

Social Framework Community Grants

References: Family and Community Support Services Act, RSA 2000, c F-3 (FCSSA), s. 2 (a)
Family and Community Support Services Regulation AR 218/1994 s. 2, s.2.1(1), 2.1(2)
Strathcona County Social Framework, 2017

Policy Statement

The 2016 Strathcona County Social Framework sets out a platform for a new way of thinking and working together to improve social outcomes in Strathcona County.

Strathcona County provides grant funding to groups of citizens, non-profit organizations and neighbourhoods so they can contribute to this intention. The Social Framework Community Grants enable groups to undertake projects that create positive, community-wide results or systemic changes.

The grants program shall consist of the following three funding streams:

- Core social funding, for one to three years
- Collaboration funding, for two to three years
- Community seed funding, for up to one year

A fair and transparent process will guide funding recommendations and decisions.

Purpose

The policy has four purposes:

- To support the provision of preventive services that enhance the social well-being of individuals and families and strengthen personal or community life through promotion or intervention strategies provided at the earliest opportunity.
- To align grant funding with the Social Framework.
- To provide a range of funding opportunities to enable citizens from community and neighbourhood groups to non-profit organizations to act in support of the Social Framework.
- To support collective learning on how to better work together toward positive community and system change.

Definitions

Social services – programs that support the well-being of residents of Strathcona County and strengthen personal or community life.

Core social funding – financial assistance to eligible social non-profit organizations that supports a portion of operating expenses for a one to three year period.

Collaboration funding – financial assistance for two to three years to eligible non-profit organizations that form partnerships and relationships to address community social issues.

Community seed funding – financial assistance to eligible individuals or groups for projects that contribute to positive change in the community.

Guidelines

Achievement of the Social Framework outcomes requires a shift in thinking, behaving, and convening as organizations, community groups and individuals. The shifts described below will guide grant applicants and Strathcona County throughout the process and will be considered in application review and selection.

TABLE 1

SHIFT FROM	TO
<i>Programmatic Responses: a narrow focus on an issue or group</i>	<i>Systemic Thinking: a broader focus on how this issue impacts the collective</i>
<i>Do for people: a paternalistic view of citizens</i>	<i>Do with people: an empowerment and resiliency view of citizens</i>
<i>Incremental, organization-level outcomes: an inward focus</i>	<i>High aspiration and community-wide outcomes: an outward collective focus</i>
<i>Working in silos: an isolated approach</i>	<i>Collective ownership: a shared, collaborative approach</i>
<i>Focus on symptoms: a reactive, short-term view</i>	<i>Focus on root causes: a long term, proactive and preventative view</i>

Grant funding will be provided in three streams. Objectives and eligibility criteria for each funding stream are as follows. Criteria on what must be included in grant applications and the process for funding decisions are outlined in the Social Framework Community Grants Guidelines.

Core social funding

Objective:

- To support the social non-profit sector in providing prevention and early intervention supports for social needs and in contributing to the Social Framework outcomes.

Eligibility:

1. Applicants must be a non-profit society registered in Alberta and providing a social service in Strathcona County.
2. Priority will be given to promotion, prevention and early intervention services. Consideration may be given to intervention services as determined by evidence of community need.
3. Organizations who receive direct financial assistance through the municipal annual budget processes are not eligible.

4. Responsibility for ongoing financing of social services provided by an applicant will rest with the applicant and not Strathcona County. Funds granted are intended to supplement other funding sources.

Reporting Requirements:

All successful grant applicants must submit an annual and/or final report (including financial and progress updates) in accordance with the Social Framework Community Grants Guidelines.

Collaboration funding

Objective:

- To mobilize cross-sector partnerships and collective resources to address community-wide social issues.

Eligibility:

1. Two or more non-profit organizations or groups must provide a joint application; single organizations are not eligible.
2. At least one of the applicants must be a non-profit society registered in Alberta.
3. Priority will be given to applications that include more than one sector (e.g. education, health, social services, business, faith community, etc.).

Reporting Requirements:

All successful grant applicants must submit an annual and/or final report (including financial and progress updates) in accordance with the Social Framework Community Grants Guidelines.

Community seed funding

Objective:

- To support innovative, creative projects and ideas that bring people together around opportunities in a community or neighbourhood for positive change.

Eligibility:

1. Applicants may be individual citizens, informal groups, neighbourhood committees or groups, community leagues or halls who wish to try a new idea or take advantage of an opportunity in their community or neighbourhood.

Reporting Requirements:

All successful grant applicants must submit a final report (results and financial) in accordance with the Community Social Framework Grant Guidelines.

Not Eligible for Funding

For all funding streams, expenses that will not be funded include:

- Capital expenses and infrastructure
- Debt retirement and bridge funding
- Expenses incurred prior to application submission
- Expenses not integral to the proposal including travel, training, event sponsorship, operational or staff costs not directly tied to implementing the proposal

Funding will not be granted to:

- Provide primarily for recreational needs or leisure time pursuits of individuals
- Provide services that duplicate those provided by a government or government agency

Evaluation and approval

1. Applicants are encouraged to consider how their services or proposals demonstrate the following characteristics. These characteristics will be used through the application review process to assess proposals for potential funding.
 - a. Strategic: considers a systems context, targets a root cause, fills a service gap
 - b. Evidence-based: considers research and emerging best or promising practice
 - c. Accessible and inclusive: to all Strathcona County citizens
 - d. Responsive: timely to individual and community needs
 - e. Collaboration: proactive in collaboration and/or partnership to build on existing strengths
 - f. Strength-based: uses approaches that empower clients and partners
 - g. Planning: demonstrates evidence of effective planning and clear description of how activities will be delivered
 - h. Evaluation: demonstrates clear approach for assessing and tracking expected results, outcomes or impacts
 - i. Responsible: demonstrates sustainable practice including financial responsibility and management accountability
2. The Social Framework Community Grants Guidelines provides a description of criteria and requirements for each stream. Strathcona County may identify funding priorities or areas of focus and adjust selection criteria and funding allocations as community needs and opportunities emerge and Social Framework priorities shift and evolve over time.

Policy Record

Date of Approval by Council:	June 19, 2018	Resolution No:	2018/243
<i>(For historical approval information please contact Legislative and Legal Services)</i>			
Next Review Date:	June 19, 2021	Policy No:	SER-005-001
Last Review Date:	June 19, 2018	Replaces:	60-65-001
Administrative Review: Family and Community Services			