

Social Framework Community Grants Policy

June 19, 2018

Background

- Existing Social Services Grants Policy in place since 1985 with some revisions
- Approval of Social in Framework in 2017 was impetus for review of existing policy.

Policy Review Process

- *Fall 2017:* interviews with Councillors, community partners, non-profit agencies, Family and Community Services (FCS) Advisory Committee members
- *January 2018:* Drafted renewed policy and guidelines
- *February 2018:* Draft policy and guidelines shared with 97 previous grant applicants for feedback and input
- *February 2018:* Two in-person engagement sessions; one with FCS Advisory Committee; one public session attended by community non-profit organizations.

Policy Purpose

- Support provision of prevention and early intervention strategies in Strathcona County
- Align grant funding to the Social Framework outcomes and shifts in thinking
- Provide a range of funding to enable groups from grassroots to non-profit organizations to implement the Social Framework
- Support collective learning on how to better work together towards positive community and system change.

Three Funding Streams



- Core social funding
 - To support the social non-profit sector to provide prevention and early intervention supports for social needs and contribute to the Social Framework outcomes
- Collaboration funding
 - To mobilize cross-sector partnerships and collective resources to address community-wide social issues
- Community seed funding
 - To promote innovative, creative projects and ideas that bring people together around opportunities in a community or neighbourhood for positive change

What is Different?

NEW...

- Alignment with 2017 Social Framework outcomes and shifts in thinking
- Core funding of 1-3 years
- Active collaboration between organizations for periods of 2-3 years
- Seed funding to broader grassroots groups for creative projects in line with the framework and funds to increase community connections
- Transparent decision-making processes and competency-based governance

Governance and Decision Making

CURRENT STATE

- FCS Advisory Committee is an Administrative Committee advisory to FCS
- Outdated terms of reference, members appointed by Director of FCS
- FCS Advisory Committee reviews and recommends applications for funding
- Recommendations through FCS to Council for decision
- Community small grants not included in the current Social Services Grants policy; grant decisions made by FCS Advisory Committee.

Governance and Decision Making

PROPOSED FUTURE STATE

- The Social Framework Community Grants Advisory Committee remains an administrative committee
- Transparent, competency based selection of members by group made up of administration and community members
- The Social Framework Community Grants Advisory Committee reviews and recommends applications for funding to administration
- Grant allocation recommendations are presented to Council for final decision and approval
- Community seed funding(\leq \$2000/grant) decisions made by FCS administration

Discussion and Decisions

- **Decisions requested**

- Approval of Social Framework Community Grants Policy
- Administrative committee to review and make grant allocation recommendations to FCS
- Presentation of grant allocation recommendations to Council for final decision and approval
- Community seed funding decisions (\leq \$2,000) by FCS administration