transitions to adulthood.

The vision places youth and young adults at the centre, with the wraparound supports and services they need to transition into adulthood and achieve their full potential.



Background

Advocacy

- Youth and young adults with experience in government care, and their allies, have been advocating for better services and supports when transitioning from care

Engagement

- During public engagement, nine domains of need were identified to support young peoples to transition to adulthood
- These domains are reflected in the new and upcoming services and expanded supports in the SAJE program

Budget 2022

- Funding to increase support for young people transitioning from government care to adulthood
- Development of comprehensive cross-government approach to supporting youth and young adults with care experience
- MCFD's Youth Advisory Council helped rename the program to SAJE

SAJE Program Eligibility

Youth Supports

- Age 14th to 19th birthday
- Can access SAJE planning supports if in in-care or out-of-care status including 54.1 and 54.01

SAJE Navigator available to support transition planning

Young Adult Supports

- Age 19th to 27th birthday
- Can access SAJE planning supports if eligible for a post-majority agreements
 - Eligibility for SAJE post-majority benefits varies (available up to age 27)

SAJE Guide available to support transition planning up to age 25

Program Purpose and Intended Outcomes

Center voice of
young people

Strength-based and
future focused

Flexible supports to
meet unique needs

Continuity of care
and service

19th birthday is not a
“cliff”

Support
in(ter)dependence
for young people

Implementation Update



Supports and Benefits Implementation



Housing

Housing & support agreements made permanent
Rent supplements



Mental health & wellness

Increased medical and dental benefits
Expanded optical benefits
Mental health benefit



Relationship, belonging, identity & culture



Life-skills & training

Relationships, belonging, identity & culture

Life-skills & training

Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections (LSTCC) Funding



Financial support

Earnings exemption
Conditional and unconditional income support



Expanded eligibility

Increased program duration
Support for all legal statuses with cumulative 24 months between age 12-19



Navigation & transition planning

Transition planning services available from SAJE Navigators and Guides in all areas of BC

Complete

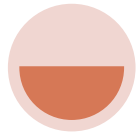
Completed Spring 2024

SAJE Workers



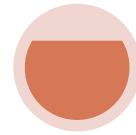
Fall 2023

Vancouver Island
North Central/Peace
Region
North Coast/Bulkley
Nechako



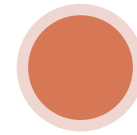
Winter 2023/2024

Okanagan West
Kootenays
Interior East
Kootenays
Vancouver Coastal



Winter 2023/2024

North East Fraser
South Fraser



Spring 2024

Full Implementation



Transition Planning Supports



- Youth/young adult-led planning
- Exploration of interests and needs, and pursuit of goals, from age 14 to 25
 - Navigator supports transition needs pre-19
 - Guide supports skill development and access to adult services post-19
- Completion of tasks and fulfillment of SAJE Plan supported by Circle or Team
- **SAJE Plan** carries over from pre-19 to post-19
- Navigators and Guides work together alongside the youth/young adult (and social worker) during “Bridge Year” from 18.5 to 19.5

