

Mental Health Capacity Building Expansion Grant Opportunity**Report Purpose**

To seek Council's approval to accept a \$205,885 annual grant from Alberta Health Services for Mental Health Capacity Building for 2.5 years (2019-2021).

Recommendation

THAT acceptance of the Alberta Health Services grant, Mental Health Capacity Building Expansion, in the amount of \$205,885, be approved.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 6 - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents

Report

- In 2007, Family and Community Services, and its community partners, began receiving grant funding from The Government of Alberta to offer Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) in schools. In 2017, this funding became annualized by Alberta Health Services (\$265,628/year).
- MHCB is currently offering services to junior high students in Ardrossan, Lakeland Ridge and Holy Spirit schools. This program has been very effective in increasing mental health capacity within participating schools over the past eleven years.
- In 2019, Family and Community Services and its service delivery partners, altView and Elk Island Public Schools, were selected for program expansion to serve two additional rural student populations, namely Fultonvale Junior High and Ardrossan Senior High.
- The objectives of the Mental Health Capacity Building program are:
 - To promote positive mental health and social emotional learning by increasing knowledge, building skills, and fostering positive community norms.
 - To facilitate accessing early intervention and treatment services for those who are at greatest risk (or currently experiencing) addiction and mental health issues.
 - Improve knowledge of and access to effective and innovative services across the mental health continuum through community collaborative networks, coordinating and streamlining services, and advocating for unmet needs.

With the expansion funding, altView would receive \$19,500 per year from the grant to increase their staffing and fully participate in the partnership. Should receipt of this grant be approved, 2 full time temporary positions would be created within Family and Community Services to fulfil the objectives of the grant.

Other Impacts: Research confirms the effectiveness of positive mental health and social emotional learning in promoting student academic success and mental well-being.

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: n/a

Master Plan/Framework: The work of MHCB aligns with the community outcomes of Connectedness and Inclusion and Access to Programs and Services of the Social Policy Framework and the Family and Community Services business plan (2019-2022) by providing a safe, supported and connected community for all.

Author: Lori Prediger, Family & Community Services

Director: Bree Claude, Family & Community Services

Associate Commissioner: Gord Johnston, Community Services Division

Lead Department: Family and Community Services

Communication Plan

The funder indicated that the public announcement of successful recipients is to be done by the Minister of Health.

Enclosures

- 1 Mental Health Capacity Building Expansion Grant Presentation
- 2 AHS Application Success Letter to Strathcona County FCS