

Local 196 SPOTLIGHT



Bill 12: A breakdown on AISH and ADAP

Bill 12, to move all 79,000 AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped) recipients to a new program called ADAP.

What is ADAP?

Known as Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP), It will be launched this year in July 2026. According to The Government of Alberta website, this model is created to support people with disabilities capable of employment. This means that the system is now dual track, based on ability to work, which differs from the current model.

Application Process

- Applicants must get a medical report completed by a qualified health professional, such as a physician, nurse practitioner, psychologist, or occupational therapist. (Not all medical professionals will complete the form.)
- A Disability Assistance Adjudicator reviews the application to determine if the person meets the basic and financial eligibility requirements
- A Medical Review Panel makes the final decision about eligibility



What is the difference between ADAP and AISH?

ADAP will be offering lower payments than AISH - \$200 less each month than AISH (\$1,740 instead of \$1,940)

- Earnings up to \$350 each month. For people on AISH, any earnings after this amount are scaled back dollar-for-dollar. For people on ADAP, earnings are clawed back based on a sliding scale starting at around 15% and increasing as more income is earned
- Expanded employment services. People on ADAP will be able to access employment services that will help them seek out and retain jobs, work more hours and earn more income.

According to Inclusion Alberta 'ADAP eligibility hinges on only on the ability to work, not the ability to secure and retain sufficient employment. Some will be denied AISH because they can technically work, yet unable to find jobs—forcing them onto ADAP and deeper poverty.'

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"This is a devastating blow to people with disabilities on AISH. They will see their income decreased based on the assumption that with a little job training, they will be able to secure and maintain sufficient employment."

Trish Bowman, CEO of Inclusion Alberta

What remains the same?

- Medical benefits
- Access to personal benefits (funding for medical equipment maintenance, special diets, emergencies, etc.)
- Yearly increase for inflation of up to 2%

How could this change affect our healthcare system?

For people with disabilities who rely on AISH, this funding helps cover basic needs like food, housing, transportation, utilities, phone, and internet. With the rising cost of living, even a small reduction in support could affect their quality of life, physical and mental health, and ability to meet everyday needs.

Health care providers will also feel the impact. Reassessments and new application forms will increase their workload, adding more administrative pressure to an already strained system.

Many people with disabilities already pay out of pocket for medications and treatments not covered by AISH. They face daily challenges, and further reductions or claw backs could worsen their health and overall well-being.

There is also a risk that people could lose supports they currently receive through programs like PDD, home care, or Aids to Daily Living. Losing these services could lead to greater use of emergency rooms and acute care — parts of the health system that are already stretched thin. This is not an outcome that people with disabilities want, nor one our health care system is prepared for.

How can we help?

Stay Informed

Raise awareness, start conversations

Connect with your MLA through email, or in person.

References:

[Alberta Disability Assistance Program | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-disability-assistance-program.aspx)

[Understanding-the-proposed-changes-to-AISH_download_August-2025.pdf](https://www.alberta.ca/documents/Understanding-the-proposed-changes-to-AISH_download_August-2025.pdf)

['We didn't ask for change': Alberta gov't draws ire with tabling of AISH overhaul](https://www.alberta.ca/documents/We-didn-t-ask-for-change-Alberta-govt-draws-ire-with-tabling-of-AISH-overhaul.pdf)

[AISH recipient, advocates worry about Alberta's new disability benefit program | CBC News](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/aish-recipient-advocates-worry-about-alberta-s-new-disability-benefit-program-1.6181011)