

**Social Framework Community Grants Policy Review****Report Purpose**

To provide Council with an overview of updates to the Social Framework Community Grants policy SER-005-001.

**Recommendation**

THAT revised policy SER-005-001, as set out in enclosure 1 of the July 8, 2025 Family and Community Services report, be approved.

**Our Strategic Goals**

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 2 Priority - Social supports that enhance community well-being and safety, and build community connection

**Report**Policy background

Policy SER-005-001 was established as the County's first Social Services Grant policy, which became the Social Framework Community Grants policy in 2018, marking a shift in the approach to grant distribution. The policy was amended in 2022 to its current day iteration with four grant streams, including Core, Collaboration, Change and Connection grants.

Policy review

Family and Community Services conducted an evaluation and review of the grants program and policy in alignment with the policy review cycle. The review identified that the Social Framework Grants program has significant reach and is making a positive impact in the community, and that there are opportunities to refine the policy direction and approach.

Based on the review findings, there are four recommended updates to the policy and grant fund:

1. Revise the policy to align with prevention and early intervention outcomes:
  - a. Rename from the Social Framework Community Grants program to the Strathcona County Community Grants program.
  - b. Revise outcomes from Social Framework outcomes to "support resilient individuals, supportive families and relationships, and connected and engaged communities through the delivery of prevention and early intervention social supports" to better reflect the policy intention.
2. Restructure the grant streams from Core, Collaboration, Change and Connection to Core, Community Initiative and Connection.
3. Implement an annual 2 per cent increase to offset the impacts of inflation.
4. Place a 15 per cent cap as the maximum amount any single organization can receive for Core funding.

Next steps

If approved by Council, the new policy will take effect September 1, 2026, prior to applications opening for the 2027/28 granting year.

**Council and Committee History**

May 27, 2025	Council was provided with a report on the proposed policy recommendations for Policy SER-005-001 in closed session.
March 13, 2025	The Governance Advisory Committee was provided with a report on the Social Framework Grants policy review.
July 5, 2022	Council approved revisions to Policy SER-005-001
June 19, 2018	Council approved revisions to Policy SER-005-001
December 12, 2017	Council approved revisions to Policy SER-005-001

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** Social Framework Community Grants Policy SER-005-001

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Financial/Budget:** A 2 per cent annual increase will be embedded in the Family and Community department base budget.

**Interdepartmental:** n/a

**Master Plan/Framework:** Social Framework

**Communication Plan**

A communications plan will be developed to support the roll-out of the grants policy changes.

**Enclosures**

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| 1 | Strathcona County Community Grants policy SER-005-001        |
| 2 | Social Framework Community Grants policy review presentation |
| 3 | Social Framework Community Grants policy                     |
| 4 | Strathcona County Community Grant policy updates             |