



November 22, 2018

Councillor Evan Woolley
The City of Calgary
Office of the Councillors (8001)
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2M5

Dear Councillor Woolley,

Re: Support for the Sliding Scale for the Low-Income Transit Pass

On behalf of CUPS, I am writing to ask City Council to extend funding for 2019 in order to maintain the transit sliding scale fare structure.

CUPS assists adults and families in Calgary living with the adversity of poverty and traumatic events to become self-sufficient. Furthermore, CUPS strives to mitigate the harmful impact of toxic stress by developing programming that encourages healthy brain development, cultivates strong executive functioning and self-regulation skills, and increases resilience.

Last year alone, CUPS served over 11,000 low-income Calgarians with 13,328 visits to our primary health care clinic, 2,845 client visits in our mental health programming, and 151 clients housed in our housing first program. With almost 30 years of operating in Calgary, we have gained a great deal of collective experience with individuals and families that rely on public transportation on a daily basis.

In addition to integrated healthcare, education and housing, CUPS' mission also involves advocating to reduce barriers to services so that families and individuals are able to move towards self-sufficiency. Many of the individuals who access CUPS live with the negative impacts of toxic stress and trauma that are compounded by the complexity of poverty. Our experience tells us that transportation is critical to building resiliency and moving towards self-sufficiency. Having access to transportation that is accessible and affordable, decreases social isolation, allows clients to regularly attend medical and professional appointments, as well as maintain employment – all important factors in overcoming the cycle of poverty.

At CUPS, we believe that, in order to live in an equitable and inclusive city, transportation must be available to every citizen regardless of income. This funding will continue to help alleviate stress and improve the quality of life for Calgarians already living with the adversity of poverty. Thus, we fully support the City of Calgary extending funding for the sliding scale fare structure for 2019.

Sincerely,


Robert Perry
Senior Director Programs and Service Assessment CUPS