

Applicant Submission

Company Name (if applicable):

YCC - Youth Centres of Calgary

LOC Number (office use only):

Applicant's Name:

Jane Wachowich - Executive Director - YCC - Youth Centres of Calgary

Date:

May 24, 2023

Description of Proposal and Planning Justification

Need/ Problem

Many of our city's youth struggle desperately every day. At YCC - Youth Centres of Calgary, we serve kids who are in and out of foster care, the youth justice system; some are impacted by mental illness, addiction and poor health. Many don't make it to school regularly and if they do go, they aren't expected to succeed; they themselves don't believe they can succeed. Many don't feel safe or stable at home or at school. Caregivers often struggle financially and emotionally, with addictions or debilitating mental health issues and they are unable to guide the children in their lives towards success in school and in life. With intervention at a vulnerable young age, these youth are much more likely to thrive. YCC offers a safe place to be a kid, from 3-6pm daily, with healthy and nutritious food and the presence of caring adults.

Solution

At YCC, we believe that if provided food security, academic support, mentorship and activity, youth who are otherwise unlikely to lead healthy adult lives will gain the capacity to do so. YCC will open a youth centre in Forest Lawn. This centre will be modeled after YCC's Ogden centre, which has been successfully operating since 2019. The centre provides programs including food, music, sports, homework help and a safe place to "be a kid".

YCC obtained a the land use amendment for its property in Ogden in 2020 and hopes to replicate the model and obtain a land use amendment at a recently purchased residential property in Forest Lawn. It is expected that the centre will have 30-40 kids, aged 9-15 daily after school, and more during summer months.

By opening a new centre in Forest Lawn, YCC can positively influence the life outcomes of low income and at risk youth.

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