

Community Safety Investment Framework Updated Terms of Reference and Governance Framework (CD2025-0390)

Background

In November 2020, City Council directed Administration to develop a Community Safety Investment Framework (CSIF) (the “Framework”) and to engage the Calgary Police Service in its development (C2020-1266). The CSIF Terms of Reference were subsequently approved alongside funding to implement the Framework (C2020-1215).

In October 2024, Council directed Administration to review and update the CSIF Terms of Reference and governance framework to better reflect the principles of anti-racism and community-based preventive care and ensure that CSIF funds are more appropriately allocated to ensure the safety of equity-deserving populations (EC2024-1138).

Since 2021, The City of Calgary and the Calgary Police Service have each contributed \$8 million annually to implement the CSIF Terms of Reference, and have worked together on a number of initiatives to transform how we respond to and support Calgarians in crisis.

Purpose

The updated CSIF Terms of Reference and Governance Framework continue to advance the commitment to dismantle systemic racism. It seeks to: 1) Enhance governance between The City and the Calgary Police Service in how they administer their own CSIF funds; and 2) Re-establish focus on equity and anti-racism in the delivery of crisis response initiatives. It seeks to improve the crisis response system by incorporating people’s lived experience, cultural representation, and cultural competency into service delivery by both first responders and community organizations.

Funding Outcomes and Principles

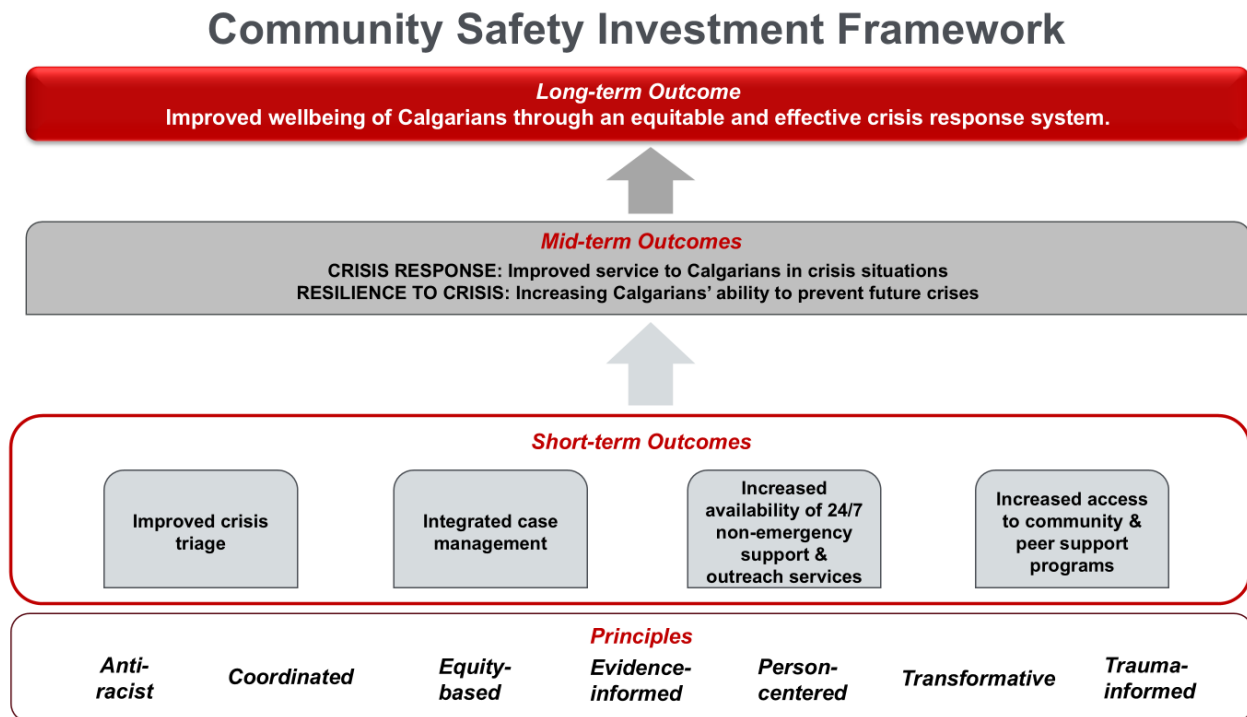
The updated CSIF Terms of Reference and Governance Framework include language that reflects the principles of anti-racism and the safety of equity-deserving communities; focus on four priority outcomes based on the evaluation of CSIF investments made to date; and more clearly define the following CSIF guiding principles:

1. Anti-Racist: Recognizing the existence of racism and taking active steps to name, challenge and eliminate it at all levels (individual and structural) and spheres of life
2. Coordinated: There is an integration of services across mental health and social service providers that address the multitude of crisis experiences
3. Equity-based: Programs and services are culturally and racially responsive by reflecting people’s diverse needs, strengths and social realities
4. Evidence-based: Best practices, as supported by research, inform the delivery of program and services
5. Person-centered: Community needs are prioritized so that programs and services are barrier-free, safe and welcoming
6. Transformative: Programs and services that bring marked change to the crisis response system in Calgary and how it is designed, delivered and experienced by people

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7. Trauma-informed: Approaches that seek to better understand individual experiences, and ensure people have a voice and a sense of belonging when receiving services

The diagram below indicates the expected long, medium and short-term outcomes to be achieved through investments guided by the Framework.



Investment Strategies

Through a combination of evidence-based targeted allocations and open calls for funding applications, the implementation of the Framework will follow best practice in funding administration, and leverage processes established in Community Services. The Framework will be implemented through two concurrent investment strategies:

Strengthening Existing Crisis Supports: Funding current crisis response programs and services, including partnership models, outreach services and case management, with the goal of achieving a sustainable solution to crisis response in Calgary.

Transforming Calgary's Approach to Persons in Crisis: Investing in best practice research, analysis and stakeholder engagement to identify opportunities to transform crisis prevention and response in Calgary.

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The Framework provides a strategic investment in our communities and reflects Council's and the Calgary Police Service's ongoing commitments to anti-racism, public safety, crisis system change and building resilient communities.

The implementation of the Framework will be informed by existing policies, strategies and initiatives at The City and the Calgary Police Service that are aligned to CSIF.

Governance

Acknowledging the multiple levels of strategic leadership and unique governance of their respective institutions, The City and the Calgary Police Service have autonomy over the administration of their CSIF funds, including making and approving their own funding allocations, and informing their respective leadership and governing bodies. An Implementation Team with representatives from The City and the Calgary Police Service with shared operating processes will enable effective collaboration between the parties. Disputes will be resolved by escalating matters through levels of leadership in both organizations.

Term

This document is in effect following Council approval in June 2025 and remains valid so long as both The City of Calgary and the Calgary Police Service have a funding commitment to CSIF. The parties may review and update the document, as needed.