Transition Planning Overview



Roles and Responsibilities

Youth (14-19) Transition Planning

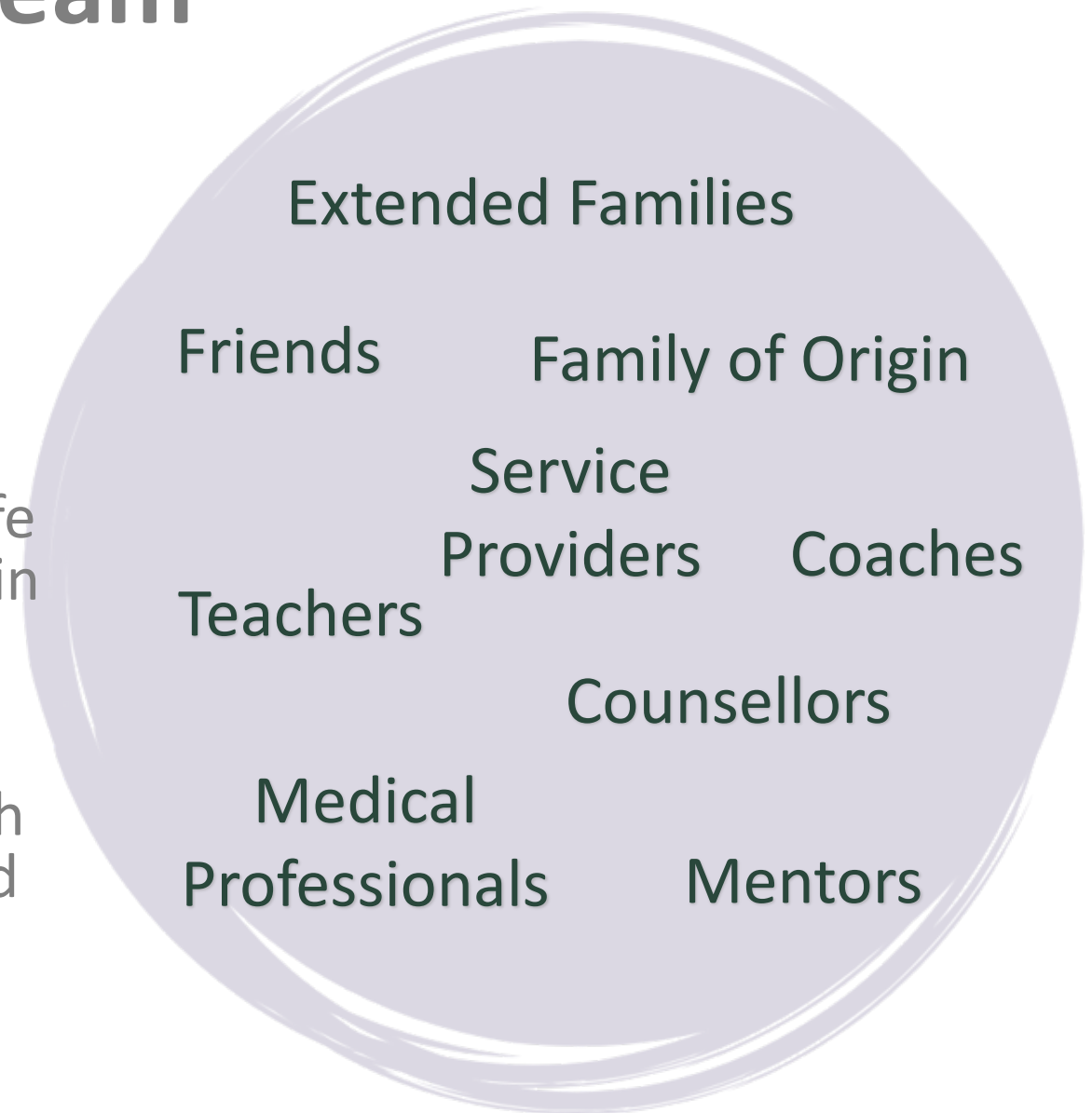
- **SAJE Navigator:**
 - collaborates with social worker and other service providers
 - is part of Circle/care team
 - focuses on preparing youth for transition to adulthood (post-19)
- Social worker continues with their responsibilities

Young Adult (19-25) Transition Planning

- **SAJE Guide:**
 - brings together and supports the circle/team
 - collaborates with other service providers
 - focuses on supporting young adult to meet goals, develop skills and access supports as required

Gathering the Circle / Team

- Transition Planning emphasizes **gathering, strengthening and leveraging the young person's circle/team**
- Young person identifies who in their life can help them with specific tasks within the SAJE Plan
- Navigators and Guides collaborate with service providers to support integrated and comprehensive planning





Transition Planning for Young People Connected to ICFSA

- Young people connected to ICFSA should connect with their social worker for transition planning support
- All eligible young people, whether connected to an ICFSA or MCFD, can access SAJE post-majority benefits

Post-Majority Benefits





Financial Supports

- Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) provides financial support to eligible young adults for up to 84 months (or 7 years)
 - Must be attending min 5 hours per week of programming (life-skills, educational/vocational, rehabilitative)
- New Unconditional (12 months, until 20th birthday) and Conditional Income Support (up to age 27) will be available to eligible young adults in Spring 2024

Housing Supports



Rent Supplement

- \$600/mo for up to 2 years or until their 27th birthday for private market rentals
- Applications accepted semi-annually (open now until March 3)

Temporary Housing Agreement (THA)

- Supports eligible young adults to stay in their care placement past age 19, up to their 21st birthday
- Agreement between MCFD and care provider
- Changes coming

Temporary Support Agreement (TSA)

- Provides financial support to eligible young adults to transition into independent living
- Available from 19 up to 21st birthday
- Changes coming

- Medical Benefits
- Dental Benefits
 - \$1,000 per year
- Optical Benefits
 - \$600 every two years, including glasses, contacts and eye exams
- Mental Health and Counselling Benefit
 - \$1500 per year

Health and Wellness



Life-Skills, Training and Cultural Connections Funding



Life-Skills, Training and Cultural Connections (LSTCC) Funding is available to young adults on AYA attending life-skills programming

Up to \$5500 per year (max \$11,000) to support life-skills goals related to:

- Identity, Belonging, Community and Cultural Connections
- Parenting and Family Life
- Education, Employment and Training
- Daily Living and Household Skills
- Social Skills
- Money Management
- Health and Wellness

