

Background & Previous Council Direction

Background

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a unique funding partnership between The City of Calgary and the Government of Alberta to provide preventive social programs to enhance the lives of Calgarians experiencing vulnerabilities. The program is provided in accordance with the provincial FCSS Act and Regulation (Attachments 3 and 4, respectively) along with The City's FCSS Policy (CPS2016-05 – Attachment 5) and Funding Framework (Attachment 6).

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. As per the FCSS Calgary Policy, The City contributes a minimum of 25 per cent to the FCSS Calgary Program, to strengthen support for the preventive social service sector in Calgary. On 2022 November 25, Council approved and adopted the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets, which included an additional \$2 million over 2023-2026 to Family and Community Support Services. In December 2022, the Government of Alberta released a new FCSS Accountability Framework which includes the Province's prevention priorities.

To be eligible for FCSS Calgary funding, programs must be consistent with the FCSS Act and Regulation, Council's policy on FCSS and align with the FCSS Funding Framework. Organizations must collaborate with others to ensure a continuum of preventive services exists in Calgary and to avoid duplication in service provision.

Administration evaluates the impact of FCSS Calgary funding through standardized surveys on social inclusion. Participants in FCSS-funded programs complete these surveys and the results are analysed and communicated back to the organizations to improve the design and impact of their programs. This continuous cycle of data analysis and program delivery ensures that Calgarians are provided with evidence-based programs that meet their needs.

In 2022, FCSS Calgary partnered with 72 organizations to deliver 130 evidence-based programs to over 45,000 Calgarians. FCSS-funded programs engaged close to 15,000 volunteers who contributed over 568,000 volunteer hours, valued at nearly \$14.6M. Community development initiatives in 23 priority neighbourhoods completed 386 resident led projects and reached over 24,000 Calgarians. Additionally, 51 organizations received funding to build their capacity for organizational effectiveness or to respond to an emerging social issue.

In 2003, Council directed the establishment of the FCSS Stabilization Fund. In 2016 Council approved a new FCSS Policy that outlined The City's commitment to providing a sustainable, long-term funding source for the preventive social service sector in Calgary. In 2019 Council received the FCSS Funding Framework for the corporate record and approved social inclusion as the long-term goal for FCSS funding.

Previous Council Direction

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
04/07/2003	CPS2003-26 Combined Meeting of Council	<p>Vision for Social Well-Being/Quality of Life and FCSS Funding Priorities Initiative Vision for Social Well-Being/Quality of Life and FCSS Funding Priorities Initiative</p> <p>Council directed the establishment of the FCSS Stabilization Fund to cover any shortfalls in case the FCSS allocation is less than expected in any given year, and to build the capacity of funded organizations as well as respond to emerging issues.</p>
6/20/2016	CPS2016-0397 Combined Meeting of Council	<p>Proposed Changes to the Council Policy for the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Program</p> <p>Council approved an updated policy for FCSS (CP2016-05), which streamlined how the FCSS program is administered in Calgary. Through this policy, Council committed to contributing 25 per cent of the overall FCSS Calgary budget.</p>
12/16/2019	CPS2019-1286 Combined Meeting of Council	<p>2020-2022 Family and Community Support Services Fun</p> <p>On 2019 December 16, Council received the FCSS Funding Framework for the corporate record and approved social inclusion as the long-term goal for FCSS funding.</p>
7/5/2022	C2022-1051 Regular Meeting of Council	<p>2021 Family and Community Support Services Annual Report</p> <p>On 2022 July 5, Council accepted the 2021 Family and Community Support Services Annual Report for the Corporate Record.</p>
09/22/2022	C2022-1051 Regular Meeting of Council	<p>2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets</p> <p>On 2022 November 25, Council approved and adopted the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets, including \$2 million over 2023-2026 to Family & Community Support Services to offset the operating cost increase of 5% based on population and inflation (for the City of Calgary proportion of funding).</p>