

Calgary's Mental Health and Addiction Investment Framework

Background

On 2018 July 30, Council earmarked up to \$25 million from the Fiscal Stability Reserve for Crime Prevention and a new Mental Health and Addiction Strategy by 2023. Of the \$25 million, \$15 million was earmarked for community programs through the Prevention Investment Framework and \$10 million for seed funding of initiatives resulting from the strategy.

Of the \$15 million earmarked for community programs, administration has invested \$10 million in community-based programs and services and to respond to public safety issues, leaving \$5 million that has been authorized for investment over the next three years in alignment with the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction strategy.

From the \$10 million earmarked for seed funding of initiatives resulting from the strategy, \$1 million was allocated in 2020 through the Change Can't Wait! fast pilot process that leveraged \$275,000 from private and philanthropic sources. There remains \$9 million that has been earmarked but not approved by Council for allocation.

In total, \$11 million of the \$25 million has been allocated for various programs, services and initiatives since 2019. As a result, 39,000 Calgarians received timely support for their mental health, addiction and/or safety concerns.

Purpose

Calgary's Mental Health and Addiction Investment Framework ("Framework") is intended **to guide the investments of the remaining \$14 million previously approved or earmarked funds to support the vision of the Calgary Mental Health and Addiction Community Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023 ("Strategy")** and its three outcome areas of:

- *Being well*: Wellness at home, at school, at work and in the community
- *Getting help*: What you need, when, where and how you need it
- *Staying safe*: Security at all times, especially in a crisis

The Framework builds on the success and lessons learned in the past two years from the Prevention Investment Framework with Mental Health and Addiction Lens and the *Change Can't Wait!* campaign. Implementation of the Framework will be guided by the following principles:

- Collaboration to achieve a goal that one party cannot achieve on its own
- Equitable service delivery to decrease barriers in accessing supports
- Data-driven and evidence-informed decision-making to respond to identified trends
- Integrated and coordinated service delivery for greatest effectiveness
- Leveraged partnerships, services and resources for collective accountability
- Person-centred focus for maximum benefit for Calgarians and their families

Implementation Plan

The Framework will be implemented from 2021-2023 in collaboration with the Community Investment Table, which was established in 2020 to guide the investments in fast pilot projects to address issues related to mental health, addictions and public safety in an accelerated and efficient manner. Current and new Community Investment Table partners will have the opportunity to co-invest in fast pilot projects, as well as other initiatives that leverage additional funds to advance the vision of the Strategy. Partners of the Community Investment Table will co-create revised Terms of Reference for the Strategy implementation phase and sign a memorandum of agreement, which will outline their contribution level, the collaborative decision-making process and other information, as deemed relevant by the partners.

The Framework will be implemented through **three investment streams**:

- 1** - Enhanced support for existing evidence-based community programs and services that respond to the mental health and addictions related issues affecting Calgarians.
- 2** - *Change Can't Wait!* campaign to test innovative ideas that bring change at the individual, family, community, and policy or system levels.
- 3** - Targeted investments for evidence-informed projects and initiatives that advance the actions of the Strategy at the policy, systems or community level.

Details on Investment Streams

1: Enhanced support for community-based programs and services

Investment process: Community-based programs and services that are currently demonstrating results will be invited to submit requests for funding to enhance their capacity and addresses an identified service gap, thus enabling them to support more Calgarians. Organizations that are currently supported through the Prevention Investment Framework through Mental Health and Addictions Lens, as well as others delivering evidence-informed programs and services that align to one of the three thematic areas will be invited to apply.

