

# AIRDRIE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS)

*2023 ANNUAL REPORT*

## About this report

Airdrie Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a funding partnership between the Government of Alberta and the City of Airdrie designed to provide preventive social programs in our community. The program is governed by the FCSS Act and Regulation, with 80 per cent of the grant funding coming from the Province and 20 per cent coming from the City.

An important aspect of this partnership is recognition that the municipality has a key role in identifying and addressing needs based on local context and research.

This is a summarized report of surveyed participants in services and programs for 2023. These numbers only reflect those respondents who were involved in an FCSS-funded initiative, program or service.



\$1.6M WENT TOWARDS SUPPORTING MORE THAN 11,000 AIRDRIE RESIDENTS IN ACCESSING THE RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS THEY NEED TO IMPROVE THEIR SOCIAL WELL-BEING.

87.6 PER CENT OF SURVEYED PARTICIPANTS REPORT EXPERIENCING POSITIVE CHANGE AFTER CONNECTING OR PARTICIPATING IN AN FCSS FUNDED PROGRAM.

## FUNDING MODEL

Identifying priority areas and creating impact statements allows Airdrie FCSS to be clear about the results it wants to create in the community. This funding model was created in 2022 to guide the 2023-2025 funding cycle.

## EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The evaluation framework aims to provide a measurement system to track program outcomes and to support analysis of community impacts as laid out in the FCSS funding model. The intention of the framework is to collect and record evidence of whether locally driven preventive social initiatives enhance the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

The framework has been built with the following objectives:

### Improve accountability

- Measure, track and report on the intended impacts of the funding model and its strategies.
- Continue the mechanism for funded agencies to demonstrate accountability to Airdrie FCSS, the province, and the wider community by collecting evidence of their program accomplishments and outcomes, as well as reporting these back to the above-mentioned stakeholders.

### Improve learning

- Develop an understanding of the overall impact of the funding model and its strategies, while reflecting on the factors influencing the degree of impact achieved.
- Develop a stronger understanding of the areas of intersection between FCSS funded programs, their shared contribution towards common goals and potential areas for collaborative efforts.

## PRIORITY AREAS AND STRATEGIES

Airdrie FCSS aims to promote social well-being by focusing its prevention work in three priority areas, including:

### Social inclusion for socially vulnerable populations

By ensuring vulnerable populations have the information, support, services and opportunities they need to feel a sense of belonging in their community.

#### Impact in action

A senior was referred to our program for assistance with securing housing. We helped them apply for several affordable housing programs, search for local rentals and apply for the rent subsidy program. After several months of advocacy, they secured a unit in their community. Along the journey, they were assisted in completing forms for various other programs and supports (including Income Tax return, low-income programs, etc.).

The community member received additional supports including referrals to increase food security, and a Christmas gift donated by the Little Sprouts (a pre-school program).

(Source: Community Links – Airdrie Seniors Outreach Program)

**85** PER CENT OF OLDER  
ADULT PARTICIPANTS REPORT  
THEY HAVE THE INFORMATION,  
SUPPORT, SERVICES, AND  
OPPORTUNITIES THEY NEED TO  
FEEL A SENSE OF BELONGING  
IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

## Positive child and youth development

Ensuring children and youth have developmentally appropriate social and emotional skills.

### Impact in Action

An Airdrie hockey program, a majority male-identifying group who all excel in sport, were eager yet apprehensive to begin the healthy relationships program. The participants were able to quickly create a space of nonjudgement and mutual respect.

Specifically, the youth were able to understand the importance of consent and worked through program scenarios beyond expected knowledge levels for that age group.

Participants utilized assertive communication, naming of emotions, and considered barriers to informed consent.

This shows a commitment to growth and accountability in practicing healthy relationships in the future.

*(Source: Centre for Sexuality - Relationship and Sexual Health Education)*

80 PER CENT OF  
SURVEYED PARTICIPANTS  
HAVE DEVELOPMENTALLY  
APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND  
EMOTIONAL SKILLS.

76 PER CENT FEEL THEY  
HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE  
IN THEMSELVES.

## Capacity to meet needs

By ensuring individuals and families are enabled to build the capacity, skills and resiliency required to meet their own needs.

**72** PER CENT OF  
SURVEYED PARTICIPANTS  
REPORT THEY CAN BUILD  
THE CAPACITY, SKILLS AND  
RESILIENCY TO MEET  
THEIR OWN NEEDS.

**84** PER CENT FEEL  
BETTER ABOUT THEIR  
ABILITY TO ACT TOWARDS  
IMPROVING THEIR LIFE.

### Impact in action

A community member came in for their first counselling session. They shared with the Counsellor their feelings of fear and nervousness. They admitted they were afraid of sharing their feelings but through the course of the session, they freely disclosed their anger and severe anxiety issues. They shared that they have always had difficulties with partners and family along with feelings of isolation. At the end of the session, they expressed relief for sharing their feelings and booked another session.

On their second session, they openly reported feeling safer and shared thoughts of better managing feelings of the past. They also looked forward to having healthier relationships. The discussion started about boundaries,

control, and anxiety. They started to understand and find values in self-control and boundaries and booked another session.

By their third visit, they had been clearly processing childhood experiences with acceptance, and more psychoeducation was discussed. They discussed emotional regulation and grounding whenever triggered. They started to feel more in control reported a brighter optimistic view on their future. Single Session Counselling created the opportunity to gain knowledge, confidence and the hope to advance their healing.

