

**Subject: Family and Community Support Services Funding Allocation****APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**\_\_\_\_\_  
Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Family and Community Support Services funding allocation, as identified in Attachment 1, be accepted as information.

**Summary:**

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a funding partnership between the Government of Alberta and participating municipalities and Métis settlements that supports the design and delivery of preventive social initiatives that enhance the well-being of individuals, families and communities. The Province provides a pre-determined grant that funds up to 80 percent of total eligible program costs while municipalities contribute a minimum of 20 percent. Municipalities, adhering to mandated guidelines, then determine how that funding is best allocated locally. For 2017, FCSS expenditures totaled \$3,425,698, funded with \$1,924,513 from the Province, \$1,485 other fees and \$1,499,700 from the Municipality, per Attachment 1.

**Background:**

Provincially, the FCSS program receives its mandate from the FCSS Act and Regulation. Currently, approximately 319 municipalities and Métis settlements receive FCSS funding. No other province or territory has similar legislation. Grant amounts are calculated according to a formula that takes into account a number of factors including:

- Current population of the municipality based on the previous year
- Median income as reported by Statistics Canada
- Average median income of all participating municipalities and Métis settlements
- Amount of FCSS funding available provincially

The Province had approximately \$101 million in total to allocate for 2017.

Although the Province indicates funding for FCSS is to a maximum of 80% of total

eligible program costs, the Municipality received 56% for 2017 and 54% for 2016 based on the above-mentioned formula for allocation of the FCSS grant province-wide. The Municipality's contribution far exceeds the minimum 20% required at 44% for 2017 and 46% for 2016.

The grant funding is awarded through the Alberta Ministry of Community and Social Services. The Municipality then distributes the money for primary and secondary preventive services. Under primary prevention, \$602,628 is allocated for social planning. This includes administrative support for the Council-appointed Advisory Committee on Aging (ACOA), Mayor's Advisory Committee on Youth (MACOY), and Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equality (RACIDE); community engagement; awareness campaigns; research; workshops; planning and evaluation; report writing; training for social profit sector and Municipal staff, and local/provincial collaborations.

Under secondary prevention, \$682,577 is allocated for Counselling Services, \$639,308 is allocated for community development which includes the bus pass program and the Community Development (CD) Grant. The CD Grant is administered through the Community Investment Program and distributed to non-profit organizations and community groups whose programs and outcomes align with the *FCSS Act* and the *FCSS Program Handbook*. The amount earmarked for the CD grant increased in 2013 to \$300,000 from \$200,000.

There is also \$303,000 in general operating grant funding from the Municipality's matching FCSS contribution. It is divided between three organizations - Canadian Mental Health Association Alberta Northeast Region, Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo, and Wood Buffalo Senior Support Society.

A benchmarking exercise conducted compared three communities that are similar in population. The communities included Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat and St. Albert. The municipal contributions from these communities ranged from approximately 20% to 49%.

It is important to note that the Municipality also invested an additional \$2.7M in 2017 and budgeted \$2.1M in 2018 for programs and services that may not meet the FCSS preventative social program criteria. The Municipality is a significant funder to non profit organizations within the region through the Community Investment Program. Administration continues to support organizations to find alternative sources of funding to ensure their sustainability and reduce their reliance on municipal funding.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

At the March 6, 2018, meeting, Council approved a motion that "Administration review and present the \$1.9 million Provincial funding for Council to review.

### **Strategic Priorities:**

Responsible Government

**Attachments:**

**Family and Community Support Services Funding Overview**