

Background and 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 provincial and municipal governments share the cost of the FCSS Program. 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 Calgary FCSS 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.

The FCSS program is provided in accordance with the provincial FCSS Act and Regulation along with The City's FCSS Policy (CP2016-05) and Funding Framework. The FCSS Act mandates an emphasis on prevention and volunteerism. The Regulation states that to receive funding "Services under a program must be of a preventive nature that enhances the social well-being of individuals and families." In Calgary, the FCSS Policy directs the work of FCSS Calgary and its relationship with funded organizations. The FCSS Funding Framework guides FCSS funding towards evidence-informed programs and initiatives that contribute to its long-term outcome of increased social inclusion of Calgarians experiencing vulnerabilities.

In 2024, eligible non-profit organizations that provide preventive social service programs were invited to submit proposals for the 2025-2028 funding term. In total, 295 applications were submitted with over \$85M in annual requests. In November 2024, Council approved the recommendation of 156 programs receiving FCSS funding in 2025 and 2026, and 98 of these programs continuously receiving funding in 2027 and 2028.

On 2024 November 21, Council approved and adopted the mid-cycle budget adjustments for the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets, including a one-time operating funding increase of \$750K for 2025 and 2026 to FCSS to support additional applications cut-off due to demand in excess of budget and to support inflationary escalation on City allocation.

Previous Council Direction

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
11/21/2024	C2024-1097	<p>Mid-Cycle Adjustments to 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets</p> <p>On 2024 November 21, Council approved a one-time operating funding increase \$750K for 2025 and 2026 to FCSS to support additional applications cut-off due to demand in excess of budget and to support inflationary escalation on City allocation.</p>
11/26/2024	CD2024-1119	<p>2025-2028 Family and Community Support Services Funding Recommendations</p> <p>Council approved the recommended allocations of \$41.4M annually in 2025 & 2026, and \$25M annually in 2027 & 2028, and authorized up to \$1M from the FCSS Stabilization Fund in 2025 to support non-profit organizations for emerging social issues and capacity-building initiatives.</p>
10/2/2023	CD2023-0953	<p>2023-2024 FCSS Funding Increase and Recommendations</p> <p>Following an increase in the Government of Alberta's contribution to the FCSS Calgary program, Council approved the recommended placement of \$1M of these funds into the FCSS Stabilization Fund in 2023 and the funding allocation of \$1.3M to currently funded programs. Council also authorized access for up to \$1.5M in 2024 from the FCSS Stabilization Fund to support non-profit organizations for emerging social issues and capacity-building initiatives.</p>
11/25/2022	C2022-1051	<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 \$2M 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>

Bylaws, Regulations, Council Policies

Family and Community Support Services Policy (CP2016-05)

The Family and Community Support Services Policy was approved on 2016 June 20 which indicates that City Council will approve or amend FCSS Funding Priorities, funding recommendations and policy directions.

Family and Community Support Services Funding Framework (CPS2019-1286)

The Family and Community Support Services Funding Framework was adopted by Council on 2019 December 16 which guides FCSS Calgary funding allocations investing in social inclusion.

Social Wellbeing Policy (CP2019-01)

The Social Wellbeing Policy was approved on 2019 April 8 which states that The City will advance processes and mechanisms to identify emerging social needs of Calgarians and develop response plans that may be put in place with appropriate partners and services.

Investing in Partnership Policy (CP2017-01)

The Investing in Partnership Policy includes that the Office of Partnership will annually report the investment in and benefits of partnering, to demonstrate accountability and transparency.