

Community Services Report to  
Community Development Committee  
2024 October 30

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
CD2024-1119

## **2025-2028 Family and Community Support Services Funding Recommendations**

### **PURPOSE**

This report provides recommendations to allocate the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding from 2025 to 2028, and to access the FCSS Stabilization Fund for capacity-building initiatives in 2025.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

The FCSS Calgary program has existed since 1966. 2024 FCSS allocations were initially approved by Council in February 2023 (CD2023-004). In October 2023 (CD2023-0953), Council approved an increase to these allocations and authorized Administration to access up to \$1.5M from the FCSS Stabilization Fund in 2024 for capacity-building initiatives.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Community Development Committee recommends that Council:

- Approve the Family and Community Support Services funding allocations of \$41.4M annually in 2025 & 2026, and \$25M annually in 2027 & 2028, as detailed in Attachment 2; and
- Authorize Administration to access up to \$1M from the Family and Community Support Services Stabilization Fund in 2025 to fund non-profit organizations for capacity-building initiatives.

### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 2024 OCTOBER 30:**

That Council:

- Approve the Family and Community Support Services funding allocations of \$41.4M annually in 2025 & 2026, and \$25M annually in 2027 & 2028, as detailed in Attachment 2; and
- Authorize Administration to access up to \$1M from the Family and Community Support Services Stabilization Fund in 2025 to fund non-profit organizations for capacity-building initiatives.

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**

GM Katie Black concurs with the contents of this report.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Through the 2024 FCSS Call for Funding Proposals, 156 evidence-informed programs and initiatives are recommended for funding in 2025 and 2026, and 98 of these programs are recommended for continued funding in 2027 and 2028. These programs provide Calgarians experiencing vulnerabilities access to preventive social services. In 2023, FCSS Calgary funded prevention programs and services for increased social inclusion of over 51,000 Calgarians.

## 2025-2028 Family and Community Support Services Funding Recommendations

- Accessing funds from the FCSS Stabilization Fund 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 2024, 37 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.
- 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

The FCSS program is a unique funding partnership between The City of Calgary and the Government of Alberta to provide preventive social service programs. The program is provided in accordance with the provincial FCSS Act (Attachment 3) and FCSS Regulations (Attachment 4), The City's FCSS Policy (CP2016-05, Attachment 5) and FCSS 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 FCSS Calgary Policy, Council has committed to a 25 per cent contribution to the FCSS Calgary budget.

### 2024 FCSS Call for Funding Proposals

In 2024, eligible non-profit organizations that provide preventive social service programs were invited to submit proposals for the 2025-2028 funding term. The opportunity was widely promoted, and various resources were made available to guide organizations through the application process. In total, 295 applications were submitted with over \$85M in annual requests.

The funding recommendations in this report are the result of a comprehensive organizational and program assessment conducted for each application submitted. All applications were reviewed using a fair and consistent review process. Administration is recommending 156 programs and initiatives to receive FCSS funding in 2025 and 2026, and 98 of these programs are recommended for continued funding in 2027 and 2028, as detailed in Attachment 2. Through this process, 11 programs will receive FCSS funding for the first time. Some existing programs will see a change in their funding amount, while some will no longer receive funding.

Guiding principles of the review process balanced opportunities for new evidence-informed programs while continuing to support programs that have demonstrated effectiveness in increasing the social inclusion of Calgarians. Using social equity as a lens, Administration ensured that all eligible organizations had equitable access to information and resources before submitting a funding application. This included the removal of barriers, where possible, to support organizations that were less familiar with funding processes. Examples include one-on-one support, alternate submission options, deadline extensions, and opportunities to resubmit incomplete applications. Members of The City's Anti-Racism Program observed the application and review process and will be providing recommendations on how to further reduce systemic barriers.

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The funding recommendations in this report are for a two-year or four-year agreement term. Agreement terms are based on demonstrated impact and alignment to the FCSS long-term outcome of increasing social inclusion. These recommendation periods balance the need for program stability with the time needed to demonstrate impact. Funding beyond agreement terms will be based on community needs, program alignment to the FCSS Funding Framework, demonstrated impact, and availability of funds.

### Capacity Building Fund

As per the FCSS Policy, Administration is seeking Council's authorization to access the FCSS Stabilization Fund Reserve to support one-time capacity-building initiatives. 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 to the FCSS Calgary budget, as well as to support these one-time investments. The current balance of the FCSS Stabilization Fund is \$5.6M.

### **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. 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 Calgary program is administered, if the organization is receiving the supports it needs, and provide any recommendations.

Other community funders and subject matter experts were engaged during the assessment stage and were informed of the funding recommendations, to coordinate the process and meet the needs of Calgarians experiencing vulnerabilities as best we can.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social**

The programs recommended for funding through this report increase the social inclusion of individuals and families with a range of vulnerabilities. This prevention approach to stop problems before they start advances a key principle in the Social Wellbeing Policy (CP2019-01) and the recommendations align to the FCSS Policy.

#### **Environmental**

Not applicable.

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**Economic**

Investments in preventive programs means resources can be diverted from more costly late-stage interventions such as justice or enforcement services.

**Service and Financial Implications**

**Other:**

- Existing Operating funding – base  
\$40.9M
- Existing Operating funding – one-time  
\$500K in 2025 and 2026

	Operating Fund – Base [A]	Operating Fund - One- Time [B]	Total [A+B=C]	City Millrate Contribution [D]	Millrate % of Total = [D]/[C]
2025	\$40.9M	\$500k	\$41.4M	\$10.4M	25%
2026	\$40.9M	\$500k	\$41.4M	\$10.4M	25%
2027	\$40.9M	\$-	\$40.9M	\$9.9M	24%
2028	\$40.9M	\$-	\$40.9M	\$9.9M	24%

**RISK**

There is a risk of reducing or eliminating funding to the currently FCSS-funded programs. Organizations may be forced to scale back or discontinue programs, which could create gaps in services for Calgarians. This is mitigated by providing funding recommendation notifications to organizations in September 2024, three months before the current contracts end so they can 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 respond to the changing needs of Calgarians.

There is a risk in investing in new organizations and programs that may not have a proven track record using FCSS Calgary’s reporting tools. This is mitigated by the thorough review process that included both an organizational and program level assessment. It is also mitigated by the two-year funding term that will require a demonstration of impact to be considered for funding beyond 2026.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Attach 1 – Background, Previous Council Direction – CD2024-1119
2. Attach 2 – 2025 to 2028 FCSS Funding Recommendations – CD2024-1119
3. Attach 3 – FCSS Act – CD2024-1119
4. Attach 4 – FCSS Regulations – CD2024-1119
5. Attach 5 – FCSS Policy – CD2024-1119
6. Attach 6 – FCSS Funding Framework – CD2024-1119
7. Attach 7 – Presentation – CD2024-1119

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Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Katie Black, General Manager	Community Services	Approve
Kay Choi, Director of Partnerships	Community Services	Inform

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