

**Municipal Subsidies Review 2022****Report Purpose**

To bring forward to Council recommendations for updating eligibility guidelines for residents to access municipal subsidy programs.

**Recommendation**

THAT Low Income Cut Off (LICO) plus 30 percent as the eligibility guideline for resident access to municipal subsidies, be approved, and that Administration identify and bring forward any associated policy amendments for Council's consideration by the end of the third quarter of 2022.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

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

**Report**

- Community safety and well-being engagements have revealed an increase in the number of Strathcona County residents experiencing financial insecurity, impacting their ability to access community supports, transit and recreation programs.
- Strathcona County currently uses Low Income Cut Off (LICO) as the eligibility guideline to access municipal subsidies.
- A household income at or below LICO represents acute poverty. Using LICO as an eligibility guideline excludes many households above this income level that are none the less experiencing poverty.
- An environmental scan of comparable Alberta municipalities indicates many are implementing a higher income threshold for subsidy eligibility such as LICO plus 10 to 30 percent.
- Changing subsidy guidelines to LICO plus 30 percent will bring Strathcona County in line with other municipalities and increase access to subsidies for individuals and families.
- Updating the eligibility criteria to LICO plus 30 percent has a high return on investment for the County by increasing affordability and access to individuals and families and enabling residents to fully participate in our community.
- This is a small County commitment for a highly leveraged impact.

**Council and Committee History**

June 5, 2018                THAT the amendments to the SER-005-002 Family and Community Services Fees and Charges Policy, as set out in Enclosure 1 to the Family and Community Services report, be approved.

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** Family and Community Services User Fees and Charges Policy SER-005-002

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Financial/Budget:** Financial impacts are being determined and will be discussed with Council during the presentation.

**Interdepartmental:** n/a

**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a

**Enclosures**

1        Municipal Subsidies Review 2022 Presentation

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2      Family and Community Services User Fees and Charges Policy SER-005-002