

Social Framework Community Grants policy review

July 8, 2025

Background

1985	1995	2018	2022
Social Services Grants policy approved (60-65-001)	Social Services Grants policy approved (SER-005-001) Grant streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operating Grants• Partnership	Social Framework Community Grants policy approved (SER-005-001) Grant streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core• Collaboration• Community Seed	Amendment to Social Framework Grant policy approved (SER-005-001) Grant streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core• Collaboration• Change• Connection

Current grant streams

Core	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.
Collaboration	To support the non-profit sector to mobilize partnerships and collective resources to address community-wide social issues.
Change	To support innovative, creative projects and ideas that bring residents together around opportunities for positive social change.
Connection	To support innovative events and gatherings that bring residents together for community or neighbourhood activities.

Grant program and policy review



- Impact Reporting
- Policy review

Family and Community Services (FCS) conducted an evaluation and review of the Social Framework Grants program and policy SER-005-001.

- **Impact reporting** on the grant program from 2019-2023.
- **Policy review** including an environmental scan of community grant programs and discussions with the grant and leadership teams.

Policy update 1: alignment

- **Rename the policy** the Strathcona County Community Grants policy.
- **Revise the policy and policy outcomes** with emphasis on resilient individuals, supportive families and relationships, and connected and engaged communities through the delivery of prevention and early intervention social supports.

Policy update 2: grant streams

Core	Core funding for one to three years to support the non-profit sector to provide prevention and early intervention social supports to contribute to resilient individuals, supportive families and connected and engaged communities.
Community Initiative	Community Initiative funding is up to one year to support innovative pilot projects or partnerships.
Community Connection	Community Connection funding to support events that contribute to a connected and engaged community.

Policy updates 3 and 4: fund sustainability

- **Implement an annual 2 per cent increase** to the fund to ensure the value of the grants grows with rising costs and to ensure sustainable financial planning.
- **Place a 15 per cent cap** as the maximum amount any single organization can receive for Core funding.

Summary of policy updates



Summary of
recommendations

1. Revise the policy name and policy outcomes.
2. Restructure the grant streams to Core, Community Initiative and Connection.
3. Implement an annual 2 per cent increase.
4. Implement a 15 per cent cap on Core grants.

Next steps

- The new policy will take effect in the 2027/28 granting year, with changes announced in fall 2026 to give organizations time to adapt.
- A communications plan will support the rollout and ensure consistent messaging.
- Family and Community Services will engage current grant recipients to share key updates and guidance.
- Public-facing guidelines will be developed and published to support applicants.