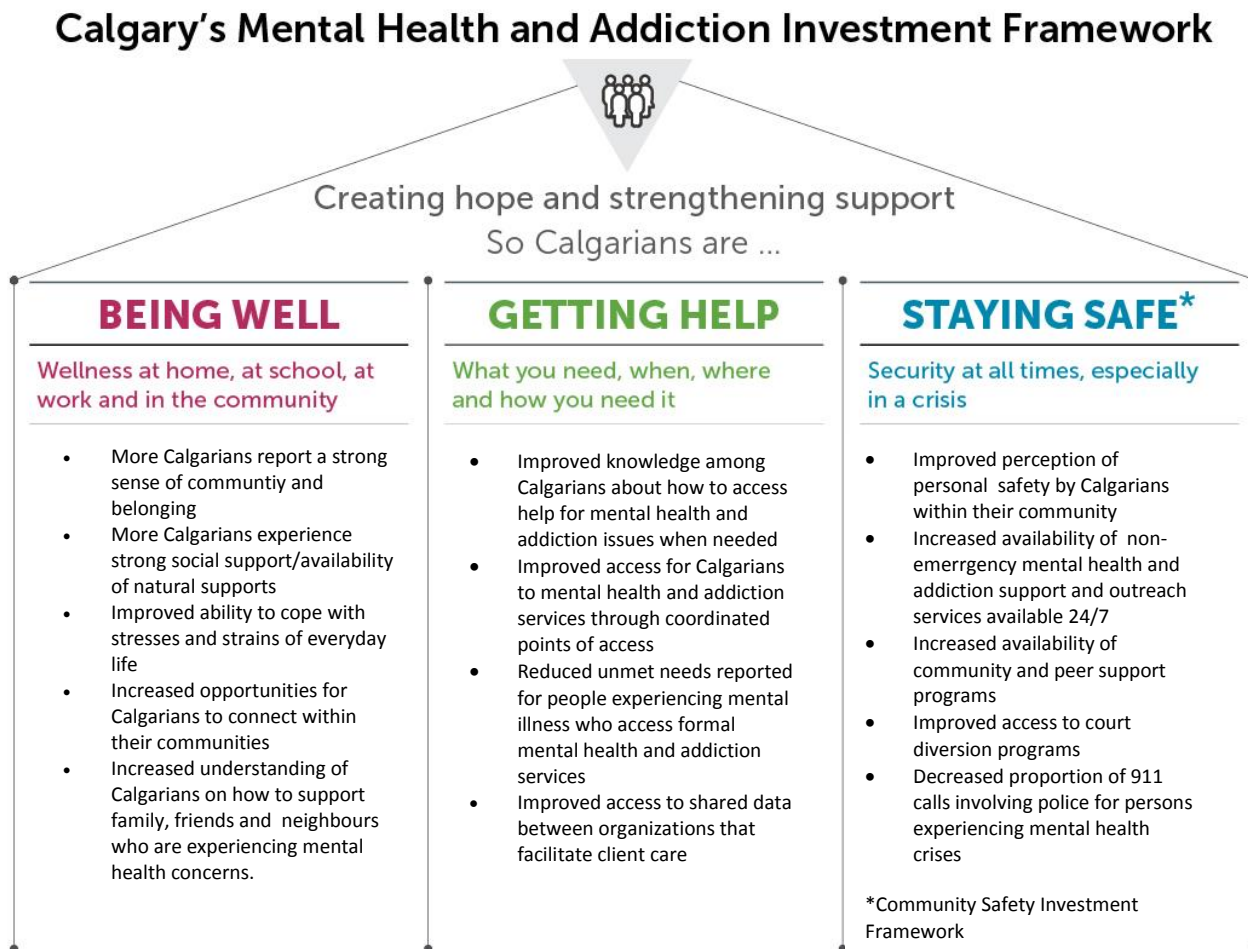
2: *Change Can't Wait!* Campaign to test new ideas

Investment Process: A campaign will be launched annually to invite fast pilot project ideas. Fast pilots are innovative, people-centered, data-driven projects that aim to solve complex, multi-dimensional problems. Anyone with innovative ideas that improve mental health, addiction or safety issues will be invited to participate in the campaign, but only organizations that are registered and in good standing will be eligible to receive investments.

3: Targeted investments to implement the actions of the Strategy

Investment Process: This investment stream will include the functions of The City that support the implementation of the Strategy, including convening. Initiatives that support the actions of the Strategy will request funding through Calgary Neighbourhoods for assessment and recommendations.

The diagram below indicates the alignment between the Strategy and the Framework, as well as intended outcomes and potential indicators.



Glossary

Initiative: an act or set of actions to resolve a challenge or improve a situation using a new approach.

Fast pilot: a short-term, innovative, people-centered, data-driven projects that aims to solve complex, multi-dimensional problems. It uses an iterative process to continually test, implement and adjust a proposed solution. It is an efficient way to deliver new solutions, as implementation can start with limited resources, with a view to scale up once there is enough evidence.

Program: a set of actions that is developed in response to a community need, problem or issue and delivered by community partners that improve the mental health and well-being of Calgarians.

Service: a short-term activity that improves the mental health and well-being of Calgarians.