

2023 and 2024 Family & Community Support Services Funding Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Community Development Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve the recommended Family and Community Support Services allocations of \$30.1M for 2023, and \$40.1M for 2024 as detailed in Attachment 2; and
2. Authorize Administration to access up to \$750,000 from the Family and Community Support Services Stabilization Fund Reserve in 2023 to fund non-profit organizations for capacity-building initiatives and responding to emerging social issues.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided by the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Funding Framework, 155 evidence-informed programs and services are recommended for funding to provide Calgarians experiencing vulnerabilities access to prevention social services. In the past year FCSS Calgary funded 133 prevention programs and services that increased the social inclusion of over 43,000 Calgarians.
- Accessing funds from the FCSS Stabilization Fund to respond to emerging social issues and to strengthen organizational capacity will increase the non-profit sector's capacity to be adaptive and deliver strong, evidence-informed social programs to Calgarians. In 2022 51 initiatives were supported to build organizational capacity or to respond to an emerging social issue.
- With a focus on prevention, FCSS exists on a continuum of social wellbeing funding streams administered by The City that includes prevention and intervention through FCSS, Calgary's Mental Health and Addiction Investment Framework, Crime Prevention Investment Plan, and the Community Safety Investment Framework.
- **What does this mean for Calgarians?** Through FCSS-funded programs, Calgarians have access to evidence-informed preventive social programs that increase social inclusion, which is associated with numerous positive community outcomes.
- **Why does it matter?** Prevention programs mitigate the impact of issues such as poverty and inequity and build resilience in individuals, families, and communities.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

An FCSS open call for proposals was launched in 2022 for the first time in over a decade. From April 14 to June 2, 2022, non-profit organizations that provide preventive social service programs were encouraged to submit funding applications. The opportunity was promoted through a communications campaign, and interactive information sessions were hosted to guide organizations through the application process. Both current FCSS-funded organizations and organizations not currently funded were eligible to apply. In total, 242 applications were submitted with over \$60M in annual requests.

A Council-directed review of the FCSS Program conducted by KPMG Management Services in 2021 recommended more regular opportunities for new partners to access FCSS funding. The open call for proposals ensures that investments most strongly align with the FCSS Funding Framework and respond to the changing needs of Calgarians. FCSS outcome reporting shows that funded programs result in young people feeling a greater connection to their community;

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adults engaging in civil society; newcomers feeling safe and secure; and families knowing who they can count on in times of crisis.

All previous FCSS funding agreements ended in 2022. FCSS programs funded in 2022 will receive bridge funding in Quarter 1 2023. The funding recommendations in this report include \$30.1M from Quarter 2-Quarter 4 2023 and \$40.1M in 2024. These recommendation periods balance the need for program stability with time needed to demonstrate impact. Funding beyond 2024 will depend on the programs and organizations' impact, ability to meet contractual obligations and availability of funds.

Administration is recommending 155 programs and initiatives to receive FCSS funding, as detailed in Attachment 2. Through this process 35 programs will receive FCSS funding for the first time. Some existing programs will see a change to their funding amount, while some will no longer receive funding.

Funding Recommendation Process

The funding recommendations in this report are the result of a comprehensive organizational and program assessment conducted for each application submitted. The assessment ensures alignment to the FCSS Act (Attachment 3) and Regulation (Attachment 4), the City's FCSS Policy (CPS2016-05 – Attachment 5) and the FCSS Funding Framework (Attachment 6). All applications were reviewed using a fair and consistent review process. This included assessing the impact of existing programs as demonstrated by FCSS Social Inclusion Indicators surveys for pre- and post-testing of program participants.

Guiding principles were used to inform the review process, which was undertaken to balance opportunities for new evidence-informed programs while continuing to support programs that are demonstrating impact. Using social equity as a lens, Administration ensured that recommendations included a diversity of methods of delivery, accessibility, and physical locations that reflect the needs of FCSS priority populations. The programs and services recommended in this report will reduce inequities and deliver a better quality of life for Calgarians experiencing vulnerabilities.

Capacity-building and Emerging Social Issues

As per the FCSS Policy (Attachment 5) Administration is seeking Council's authorization to access the FCSS Stabilization Fund Reserve to support one-time capacity-building initiatives and other projects that respond to emerging social issues. The FCSS Stabilization Fund Reserve holds unallocated funds resulting from provincial increases or unspent funds returned from organizations each year. It exists to cover any shortfalls in the case of an unanticipated reduction in the provincial allocation as well as to support these one-time investments. The current balance of the FCSS Stabilization Fund Reserve is \$4.4M.

Eligible initiatives strengthen organizational effectiveness, increase programs' impact, and address emerging issues and trends that are impacting Calgarians.

In 2022, a portion of funding through Capacity Building was targeted towards grassroots community-based organizations. The City partnered with the Calgary Foundation and the United Way of Calgary and Area to collectively provide support for the community-based organizations that received funding. If approved, a portion of 2023 Capacity Building funding will continue to

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leverage resources from partners to target organizations led by and for Indigenous, Black, and diverse Racialized communities.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public communication or engagement was not required |

Administration undertakes various engagement activities to inform the funding recommendations contained in this report. Through this year's organizational assessment process, Administration engaged in robust discussions with board members and staff of the organizations being recommended for funding. The Application review process included engagement of external reviewers and internal subject matter experts. Applicants were encouraged to provide feedback on the process, which will be incorporated into future calls for proposals whenever possible. Administration gathers feedback from its FCSS-funded partners through an annual partner survey. This survey allows organizations to submit feedback on how the FCSS program is administered, if the organization is receiving the supports it needs, and any recommendations it has.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The programs recommended for funding through this report are intended to increase the social inclusion of individuals and families with a range of vulnerabilities. Recommendations promote Council's priority of social equity by ensuring robust and diverse social agencies and associations are better equipped to manage social issues. The recommendations align to FCSS Policy (CP2016-05), Partnerships Policy (CP2017-01), and Social Wellbeing Policy (CP2019-01).

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 \$8.38 from the province and the community

Service and Financial Implications

Existing operating funding - base

\$40.1M annually

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The FCSS funding recommendations in this report is part of \$40.1M allocated annually to FCSS within existing operating budgets. Through the recent 2023-2026 budget process, FCSS budget was increased by \$500,000 per year, which brings the municipal contribution to 26 per cent.

The \$750,000 recommended from the FCSS Stabilization Fund Reserve has no impact on the operating budget.

RISK

There is a risk to reducing or eliminating funding to current FCSS funded programs. Organizations may be forced to scale back or discontinue programs, which could create a gap in services for Calgarians. This is mitigated by bridge funding for all currently FCSS funded programs until the end of Quarter 1. Organizations were given notice of the amount of funding being recommended in December 2022 so they could develop transition plans and connect Calgarians currently accessing these programs with alternate programs if required. It is also mitigated by the recommendation to fund new preventive social service programs that will serve Calgarians.

There is a risk in investing in new organizations and programs that may not have a proven track record. This is mitigated by the thorough review process that included both an organizational and program level assessment. It is also mitigated by the 21-months funding term. Programs will need to demonstrate impact within this time to be considered for funding beyond 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Background & Previous Council Direction
2. 2023 and 2024 Family and Community Support Services Funding Recommendations
3. Family and Community Support Services Act
4. Family and Community Support Services Regulation
5. Family and Community Support Services Policy
6. Family and Community Support Services Funding Framework
7. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
N/A		