



COMMUNITY SAFETY & SOCIAL SERVICES – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 12 November 2024

Subject: Airdrie FCSS Overview

Directorate: Community Safety and Social Services

Issue:

The Community Safety and Social Services Standing Committee (CSSH) is being presented with an overview of the Airdrie Family and Community Support Services (Airdrie FCSS) program, and an update on preparations for the 2026-2028 Funding Cycle.

Policy / Council Direction:

FCSS aligns with Council's FCSS Policy, Council's 2020 Social Policy, and Council's 2023-26 Caring Community Focus Area.

Background:

There are two components to this report: First, an overview of the Airdrie FCSS program and second, Administration's next steps in preparing for the 2026-28 Airdrie FCSS multi-year funding cycle.

FCSS Mandate

FCSS is an 80/20 funding partnership between the Province of Alberta and municipalities to invest funds in programs that prevent social issues at the earliest opportunity. There are two governing documents that guide the allocation of FCSS funds in preventive social programs, the FCSS Act and Regulation and Council's endorsed FCSS Policy.

An important part of this partnership is the Government of Alberta's recognition of the municipality's role in identifying and addressing the needs based on the local context and research. There are a variety of models for delivering FCSS Programs in Alberta. The City of Airdrie provides external grants to community agencies that provide prevention programming.

Prevention Funding

An important part of the City's responsibility in administering the FCSS program is ensuring FCSS investments are preventive in nature.

The FCSS Regulation and FCSS Policy states: "Services under a program must be of a preventive nature that enhance the social well-being of individuals and families through promotion or intervention strategies provided at the earliest opportunity."¹

Prevention or a preventive social program is defined as:

- A pro-active, intentional process focused on strengthening the positive conditions that contribute to the well-being of children, youth, adults, seniors, families, and communities.
- Building upon the personal attributes and skills to ensure healthy lifestyles, especially for those who are at risk.

FCSS funds cannot be used for the following:

- provide primarily for the recreational needs or leisure time pursuits of individuals.
- offer direct assistance, including money, food, clothing, or shelter, to sustain an individual or family.
- be primarily rehabilitative in nature.
- duplicate services that are provided by a government or government agency.

FCSS Multi-Year Funding Approach

The City creates contractual relationships with social not-for-profit organizations also referred to as "FCSS funded agencies" to deliver preventive social programs. In return, FCSS funded agencies are required to measure and report on individuals who participate in their programs. Regardless of the service delivery model, outcome measures are a requirement. The role of Administration is to ensure investments in community social programs meet prevention outcomes.

The three-year FCSS intake process does not bind the City over multiple years. The contracts with agencies will still occur annually. Administration had numerous opportunities to meet with FCSS funded agencies regarding a three-year FCSS intake process and shifting from annual to multi-year funding was well received.

2023 – 2025 Airdrie FCSS Funding Model Overview

Airdrie continues to be one of the fastest-growing communities in Alberta and Canada. With rapid growth, the social needs of our community will change. In response to these

¹ [Family and Community Support Services Regulation](#)

changes, Airdrie FCSS took a proactive approach and developed a funding model to support community needs through quality prevention programming.

The goal of the Airdrie FCSS Funding Model is to have quality prevention programs that guide our investments to meet Airdrie's community needs. Through extensive research, Administration determined that an Airdrie FCSS Funding Model will improve alignment and impact in prevention programming in our community by:

- Clarifying the definition of prevention.
- Identifying clear priorities, expectations, and outcomes for the funding program.
- Developing a comprehensive grant assessment and program review tool.
- Provide best practices and strategic research to assist funded agencies to align with funding priorities.
- Fund programs that have the greatest impact to vulnerable populations.

FCSS Airdrie aims to strengthen social well-being by focusing its prevention work in three priority areas listed below:

- Social Inclusion for Socially Vulnerable Populations
- Positive Child and Youth Development &
- Capacity to Meet Needs

In this funding cycle, Airdrie FCSS receives, \$1,631,000.00 from the Province annually which is invested back into 19 programs and services, delivered by nine community organizations. In 2023, those programs and services reported serving over 11,000 individuals, with 87.6 per cent of surveyed participants report experiencing positive change after connecting or participating in an FCSS funded program.

Airdrie FCSS Roles and Responsibilities

As listed in the FCSS Policy, the role of CSSS is to review Administration's recommendations and alignment with FCSS Prevention funding decisions. The committee's approval will be based on the recommendations provided by Administration for the allocation of FCSS funding, within the annual budget set by Council.

Social Planning administers the FCSS program on behalf of the City. The role of Social Planning is to inform CSSS of the process used to make funding recommendations and provide those recommendations to CSSS. Social Planning is responsible for overseeing the entire funding process that includes the funding agreements, evaluation of applications, and final reporting to the Province.

Preparing for the 2026-2028 Funding Cycle and Next Steps

Work is already underway to prepare for the 2026-28 funding intake.

At the September 2024 Airdrie Resource Council Sector Engagement Session, the City of Airdrie heard from various organizations about what is driving some of the opportunities and challenges in our community.

Administration will explore diverse ways to collaborate with our community, which may mean supporting our organizations to deliver programs and services in various ways.

Administration engaged with a third-party consultant to conduct a needs assessment questionnaire for users and participants of FCSS-funded programs and to help us better understand barriers and opportunities.

Administration will return to CSSS in early 2025 to deliver an overview of the 2026-2028 Funding Strategy, with funding recommendations brought forward in Q3 2025.

Administration Recommendation:

Administration recommends that the Community Safety and Social Services Committee accepts the Airdrie FCSS Overview report for information.

Alternatives/Implications:

This report is for information only.

Budget Implications:

There are no budget implications regarding this report.

Communications and Engagement:

A Communications and Engagement plan is not required.

Recommendation:

That the Community Safety and Social Services Committee accept the Airdrie FCSS Overview report for information.

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External Presenter:	N/A
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Attachments:	#1:FCSS 2023 Outcomes Report