

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS) 2026-2028 Funding Cycle STRONG SECTOR INITIATIVES GRANT GUIDE

Edmonton

FCSS Overview

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a joint municipal-provincial funding program that funds preventive social services programs. Edmonton FCSS strives to increase social inclusion and equity by funding preventive programs and services, community development and strong sector initiatives supporting key social issues in our city.

The FCSS program, as mandated by the Government of Alberta, is focused on primary (universal) and secondary (targeted) prevention, working to address root causes to social issues.

- Primary prevention focuses on building strengths and supports in individuals, families, and communities to prevent problems before they occur.
- Secondary prevention addresses problems early before they become more serious.

Prevention is defined as *a proactive process that strengthens the protective factors (the good things in life that keep us safe, help us cope, give us hope) of individuals, families, and communities to promote well-being, reduce vulnerabilities, enhance the quality of life, and empower them to meet the challenges of life.*

For more information refer to the [FCSS Program Guide](#).

Strong Sector Initiatives Grant

Edmonton FCSS is looking to increase social inclusion and equity, ensure a people centred system of service development and delivery and an increased commitment to data and evaluation to build a strong sector. A strong sector ensures individuals, communities and organizations have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to provide a coordinated, collaborative, and connected web of support, and facilitates policy and systems change.

Grant Priorities

Applications will be accepted for collaboratives that support the following:

- Integrated service coordination to provide more effective preventive social services to citizens.

- Formal partnerships between researchers and community organizations to generate knowledge to inform action in the preventive social services space in alignment with the FCSS program priorities and mandate.

Collaboratives that have the following will be prioritized in funding decisions:

- Shared leadership model developed
- Formal partnerships / agreements in place
- Participant centred with equity and intersectionality embedded
- Research and data informed approach (e.g., environmental scan)
- Participation that is representative of communities that will be served

Why Collaborations?

- Increased impact - combining resources, expertise, and networks amplifies the positive impact on communities
- Innovation - diverse perspectives and shared knowledge lead to more creative and effective solutions
- Efficiency - collaboration avoids duplication of efforts and maximizes resource utilization
- Sustainability - shared ownership and responsibility foster long term commitment and sustainability
- Community engagement - collaborations can better engage communities and ensure that initiatives are responsive to their need

Eligibility

Eligible Organizations

- Be a not-for-profit organization registered for at least 1 year and in good standing with the incorporating body (Alberta Society, Non-profit Private Company, Non-Profit Public Company, Extra-Provincial Non-profit Company);
- Have a mandate that aligns with the collaborative initiative being applied for;
- Be working in or with the preventive social services sector;
- Demonstrate sound board and financial governance practices;
- Demonstrate initiative and success in generating diverse sources of funding;
- Accomplish an adequate level of activity to merit a grant; and
- Be in good standing with the City in terms of reporting requirements and outstanding payments.

Ineligible Organizations

Examples of ineligible organizations include but are not limited to:

- Not working as part of a collaborative for the initiative
- Based outside Edmonton
- For-profit organizations

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses must contribute to the establishment of new collaborative efforts or enhance existing collaborative work. Examples of eligible expenses may include, but are not limited to:

- Staffing
- Space for co-location/meetings
- Travel & training within Edmonton
- Printing and communications
- Support for relationship building between collaborators/partners
- Planning, research, and evaluation
- Volunteer support
- Materials & supplies
- Contracted services
- Administration (up to 15%)

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Capital and facility upgrades, renovations and construction
- Debt reduction, financing charges and/or interest payments on loans
- Basic living supports such as money, food, clothing or shelter

Funding Requests

- The maximum annual funding request for an initiative must not exceed \$250,000.
- Strong Sector Initiatives that are currently receiving FCSS funding, for more than the maximum allowable funding request of \$250,000 per year, will have an opportunity to request an exemption by completing the Exemption Request Form. After you apply, you can ask for the Exemption Request Form by emailing grants@edmonton.ca.
- The Exemption Request will require responses for the following:
 - A detailed justification for the requested funding exceeding the maximum amount; and
 - A description of the initiative's reach in community.
- Due to limited funds and high demand for FCSS funding, not all requests that meet the established criteria will be approved for funding. Applicants may receive full, reduced or no funding for their initiative. There is no appeal process.
- Successful applicants may receive funding for up to three years and will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the City of Edmonton.

- If you do not receive funding, your application may be shared with other City of Edmonton business areas for analysis and potential funding options; and with external funding organizations for potential funding options.

Assessment and Considerations

A strong application is one that answers the questions fully, thoughtfully, and concisely using specific examples, where appropriate. Criteria that will be used to assess the applications include, but is not limited to:

- Eligibility
- Initiative design & delivery
- Leadership model/governance
- Initiative viability & feasibility
- Equity & social inclusion
- Evaluation
- Alignment to prevention & grant priorities
- Financial management

Additional Assessment Considerations

An application's overall score is one factor in the assessment process. Other considerations include but are not limited to:

- Current City priorities/emerging needs
- Community/sector needs
- Other City funding provided to the organization/collaborative

Application Submission and Deadline

Applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

A separate application is required for each strong sector initiative you are applying for.

No late or incomplete submissions will be accepted.

New Grant Portal - Register Early

Applications must be submitted through the Community Investment Grant Portal. Please review this [instructional video](#) on how to register your organization. Organizations must be validated prior to submitting any application for grants. The validation process includes identifying your organization manager and providing your Certificate of Incorporation and/or Annual Proof of Filing. Following this, your organization will need to be validated by the Grants Team before you can apply for funding.

Please register early to ensure that your organization is validated. If you have any questions about registering, contact grants@edmonton.ca.

Required Application Documents

The following required documents must be included with the Application:

- FCSS Program Budget Form (link in application);

- Most recent year-end financial statements, signed by 2 Board members
- A bank reconciliation and bank statement as at the fiscal year-end is required for financial statements that are internally generated (not presented as either a compilation engagement, Notice to Reader, review engagement or an audit); and
- Most recent Annual General Meeting Minutes.

Reporting Expectations

A condition of FCSS funding includes the following expectations:

- Audited Financial Statements, including the Auditor's Management Letter upon request (due March 1 each year);
- A Schedule of Revenue and Expenses using a City template (due at the end of January each year);
- Outcomes Reporting (due at the end of January each year);
- Proof of \$2 million liability insurance with the City named as Additionally Insured;
- Copies of governance documents (i.e. Annual Return, Annual Report, etc.);
- Monitoring conversations with City staff; and
- Others, as required.