

Community Services Report to
Community Development Committee
2025 January 16

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
CD2025-0097

2025-2026 Family and Community Support Services Additional Funding Recommendations

PURPOSE

This report provides recommendations to allocate additional Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding for 2025 and 2026.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

The FCSS Calgary program has existed since 1966. Council approved 2025-2028 FCSS funding allocations in November 2024 (CD2024-1119) and authorized Administration to access up to \$1M from the FCSS Stabilization Fund in 2025 for capacity-building initiatives. In November 2024 (C2024-1097) Council approved a one-time funding increase to FCSS for 2025 and 2026 during the mid-cycle budget adjustments in November 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Community Development Committee recommend that Council approve the additional one-time Family and Community Support Services funding allocations of \$750K in each of 2025 and 2026.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 2025 JANUARY 16:

That Council approve the additional one-time Family and Community Support Services funding allocations of \$750K in each of 2025 and 2026.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Katie Black concurs with the contents of this report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Through the 2024 FCSS Call for Funding Proposals, 156 evidence-informed programs and initiatives were approved for funding beginning in 2025. Based on the last FCSS Annual Report, FCSS Calgary-funded prevention programs and services have increased social inclusion of over 51,000 Calgarians.
- This report recommends four additional programs to receive FCSS funding in 2025 and 2026 to increase the opportunities for Calgarians experiencing vulnerabilities to access preventive social services.
- With a focus on prevention, FCSS is part of a continuum of social wellbeing funding streams administered by The City, which includes prevention and intervention through FCSS, Calgary's Mental Health and Addiction Investment Framework, Crime Prevention Investment Plan, and the Community Safety Investment Framework.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

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DISCUSSION

The FCSS program is a unique funding partnership between The City of Calgary and the Government of Alberta to provide preventive social services. The program is provided in accordance with the provincial FCSS Act and FCSS Regulations, The City’s FCSS Policy (CP2016-05) and FCSS Funding Framework. 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.

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.

All applications were reviewed using a fair and consistent review process with a comprehensive organizational and program assessment. In November 2024 (CD2024-1119), Council approved the recommendations for 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.

Additional Funding Recommendations

As part of mid-cycle budget adjustments (C2024-1097), Council directed Administration to access \$750,000 one-time operating funding for 2025 and 2026 to Family and Community Support Services in funding additional applications previously not recommended due to high demand. Applications that were previously not recommended were reassessed using a consistent and equitable approach. The following four additional programs are recommended to receive FCSS funding in 2025 and 2026.

Organization Name	Program Name & Description	2025	2026
Bridge to Oasis Foundation	Building an Age-Friendly City- Supporting Black Seniors: To create an age-friendly, inclusive & accessible city that enables seniors to enjoy the amenities, services & opportunities available.	\$226,072	\$226,072
Calgary Jiang Zhe Shanghai Association	Golden Year Wellness: To enhance the overall well-being and social integration of seniors in Calgary through engaging in culturally sensitive activities and services.	\$191,428	\$191,428
Centre for Sexuality Society	WiseGirlz: Healthy Relationships and Life Skills Program: To equip girls with the tools they need to cultivate healthy bodies, relationships, and communities.	\$160,000	\$160,000

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Korean Social Services Centre	Welcome Home! To facilitate the settlement, establishment, and integration of Korean newcomers into Canadian society.	\$172,500	\$172,500
Total		\$750,000	\$750,000

All four programs will receive FCSS funding for the first time. Funding beyond 2026 will be based on community needs, program alignment to the FCSS Funding Framework, demonstrated impact, and availability of funds.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- Public engagement was undertaken
- Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken
- Public/interested parties were informed
- Public communication or engagement was not required

Community engagement was completed during the 2024 FCSS Call for Funding Proposals application review process and no additional engagement was undertaken for the recommendations in this report. The original application review process included external reviewers and internal subject matter experts. 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.

Organizations have been providing feedback on challenges with short-term funding as it limits their ability to provide on-going services to Calgarians experiencing vulnerabilities.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The programs recommended for funding through this report increase the social inclusion of diverse population groups including seniors, LGBTQ2S+ people, newcomers and people from racialized communities. 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

Economic

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

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Service and Financial Implications

Existing operating funding - one-time

Existing Operating funding – one-time \$750K in 2025 and 2026.

RISK

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.

There is a risk that one-time funding is used for on-going social service programs. After 2026, there is no guarantee that FCSS program funding will remain at the same level.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. Presentation

Department Circulation

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

Author: Sabrina Song, Community Strategies

City Clerks: C. Doi / K. Picketts