

Enhanced Supported Independent Living (ESIL)

Service Definition:

Enhanced Supported Independent Living (ESIL), formerly known as Cluster, is a type of supported independent living arrangement where individuals live independently in apartment-style or shared living settings. ESIL resources bring individuals together within a shared setting, allowing for shared staff support and resources. Supports are individualized and person-centred, with on-site staff available as needed to provide guidance, skill development and assistance to promote independence and community inclusion.

In ESIL arrangements, staff are available on-site for up to 24 hours per day to provide assistance, prompting, modelling, guidance and life skills training as individuals require it. This support model emphasizes accessibility and coaching toward independence by providing up to 24-hour availability of support that individuals can access as needed. This differs from shift-staffed homes, where staff provide continuous, direct support to individuals who require residential care.

ESIL arrangements are designed for individuals who require a level of support that cannot be met through Supported Independent Living (SIL), but who do not require residential care. Individuals residing in ESIL arrangements may require access to supports periodically throughout the day or during times of stress or periods of change. This model empowers individuals to live as independently as possible, with access to supports when needed.

Service Outcomes:

The goal of residential services, including Enhanced Supported Independent Living (ESIL) services, is to provide support to individuals that promote the following outcomes:

- **Community Presence:** the experience of sharing ordinary places in the community.
- **Community Participation:** the experience of being an equal member of the community, developing relationships and being part of a growing network of friends and natural supports.
- **Choice:** the experience of developing autonomy in both small and everyday matters, as well as life-related matters.
- **Competence:** the experience of developing the ability to skillfully perform functional and meaningful activities, to grow and use new skills
- **Respect:** the experience of having a valued place among a network of people and valued roles in the community.

The ESIL model enables the individual to lead as independent a lifestyle as possible through benefiting from supports that:

- maintain and increase the individual's competency in all the daily living skills, activities and routines necessary for independent living;
- assist the individual to find alternative methods of achieving independence should they be unable to acquire a particular daily living skill or routine;
- reduce the element of risk by teaching the individual the necessary safety skills;
- assist the individual to find additional supports or alternative methods to address identified areas of risk where these cannot be addressed through individual instruction;
- support the individual to establish and maintain stable housing arrangements;

- maintain and increase the individual's participation and integration in the community; and
- encourage and assist the individual to develop and maintain a support network to reduce dependency on paid staff.

Service Goals and Activities

ESIL arrangements support the service outcomes described above through service goals, activities, and service provider responsibilities established in the Service Purchase Agreement (SPA). These align with the principles of The Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability Act (ALIDA) and reflect the intended focus of the ESIL model by safely supporting individuals in the least restrictive manner; promoting independence, self-determination and skill development; and supporting meaningful participation in the community.

Service Streams

The Enhanced Supported Independent Living model consists of two streams that share the same foundational principles but differ in the support intensity and population served:

- **Regular ESIL:** Intended for individuals who would otherwise be supported through Supported Independent Living (SIL) but require additional support to maintain existing or transition to greater independence in the community. This may include individuals transitioning from the child welfare system or residential care, as well as those experiencing age- or disability-related declines in functioning that increase their support needs.
- **Complex ESIL:** Intended for individuals whose safety, risk, or vulnerability cannot be effectively supported through the regular ESIL model. This may include individuals with safety concerns, justice involvement, or heightened risk of exploitation. Complex ESIL arrangements may require enhanced staffing or specialized supports to address these needs.

Eligibility

Individuals must meet CLDS Prioritization Criteria for residential services.

Before considering an ESIL arrangement, CLDS staff must first consider SIL options based on the individual's assessed level of independence. ESIL is intended for individuals whose support needs cannot be safely met through SIL, but who do not require residential care (i.e., care, supervision, and accommodation provided through home share and shift-staffed home service models).

Individuals who require residential care (i.e., care, supervision, and accommodation) must not be supported within ESIL arrangements.

Placement in a regular ESIL arrangement is appropriate for individuals with:

- A history of placement breakdowns;
- Limited success in more independent settings;
- Limited prior opportunities to develop independent living skills; and/or
- Increased risk of exploitation or isolation in other service settings.

Placement in a complex ESIL arrangement may be considered when the individual also presents:

- Prior conflict, or risk of being in conflict with the law;
- Engagement in high-risk lifestyle;
- Presentation of a manageable level of risk to themselves or the community; and/or

- Greater degree of risk than what can be supported in regular ESIL arrangements.

ESIL models are not licensed under Residential Care Licensing (RCL), as individuals residing in these models do not require residential care (i.e., care, supervision, and accommodation). Staff are available to provide assistance, prompting, modelling and life skills training to maintain or build independence.

Service Provider Qualifications Eligibility Criteria

- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- The service provider must have a Service Purchase Agreement (SPA) in place with the department.
- Criminal Record Checks and Adult Abuse Registry Checks: In addition to any specific requirements that may be contained in the SPA, the service provider shall ensure they have a policy requiring that all employees and volunteers must have a criminal record check including a vulnerable sector search (where applicable) and an adult abuse registry check (where applicable) prior to the date of hire and further that all employees and volunteers immediately disclose to the service provider any change to any employee record check.

