

**Social Services Grants Review****Report Purpose**

The revision is required in order to align with Strathcona County's new Social Framework.

**Recommendation**

THAT Procedures, Part D. "Eligibility, Additional Eligibility Requirement for Partnership Grants" of Policy SER-005-001 Social Services Grants be amended by deleting the current section 3 and replacing it with the following:

3. Services should demonstrate at least one of the four outcomes as outlined in the Social Framework, (Strathcona County 2016): affordability; safety; access to programs and services; and connectedness and inclusion.

and that the amended SER-005-001 policy, as set out in Enclosure 2, be approved.

**Council History**

April 25, 2017 – Council Motion 2017/158 requested Administration review the current policy and funding parameters for the Strathcona County Partnership and Operating Grants Program and report back to Council by the end of the 4th quarter.

**Strategic Plan Priority Areas**

**Economy:** Social Services Grants assist social service groups to continue to meet needs in the community, particularly important during periods of economic downturn.

**Governance:** n/a

**Social:** The Social Services Grants address social needs in the community. The grants are intended to support the well-being of residents of Strathcona County and strengthen personal or community life.

**Culture:** n/a

**Environment:** n/a

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** Strathcona County's Community Talk process led to the new Social Framework and a FCS organizational review is being undertaken to align the structures and processes of FCS with the directions and outcomes in the Social Framework. Renewal of FCS's Social Services Grants policy is another opportunity for alignment with the Social Framework outcomes and sound, responsive public policy. The requested review of the Social Services Grants policy is underway and interviews have occurred with many stakeholders. Key documents and practices across the non-profit and public human services sectors have been examined. The review has identified the need to revise the current funding policy to incorporate changes that support both the Social Framework and the fiduciary and transparency requirements for the use of public funds and taxpayer dollars.

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** n/a

**Summary**

Through the funding review, options are emerging to inform a renewal of FCS funding approaches. This renewal will require a transition year to engage the new council, create renewed governance processes and involve and inform community stakeholders. Engaging citizens, the new council, and stakeholders in this process will inform direction and increase

awareness and understanding of Strathcona County's policy direction as reflected in the Social Framework. It will educate the community on the Framework and will engage stakeholders to work and learn together in new ways towards achieving the Social Framework outcomes.

**Enclosure**

- 1 SER-005-001 Social Services Grants policy (current with amendment noted)
- 2 SER-005-001 Social Services Grants policy (as amended)