*(Source: Community Links - Counselling Services)*

## OTHER 2023 OUTCOMES AND STATS

### Volunteers

Volunteers creating connections with older adults is about more than reducing isolation. This year, a volunteer was an amazing advocate for a senior they were supporting.

Given their long-standing relationship with the senior, they were able to identify when additional supports and care were required.

The volunteer reached out to a Seniors Resource Worker to share their concerns. As a result of this action, additional supports were put in place to support the senior.

*(Source: Community Links – Community Connections)*

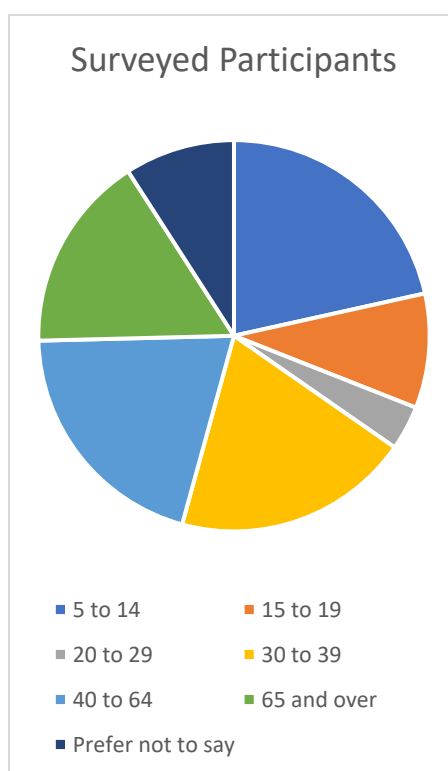
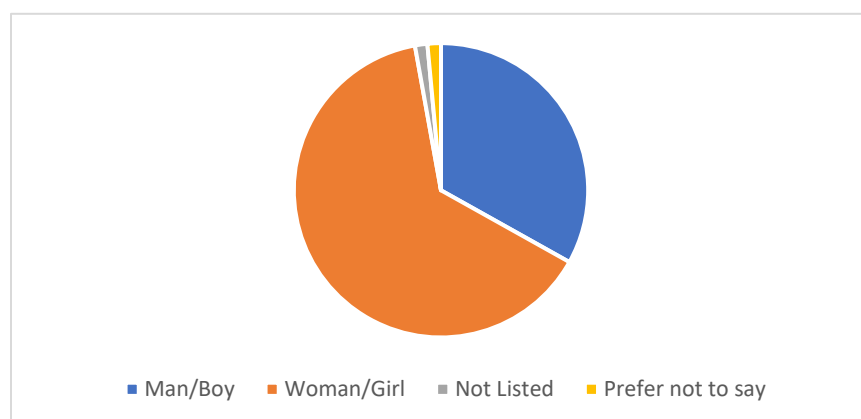
**792** VOLUNTEERS

CONTRIBUTED OVER  
54,000 HOURS TO FCSS  
PROGRAMS.

**87** PER CENT OF  
SURVEYED VOLUNTEERS  
FEEL THEY CAN MAKE  
THEIR COMMUNITY A  
BETTER PLACE.

### Demographics of People supported by Airdrie FCSS

Programs and initiatives funded by Airdrie FCSS benefit a large cross-section of residents ranging from children to youth, to older adults. Stories demonstrating the impact of this work on members of our community can be found further on in this report.



## 2023 AIRDRIE FCSS FUNDED AGENCIES

Agency name	Program or initiative	Funding allocation
Airdrie and District Victims Assistance Society	Volunteer Program	\$22,750
Airdrie Food Bank Society	Community Kitchen Program	\$69,050
Airdrie Food Bank Society	Volunteer Program	\$14,000
Airdrie Meals on Wheels Society	Volunteer Program	\$17,800
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Calgary and Area	Community Mentoring in Airdrie	\$81,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Calgary and Area	Teen Mentoring	\$79,000
Boys & Girls Club of Airdrie	Children's Programs	\$67,452
Boys & Girls Club of Airdrie	Volunteer Program	\$29,716
Boys & Girls Club of Airdrie	Youth Evening Programs and Drop-in	\$60,699
Boys & Girls Club of Airdrie	Youth in Transition	\$30,347
Centre for Sexuality Society	Girls Program	\$15,000
Centre for Sexuality Society	Relationship and Sexual Health Education	\$30,000
North Rocky View Community Links Society	Airdrie Fair Access	\$30,000
North Rocky View Community Links Society	Airdrie Senior Outreach Program	\$109,453
North Rocky View Community Links Society	Information and Referral	\$217,368
North Rocky View Community Links Society	Counselling Services	\$344,765
North Rocky View Community Links Society	Family Resource Program	\$284,430
North Rocky View Community Links Society	Community Connections	\$19,876
Variety - The Children's Charity of Alberta	Just Like you Disability Awareness Diversity Acceptance Education Program	\$14,122
Volunteer Airdrie Society	Youth Volunteer Corps Program	\$68,192



## AIRDRIE RESOURCE COUNCIL

The Airdrie Resource Council (ARC) is an informal inter-agency meeting and networking opportunity for community service providers in Airdrie and the surrounding area, including representatives from human services, health services and education.

In 2023, over 60 members met to connect, discuss current programs, opportunities for growth, challenges and any other issues that may be happening in our community.

Airdrie FCSS facilitates the meetings and supports member requests.

## A MOMENT OF REFLECTION

As we continue to witness growth in our city, we must take a moment to reflect on our common desire to live in a community of social connection, opportunity for our children and youth, as well as having the resources to empower us to meet our needs.

We also must take a moment to appreciate those who work diligently every day to ensure that there are programs and services that help us achieve those goals.

