



AGENDA ITEM

Additional FCSS Funding During COVID-19 Pandemic

April 9, 2020

BACKGROUND

The provincial government has just recently announced that they will be providing \$30 million to municipalities, charitable and non-profit organizations to provide help to individuals, seniors, families and other vulnerable Albertans who are isolated or impacted by measures to contain COVID-19. The \$30 million in funding will be distributed to the following municipalities:

- \$7 million to Edmonton FCSS (one-time grant)
- \$9 million to Calgary FCSS (one-time grant)
- \$14 million to Family and Community Support Services Association (FCSSAA) to municipalities and Metis settlements outside of Edmonton and Calgary (one-time grant)

As funding is being distributed outside the scope of the FCSS Act and Regulation, the 80/20 funding rule will not apply.

Through these grants from their local FCSS in Edmonton, Calgary and FCSSAA funding will be distributed to civil society organizations. These organizations will support a range of services needed from at-home help for seniors, crisis and helpline, food security issues, emotional and mental health counselling or any other identified community issues.

Action requested of Council is to consider who should vet requests that come from organizations in the County; the urban FCSS organization or the County's FCSS.

ANALYSIS

Charitable and non-profit organizations will be encouraged to connect directly with their local FCSS program to receive detailed funding guidelines and grant criteria and to submit the Funding Request Form. The Local FCSS office will review the completed Funding Request Forms that have been forwarded to them by the local community, non-profit group. The local FCSS will then complete the Funding Recommendation Form and provide their recommendation for approval or non-approval. The local FCSS Program will then send the funding requests and their recommendation to the FCSSAA (the Banker). The Banker will review and make recommendations to the Province. The Province will make all final decisions on which funding requests are approved and not approved.

Susan MacDonald, Lacombe and District FCSS, has indicated that organizations from the County could submit their application to the closest urban FCSS office (Alix, Bentley, Blackfalds, Eckville, Lacombe) rather than the County office. The office who receives the application will determine the merits of the program and provide a



recommendation to FCSSAA. Only the local FCSS who receives the application will have input into the decision-making process.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Follow advice from Lacombe FCSS and direct organizations to apply to local urban FCSS organizations
2. Designate one FCSS organization.
3. Have Lacombe County groups apply to the Lacombe County FCSS.

The urban FCSS agencies have the expertise to manage the application and evaluate the projects. It may be more appropriate to forward applications in the County to one point of contact rather than several FCSS agencies.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This funding is to provide additional supports and services during the COVID-19 pandemic and will not impact the current budget.

The County will promote the program through its regular communication channels and if applications are accepted by the County, County staff will evaluate them.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are: 1) to provide good government, 2) to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and 3) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of the County's Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision: "An attractive, balanced and progressive community".

Our Mission: "To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and healthy relationships".

Key Principles: "Recognizing our history and solid foundation, we approach the role of providing the best possible level of municipal services for our citizens through a base of collaborative and supportive teamwork".

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis. For this item the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform*: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct Administration to promote the Social Services Support for COVID-19 program to County organizations and that inquiries be directed to local urban FCSS agencies.

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