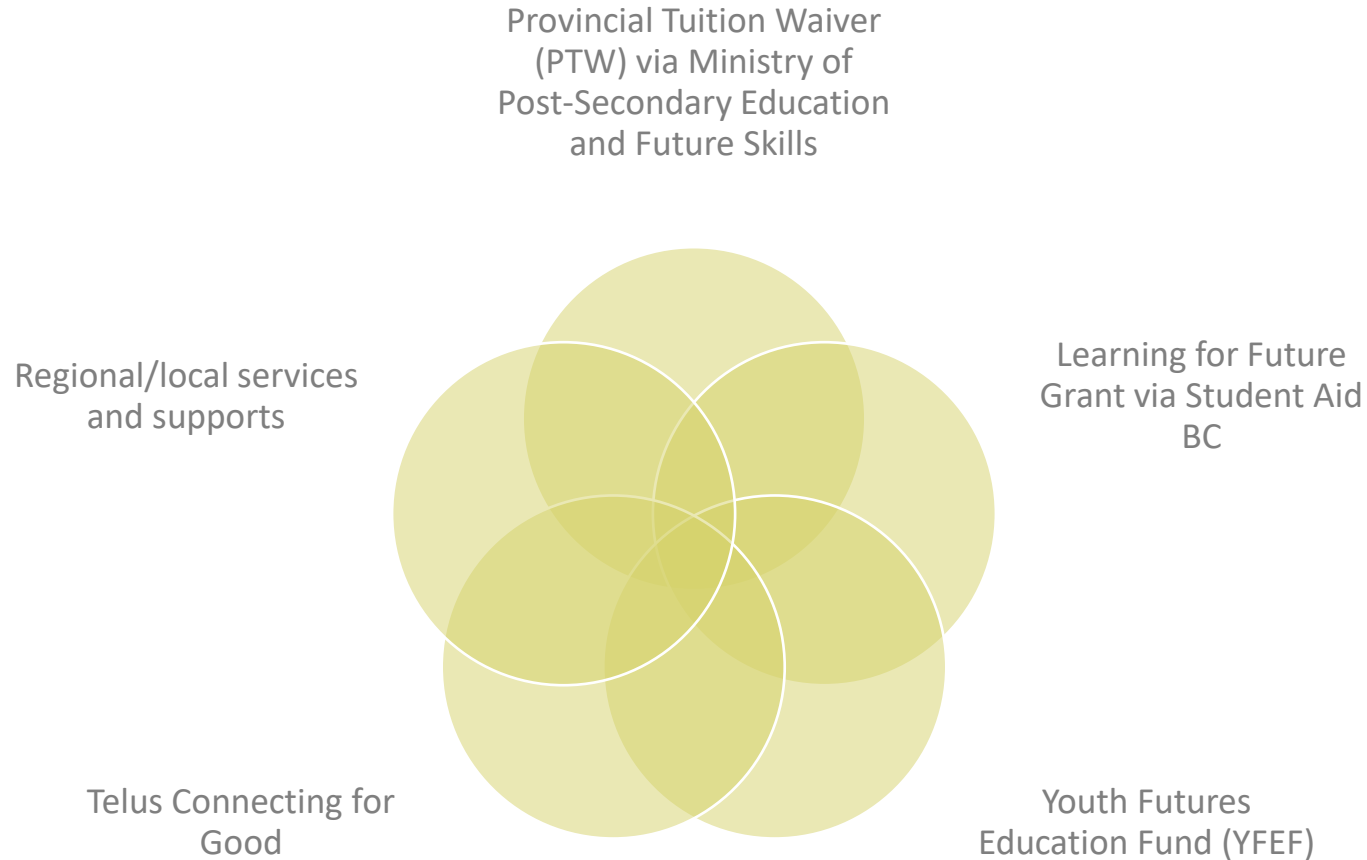
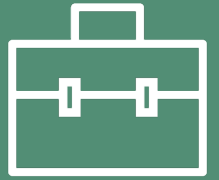
Young adults can work with their Guide to develop goals and identify associated activities/programming and funding needed

- SAJE Online to launch Summer 2024
 - Supporting self-serve options
 - Ongoing engagements
 - Soft launch, Spring 2024
- SAJE Provincial Support Services (SPSS)
 - MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca
 - 1-866-623-0001

SAJE Support Model



Non-SAJE Post-Majority Supports



To learn more:

- [AgedOut.com](https://agedout.com)
- Federation of BC Youth In Care Network (FBCYICN)



Thank You!

SAJE Provincialized Support Services

- MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca
- 1-866-623-0001
- gov.bc.ca/SAJE