Parameters/Exclusions allowed Mode(s) of Delivery

Service Parameters:

- Eligible for CLDS and 18 years or older.
- Meet CLDS Prioritization Criteria for residential funding.
- Individuals should have a demonstrated need for additional support that cannot be provided through SIL but do not require residential care.
- Based on a minimum of 3 beds.
- ESIL resources may consist of self-contained units (e.g., apartment units) or house-style arrangements with shared living spaces, where individuals reside in private rental accommodations, including private rooms within a shared house.
- Individuals supported through ESIL must not reside within the same dwelling as individuals requiring residential care.
- Individuals receiving ESIL services are eligible to receive per diem funding dependent on the individual's Support Budget Level (SBL) and the ESIL Funding Model.
- Complex ESIL models are for individuals with safety- or risk-related needs that cannot be safely supported within the regular ESIL model and who do not require residential care. This may include prior conflict, or risk of conflict with the law, engagement in high-risk lifestyle, and the presentation of a manageable level of risk to themselves or the community.
- Individual service needs should be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Whenever possible, reviews should be conducted in person and in collaboration with the individual and their social network. These reviews should consider the individual's satisfaction with the current living arrangement, current goals and current plan and any opportunities for a transition to greater independence.

Funding Parameters:

- Services provided are per-diem based, 365 days per year
- For individuals in receipt of Manitoba Supports for People with Disabilities (MSPD) benefits, rent and utilities are covered through MSPD.

- Individuals not in receipt of MSPD benefits are responsible for covering their own rent and utilities.
- In accordance with the Rent Top-Up Service Definition, CLDS may provide a rent top-up where total rent does not exceed the applicable median market rent, based on the most recent data available from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Requests exceeding median market rent require approval by a CLDS Leading Program and Practice Specialist, unless otherwise authorized in writing under an approved CLDS initiative. Refer to the Rent Top-Up Service Definition for details.
- In the event of a vacancy, CLDS funds a vacant bed rate in accordance with the ESIL Funding Model for up to 30 days from the date of vacancy, or until the bed is filled, whichever occurs first. Vacant bed funding is intended to support the continuation of core staffing and operational capacity of the ESIL resource and does not include rent or utilities for unoccupied units.

Support Costs:

Funded staffing costs are as established in the ESIL Funding Model and based on the following:

- Core staffing support is allocated based on the location size and stream and must be available on-site overnight.
- Individual direct support hours are allocated per individual based on their Support Budget Level. These hours may be pooled in the resource but must be used for direct support to the individual.
- Funding for direct support hours is calculated using a funded hourly wage rate of \$19, with statutory employer contributions calculated at 9.18% of the funded hourly wage.

Operational Costs:

Funded facility operating costs are as established in the ESIL Funding Model and include the following:

- **Staff unit:** Intended to cover the cost of rent and utilities for a staff unit. This funding is only available for locations that include a rented staff suite. Funded at \$39.45/day per location.
- **Maintenance and repairs:** Funded at \$2.74/day per bed for regular ESIL locations. Funded at \$4.69/day per bed for complex ESIL locations.
- **Staff phone and internet:** Funded at \$4.52/day per bed in 3 and 4 bed locations. Funded at \$4.93/day per bed in locations with 5 or more beds.
- **Security Monitoring:** Funded at \$0.25/day per bed for regular ESIL locations. Funded at \$0.35/day per bed for complex ESIL locations.
- **Cleaning supplies:** Funded at \$0.72/day per bed. This is intended to cover cleaning supplies to maintain common/shared living areas.
- **Staff meals:** Funded at \$2.33/day per bed. This is intended to only cover meals for on-site staff.
- **Mileage:** Funded at variable rates per individual depending on the region and the number of individual direct support hours.
- **Program Activities:** Refers to the cost of supplies used to carry out program (group) activities. Funded at \$2.21/day per bed.

Program Support

Program support refers to the salaries, wages and/or portions of wages of staff whose job functions are program oriented and who provide program direction, coordination and supervision of direct support staff.

Program support is funded at variable rates per individual depending on their support budget level, as set out in the ESIL Funding Model. Individuals receiving services through the complex ESIL stream are funded at a higher rate for program support than those in regular ESIL arrangements in recognition of their higher and more complex support needs and requirement for intensive system and case coordination.

Administration

Administration includes all executive, organizational, financial, and clerical costs associated with the delivery and management of ESIL services. These do not include costs related to direct services, program delivery, or direct program expenses.

Examples of administrative costs may include senior management and administrative/finance/clerical staff wages and benefits, professional fees, bank charges and interest, office furnishings and equipment, office supplies, membership fees, administrative staff training, board expenses, travel, transportation and vehicle expenses, and managerial office space costs (e.g., rent, property taxes, maintenance and repairs, utilities).

Funding is provided for administrative costs at \$14.29/day per individual.

Start-up costs

Agencies may request funding for one-time start-up costs for new ESIL resources.

Start-up costs refer to non-recurring expenses that are directly required to establish a new ESIL location. Start-up funding is intended to support initial site readiness and set-up and must be clearly separate from personal household expenses associated with individuals moving into the residence, as well as from costs that would ordinarily be the responsibility of the landlord. Start-up costs should not include ongoing operational expenses, capital construction, major renovations, or furnishings and supplies intended for individual use.

Eligible start-up costs may include the following:

- Security deposits required to secure a location.
- Limited rent and utility costs incurred prior to individuals moving into the location.
- Set-up of security systems and technology. This does not include ongoing security monitoring, phone or internet costs, which are funded through operational costs.
- Basic furnishings and appliances for common or shared living areas.
- Minor, non-structural repairs, where clearly justified. This does not include major renovations or leasehold improvements to rented locations, which should be addressed with the landlord.

Start-up funding is provided on a per-location basis and is subject to the following maximum funding limits:

- 3–5 bed resources: up to \$8,000 per location
- 6–9 bed resources: up to \$21,000 per location
- 10 or more bed resources: up to \$26,000 per location

Requests for start-up funding must be supported by appropriate documentation and are subject to review and approval by CLDS.

Costs that fall outside the defined scope of start-up funding may be considered on a case-by-case basis through separate requests, where appropriate.

Mode of Delivery Parameters

- Individual/group