

2021 Family and Community Support Services Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Community Development Committee recommend that Council accept the 2021 Family and Community Support Services Annual Report (Attachment 2) for the Corporate Record.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Administration is presenting its 2021 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Annual Report that highlights the impact of prevention social programs funded through this investment stream.
- **What does this mean for Calgarians?** Through FCSS-funded programs, Calgarians have access to evidence-based preventive social programs that increase social inclusion, which is associated with numerous positive outcomes.
- **Why does it matter?** 2021 continued to pose challenges for Calgarians, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lives of Calgarians were impacted in several ways and FCSS-funded programs played an important role in ensuring that those experiencing vulnerabilities were supported at the earliest opportunity.
- In accordance with Council's policy on FCSS (CP2016-05), the 2021 FCSS Annual Report was circulated to Council on 2022 April 29 and is included here for information.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

FCSS Calgary is a partnership between The City of Calgary and the Government of Alberta to provide preventive social programs to Calgarians experiencing vulnerabilities. The program receives its mandate from the provincial FCSS Act and Regulation along with The City's FCSS Policy.

Through this partnership, the province funds a maximum of 80 per cent of the program cost and participating municipalities must contribute a minimum of 20 per cent. Currently, the Government of Alberta allocates \$29.7M in FCSS funding to The City of Calgary, which is matched with \$9.9M in funds from The City, making FCSS Calgary's annual budget \$39.6M. As per Council's FCSS Policy, The City contributes a minimum of 25 per cent to FCSS Calgary, to ensure Calgarians have access to a wide range of prevention social programs and support before they reach a crisis point.

To be eligible for funding, programs must be consistent with the FCSS Act and Regulation, Council's policy on FCSS and align with the FCSS Funding Framework (Attachment 3), which guides the allocations of funds in three areas - programs and services, community development, and policy/systems change initiatives. Organizations must collaborate with others to ensure a continuum of preventive services exists in Calgary and to avoid duplication in service provision.

Guided by the FCSS Funding Framework, in 2021 FCSS Calgary partnered with 72 organizations to deliver 133 evidence-based programs to over 44,000 Calgarians. FCSS-funded programs engaged close to 14,000 volunteers who contributed over 455,000 volunteer hours, valued at nearly \$14.6M. Community development initiatives in 23 priority neighbourhoods completed 316 resident led projects and reached over 19,000 Calgarians. Additionally, 29

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organizations received funding to build their capacity for organizational effectiveness or to respond to an emerging social issue (Attachment 4). The impact of FCSS-funded programs is assessed using a rigorous evaluation system, including pre- and post-test surveys to measure their impact, and other evaluation methods aligned with the program type.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

The 2021 FCSS Annual Report was created to communicate the impacts of the funding program. The Report is available on the FCSS website and was shared with currently funded partners and community stakeholders.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The programs that receive funding through FCSS are intended to increase the social inclusion of individuals and families with a range of vulnerabilities, and to contribute to safe and inspiring neighbourhoods where the impacts of social isolation and poverty are mitigated.

Environmental

Not applicable

Economic

The social value in preventive programs is significant. Studies have calculated that every dollar invested yields a return of up to \$13 by diverting resources from more costly services such as policing, justice and mental health. In addition, a \$1 investment from The City leverages an additional \$8.37 from the province and the community.

Service and Financial Implications

Existing operating funding - base

\$39.6 M annually

There are no service or financial implications because the recommendation is to accept the 2021 FCSS Annual Report for information only.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. 2021 FCSS Annual Report: Investing in Social Inclusion
3. FCSS Funding Framework
4. 2021 Capacity Building Funding Allocations
5. Presentation

**Community Services Report to
Community Development Committee
2022 June 22**

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Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Not applicable		