



MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024

REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FUNDING ALLOCATIONS –
MOTION REQUIRED**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River approve the 2025 Family and Community Support Services funding allocations as presented.

DETAILS

Background: The provincial Family and Community Support Services (the “FCSS”) Grant Program is a partnership between the Government of Alberta and participating municipalities and Metis Settlements to design and deliver local preventative social services to improve the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

The FCSS definition of prevention is “a proactive process that strengthens the protective factors of individuals, families, and communities to promote well-being, reduce vulnerabilities, enhance quality of life, and empowers them to meet the challenges of life.” The FCSS Regulation provides further direction that services provided under a local program must do one (1) or more of the following:

- Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis
- Help people develop an awareness of social needs
- Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people
- Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them
- Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community

The Government of Alberta contributes eighty (80) per cent of the funding for this program, while participating municipalities are required to match the remaining twenty (20) per cent. The County of Vermilion River (the “County”) is responsible for establishing, administering and



operating local FCSS funding for programs; designing and delivering preventative social programs; and evaluating, monitoring and reporting on programs. The municipality chooses if they would like to deliver services themselves or fund other organizations to deliver services within their community.

The County funds other organizations to deliver services in the community. For the 2025 funding year, the Government contribution was \$249,187.57. The County contribution is \$62,296.89. A total of 33 applications were received for 2025 funding. \$249,187.57 is allocated to external applicants. The remainder of the agreement, \$62,296.89, is our municipal contribution that is utilized to implement volunteer recognition programs, provide senior access services, and administer the program.

The County continues to administer the funds for the Village of Kitscoty (the “Village”) FCSS program. The Village Council will approve the recommendations for their 2025 FCSS funding at a future meeting. A summary of the funds distributed will be shared once approved by the Village Council. Kitscoty FCSS approved funds are distributed when the County of Vermilion River funds are sent out.

Discussion: The services delivered or funded through local FCSS programs will align with one (1) or more of the prevention strategies to help prevent or mitigate the impact of the key social issues and to build stronger and more resilient communities now and for the future. Some examples of the types of services and supports that align with the above strategies include:

- Assisting communities to identify their social needs and develop responses to meet those needs
- Promoting, encouraging, and supporting volunteer work in the community
- Developing the skills of individuals and families for greater resiliency such as mentoring programs
- Supporting the social development of children and their families
- Supporting seniors to remain connected to their communities and providing home supports
- Providing information and supporting access to available social supports in the community

The types of activities that are not eligible for funding include those that provide primarily for recreational needs or leisure time pursuits; direct assistance (e.g., money, food, clothing or shelter); those that are primarily rehabilitative in nature; and services ordinarily provided by a government or government agency.



A summary of the applications along with recommendations for funding amounts are included. When funding recommendations are made, consideration is given to the number of County residents that participate or benefit from the service, the type of population (i.e., senior, children, youth, community) and having the availability of preventative services available to County residents when needed.

Funds are approved by Council in late fall. Funds will be distributed in February 2025, conditional to completion of the 2024 FCSS Year End Reporting, which is due on January 31, 2025.

Relevant Policy/Legislation Practices:

FCSS Act

FCSS Handbook

Desired Outcome (s): THAT the County of Vermilion River approve the 2025 Family and Community Support Services Funding allocations as presented.

Response Options: THAT the County of Vermilion River approve the 2025 Family and Community Support Services Funding allocations as presented.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: Council to approve funding allocations, Administration to distribute funds

Financial: Administration will submit necessary payment requests to Finance for funding to be distributed in February 2025, after agency year end reports are submitted, and Provincial funding is received

Communication Required: Approval letters will be sent out to successful applicants

Implementation: Administration manages and records approvals, as well as completes a follow-up with organizations

ATTACHMENTS

1. Summary recommendation for Council 2025



PREPARED BY: Community Development Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Director of Planning & Community Services

DATE: October 16, 2024