



Government commits to continue community social services program funding

March 21, 2020

Amidst the worldwide uncertainty about what is coming at us in the coming days and weeks, HSA is pleased to share with HSA members working in BC's community social services sector that the provincial government has committed to continue funding programs.

CSSEA reported late this afternoon on its website that the government has reinforced its funding commitment to the social services sector in light of potential disruptions caused by COVID-19.

From the CSSEA website:

- *In a message from David Galbraith, Deputy Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, he confirmed that provincial funding arrangements with contracted social services providers remain in place. Employers are asked to keep the lines of communication with their funding ministry or agency open, and are advised to consult funders to determine ways to adapt programs so services can still be delivered safely.*
 - *If, after consultation with government, it is determined that services should be reduced or suspended due to the threat of COVID-19 transmission, employers will continue to receive funding. Employers are expected to pay staff and operating expenses with this continued funding.*
 - *Those who experience increased costs due to staff shortages, increased overtime, or increases in client demand due to COVID-19 can receive incremental funding through to April 30, 2020.*
 - *More information on funding for social services employers is expected next week.*
- Thank you for the work you are all doing to provide services and support to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.*

Val Avery, President
Health Sciences Association of BC

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