STRATHCONA COUNTY

Policy

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 Strathcona County Social Framework sets out a platform to improve social outcomes in Strathcona County.

Strathcona County provides grant funding to groups of residents and non-profit organizations 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 consists of four funding streams:

- Core funding, for one to three years
- Collaboration funding, for one to three years
- Community connection funding, for up to one year and
- Community change funding, for up to one year.

Fair and transparent processes guide funding recommendations and decisions.

Purpose

The policy has three purposes:

- To support prevention or early intervention activities or services that enhance the social safety and well-being of individuals and families and strengthen personal or community life.
- To provide a range of funding opportunities to support residents and non-profit organizations to act in support of the Social Framework.
- To support collective learning on how to better work together towards positive community and system change.

Definitions

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

Guidelines

Achievement of the Social Framework outcomes requires shifts in thinking, behaving, and convening as organizations, community groups and individuals. The shifts described below guide the grant process.

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

Grant funding is provided in four streams. Objectives and eligibility criteria for each stream are as follows.

Core funding

Objective:

- To support the non-profit sector to provide prevention and early intervention social supports in Strathcona County and to contribute to the outcomes of the Social Framework.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a registered non-profit group in good standing.
- Applicants must be able to provide social supports in Strathcona County.
- Priority will be given to prevention and early intervention supports. Consideration may be given to intervention supports as determined by evidence of community need.
- Organizations that receive direct financial assistance through the municipal annual budget processes are not eligible.
- Responsibility for ongoing financing of social supports provided by a recipient will rest with the recipient and not Strathcona County. Funds granted are intended to supplement other funding sources.

Reporting Requirements:

All grant recipients must submit interim and/or final reports, including financial and progress updates as directed by Strathcona County.

Collaboration funding

Objective:

- To support the non-profit sector to mobilize partnerships and collective resources to address community-wide social issues.

Eligibility:

- Two or more organizations must submit a joint application. Single organizations are not eligible.
- At least one of the applicants must be a registered non-profit group in good standing.
- Applicants must be able to provide social supports in Strathcona County.
- Priority will be given to prevention and early intervention supports. Consideration may be given to intervention supports as determined by evidence of community need.
- Organizations that receive direct financial assistance through the municipal annual budget processes are not eligible.
- Responsibility for ongoing financing of social supports provided by recipients will rest with the recipients and not Strathcona County. Funds granted are intended to supplement other funding sources.

Reporting Requirements:

All grant recipients must submit interim and/or final reports including financial and progress updates as directed by Strathcona County.

Community connection funding

Objective:

- To support innovative events and gatherings that bring residents together for community or neighbourhood activities.

Eligibility:

- Applicants may be individual Strathcona County residents, informal groups, neighbourhood groups, community leagues or halls who wish to foster connections in their community or neighbourhood in Strathcona County.

Reporting Requirements:

All grant recipients must submit a final report as directed by Strathcona County.

Community change funding

Objective:

- To support innovative, creative projects and ideas that bring residents together around opportunities for positive social change.

Eligibility:

- Applicants may be individual Strathcona County residents, informal groups, neighbourhood groups, community leagues or halls who wish to try a new idea or take advantage of an opportunity in their community or neighbourhood in Strathcona County.

Reporting Requirements:

All grant recipients must submit a final report as directed by Strathcona County.

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 approval, and

- Expenses not integral to the proposal.

For all funding streams, funding will not be granted to:
- Provide services that duplicate those provided by another organization, government or government agency,
- Support or promote political activities, private interests, proselytizing or any other mandates outside of a public purpose, or
- An organization and/or proposal that is primarily mandated with a sports or recreation focus.

Evaluation and approval

Applications are evaluated relative to the Social Framework and the following characteristics:
- Strategic: considers a systems context, targets a root cause, fills a service gap
- Evidence-based: considers research and emerging best or promising practice
- Accessible and inclusive: to all Strathcona County residents
- Responsive: timely to individual and community needs
- Collaborative: proactive in collaboration and/or partnership to build on existing strengths
- Strength-based: uses approaches that empower clients and partners
- Planned: demonstrates evidence of effective planning and clear description of how activities will be delivered
- Evaluative: demonstrates clear approach for assessing and tracking expected results, outcomes or impacts
- Responsible: demonstrates sustainable practice including financial responsibility and management accountability

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

(For historical approval information please contact Legislative and Legal Services)

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Administrative Review: Family and Community Services