



COMMUNITY SAFETY & SOCIAL SERVICES – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 8 April 2025

Subject: Airdrie FCSS 2026-2028 Funding Strategy

Directorate: Community Safety and Social Services

Issue:

The Community Safety and Social Services Standing Committee (CSSS) is being presented with the Airdrie FCSS 2026-2028 Funding Strategy for information. The new funding strategy will continue to help strengthen Airdrie’s Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) investments that responds to community social issues through a prevention lens.

Policy / Council Direction:

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

Background:

The CSSS is being presented with the Airdrie FCSS 2026-2028 Funding Strategy, as the previous funding cycle (2023-2025) comes to an end.

As presented in November 2024, Airdrie FCSS enhances the well-being of individuals, families, and the community, aiming to improve quality of life and build capacity for crisis prevention and management.

Reporting to the Province of Alberta under the 80/20 partnership through the Accountability Framework, Airdrie FCSS recently revised its funding strategy to align with the provincial framework’s new direction.

The Provincial FCSS Accountability Framework includes 13 key performance measures, as well as the introduction of “Categories”. The new Categories will allow a streamlined way to describe FCSS at the provincial level to show the impact and standardize data to tell the story at regional and municipal levels (as outlined in Attachment #1). To demonstrate alignment, Administration designed a new strategy that guides FCSS investments in Airdrie.

Built on the previous Airdrie FCSS 2023-2025 Funding Model, alignment with the Government of Alberta's Provincial Accountability Framework, and community input gathered throughout 2024, the Airdrie FCSS 2026-2028 Funding Strategy has three Funding Models:

- ❖ Program Funding Model: This model aligns to the previous funding model, acknowledging the work done by organizations over the past three years to align their reporting and programmatic outcomes.
- ❖ “Airdrie Station” Funding Model: This model focuses on the navigation of a broad range of social assets in Airdrie. Supporting a strength-based approach, Community and System Navigation connects people to the information, support, services, and opportunities they need to feel a sense of belonging in their community.
- ❖ Community Building Funding Model: This new model is about delivering flexible dollars to our community, and supports Outputs and Outcomes identified in the new FCSS Provincial Accountability Framework. It also reflects the changing needs of our social sector, and our community by ensuring more flexible support (activities must still align to FCSS Prevention Strategies). This model will launch in 2026 with a new Grant Application Process.

In addition to best practice research, much of the scope of the Airdrie FCSS 2026-2028 Funding Strategy is based on community input and feedback. Administration engaged with a broad range of community partners (including currently funded FCSS organizations) to understand and design a strategy that would respond to community need.

Over the week of March 3, 2025, Administration met with current FCSS-funded organizations to present the Funding Strategy. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many acknowledging the importance of “Airdrie Station”, to connect residents to their programs and services.

Additionally, a stream of grants focused on providing flexible dollars for community engagement and capacity building opportunities was well received.

This includes the following organizations: Airdrie Food Bank, North Rocky View Community Links, Boys and Girls Club of Airdrie, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Calgary and Area, the Centre for Sexuality and Variety – a Children's Charity.

Preparing for the 2026-2028 Applications

In preparation for the new funding cycle, Administration will continue delivering the strategy to community groups to ensure they have the information they need to support them with their application(s).

Applications must align with the established criteria and funding requirements identified in the 2026-28 FCSS Funding Strategy. Administration will assess applications that demonstrate alignment to the following areas:

- Eligibility
- Prevention Approach
- Strategy Alignment
- Strength of Program or Service Design
- Budget
- Organizational Capacity

Timelines and Next Steps

- Q1/2 2025: Administration will continue delivering the strategy to community groups
- Early Q2 2025: Letters of Intent are due
- Q2 2025: Successful applicants will be invited to complete their application throughout the month of May
- Q3/4 2025: Evaluations and Assessments will be completed by Administration
- Early Q4 2025: Administration will present funding recommendations to CSSS for approval

Through research, best practices, and provincial direction, the Airdrie FCSS 2026-2028 Funding Strategy enhances the well-being of individuals, families and the community, aiming to improve quality of life and build capacity for crisis prevention and management. This can be achieved through the holistic approach of a more fulsome funding strategy.

Administration Recommendation:

Administration recommends that the Community Safety and Social Services Standing Committee accepts the Airdrie FCSS 2026-2028 Funding Strategy for information.

Alternatives/Implications:

There are no alternatives in this report as it is being submitted for information only.

Budget Implications:

Budget items supporting the 2026-28 FCSS Funding Strategy's implementation will be presented to Council through the annual budgeting process.

Communications and Engagement:

Airdrie FCSS is working with Corporate Communications to develop the strategy documents for community groups that meet eligibility criteria.

Recommendation:

That the Community Safety and Social Services Standing Committee accepts the Airdrie FCSS 2026-2028 Funding Strategy, for information.

Natasha Guillot, Social Planner

Staff Presenter:	Natasha Guillot
External Presenter:	None
Department:	Social Planning
Reviewed by:	Kevin Weinberger
Attachments:	#1: Airdrie Family and Community Support Services (Airdrie FCSS) 2026-2028 Funding Strategy