



2023/24 BUSINESS PLAN (for compliance with Business Documents Directive)

Introduction

This document represents the 2023 – 2024 Business plan for the Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society (HPCAS). It highlights the mandate, strategic priorities, key activities, and performance indicators of the organization for the upcoming year. The plan also demonstrates how the Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society continues to improve our child protection services in the communities of Huron & Perth.

Mandate and Key Functions/Activities

Children's Aid Societies are independently governed agencies responsible for providing mandatory and critical services. Children's Aid Societies have been providing these services to communities in Ontario for over 100 years.

They are legislated to perform certain functions under the provisions of Section 35 (1) of the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017 (CYFSA)*¹. The mandate of CASs, as described in this section of the *CYFSA*, includes the following functions:

- investigate allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;
- protect children where necessary;
- provide guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
- provide care for children assigned or committed to its care under this Act;
- supervise children assigned to its supervision under this Act;
- place children for adoption under Part VIII (Adoption and Adoption Licensing); and,
- perform any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

This legislation and the supporting regulations, directives and standards prescribe specific and detailed requirements for what services CASs must provide, how they must provide these services, including services to FNIM children and families and French language services, as well as the timelines in which these mandatory services must be provided.

Children's Aid Societies provide critical and essential services to the most vulnerable members of our society – infants, children and youth who are at risk of or are experiencing physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse, neglect, or abandonment. CASs are mandated to intervene if a caregiver cannot adequately care for or provide for a child.

Children's Aid Societies protect and safeguard most children while they remain with their families in the community. This family-based support takes the form of intensive assessments and service plans, contacts with numerous other professionals and service providers, as well as ongoing supervision of the child while he/she remains in the family home. These are complex cases in which child protection concerns have been verified and there are risks of, or actual, abuse and neglect. As such, the work must

¹ Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017



be performed by skilled, qualified child welfare staff. Serving these children in the context of the home – when it is safe to do so – is consistent with the legislative and regulatory mandate and with the policy direction of government.

Vision, Mission, Strategic Direction

Our Mission

To advocate for and protect children's rights; to support and strengthen families; and to be leaders for positive change in our community.

Our Vision

Safe Children. Confident Youth. Resilient Adults.

Our Strategic Direction

[Learn More About Us - Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society \(h-pcas.ca\)](http://h-pcas.ca)

Strategic Directions, Focus and Goals

HPCAS's Strategic Plan is available here:

[Learn More About Us - Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society \(h-pcas.ca\)](http://h-pcas.ca)

Performance Measurement

Children's Aid Societies understand the importance of measuring performance and outcomes for children and their families. HPCAS monitors its performance against strategic goals with the use of measurements identified in our operational plan.

Child welfare agencies, along with research partners, the OACAS, the MCCSS and other provincial stakeholders, will continue their work to develop indicators that effectively measure progress toward key outcome areas of safety, permanency, and well-being. Agencies are committed to examining their results to achieve additional insight into sector and local agency's strengths and where to focus continuous improvement strategies.

Children's Aid Societies are required to publicly report on 5 Provincial Performance Indicators (PIs):

- Recurrence of Child Protection Concerns in a Family after an Investigation
- Recurrence of Child Protection Concerns in a Family after Ongoing Services were Provided
- Days of Care by Placement Type
- Time to Permanency
- Quality of the Caregiver-Youth Relationship

The most recent available results can be found here and are from 2016-17 which was the last year indicators were required. A revised set of indicators is being developed by the Ministry:

[Business Documents Directive - Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society \(h-pcas.ca\)](http://h-pcas.ca)