



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS) 2026-2028 Funding Cycle COMMUNITY PROGRAM GRANT GUIDE

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FCSS Overview

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a joint municipal-provincial funding program that funds preventive social services programs. Edmonton FCSS strives to increase social inclusion and equity by funding preventive programs and services, community development, and strong sector initiatives supporting key social issues in our city.

The FCSS program, as mandated by the Government of Alberta, is focused on primary (universal) and secondary (targeted) prevention, working to address root causes to social issues.

- Primary prevention focuses on building strengths and supports in individuals, families, and communities to prevent problems before they occur.
- Secondary prevention addresses problems early before they become more serious.

Prevention is defined as *a proactive process that strengthens the protective factors (the good things in life that keep us safe, help us cope, give us hope) of individuals, families, and communities to promote well-being, reduce vulnerabilities, enhance the quality of life, and empower them to meet the challenges of life.*

For more information refer to the [FCSS Program Guide](#).

Community Program Grant

The FCSS Community Program Grant provides funding to support preventive programs and services that build resilient individuals, thriving families, and create welcoming and engaged communities.

Open Applications

For the 2026 - 2028 intake, applications will be accepted under two program priorities: **Positive Mental Health** and **Poverty Reduction & Homelessness Prevention**.

Program Renewal Requests

Program Renewal Requests will be accepted for currently funded programs and services under the **Healthy Social Emotional Development** and **Healthy Relationships** priorities.

No new applications will be accepted for the **Healthy Social Emotional Development** and **Healthy Relationships** priorities this funding cycle.

Grant Timelines

Funding Program	2025 Submission Deadline	Funding Decisions
Community Program - Renewal Request	Wednesday, April 23, 2025	By July 31, 2025
Community Program - Open Applications	Wednesday, April 23, 2025	By July 31, 2025

Funding Requests

- The maximum funding request for a program must not exceed \$400,000 per year.
- Community programs that are currently receiving FCSS funding, for more than the maximum allowable funding request of \$400,000 per year, will have an opportunity to request an exemption by completing the Exemption Request Form. After you apply, you can ask for the Exemption Request Form by emailing grants@edmonton.ca.
- The Exemption Request will require responses for the following:
 - A detailed justification for the requested funding exceeding the maximum amount.
 - A description of the program's geographic reach, including the number of program locations.
 - A summary of client demographics, including the number of clients served.
- Due to limited funds and high demand for FCSS Community Program funding, not all funding requests that meet the established criteria will be approved. Programs may receive full, reduced or no funding. There is no appeal process.
- Successful applications and renewal requests may receive program funding for up to three years and will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the City of Edmonton.

- If you do not receive FCSS Funding, your application may also be shared with other City of Edmonton business areas for analysis and potential funding options, such as Community Mental Health Funding and/or Homelessness Prevention. As well, applications may be shared with external funding organizations for potential funding options.

Grant Priorities for Open Applications

Positive Mental Health

Organizations applying under this program priority should align to research, evidence and plans including *Edmonton's Strategy for Community Mental Health* (October, 2024), developed in partnership by the City of Edmonton, the Canadian Mental Health Association - Edmonton Region, and the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region. Please see the FCSS Literature Review for additional research and evidence.

Positive Mental Health is the capacity of individuals to feel, think, and act in ways that enhance their ability to enjoy life and face challenges. "It is a positive sense of emotional and spiritual well-being that respects the importance of culture, equity, social justice, interconnections and personal dignity" (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2014)

"Investing in prevention strategies - building resilience, promoting early intervention, and creating supportive communities - has the potential to transform our community's mental well-being..." (Edmonton's Strategy for Community Mental Health, 2024)

Community Mental Health includes characteristics such as: having a holistic perspective; accessible-local services in everyday places; group activities, peer support and cultural programs; and involving those with lived experience. (Edmonton's Strategy for Community Mental Health, 2024)

Community mental health programs and services that focus on one or more of the following, will be prioritized in funding decisions:

- Children, youth and older adults
- Culturally appropriate/responsive support services
- Solution-focused, short-term or drop-in counselling
- Support groups and peer support

Poverty Reduction & Homelessness Prevention

Organizations applying under this program priority should align to research, evidence and plans such as the City of Edmonton's *Homelessness and Housing Services Plan* (July 2024), particularly Goal One, which focuses on reducing the inflow into homelessness year-over-year. This goal incorporates key

recommendations from Pivotal Research Inc.'s *Homelessness Prevention Secondary Research Study*, emphasizing coordination, funding, evaluation, and awareness. Please see the FCSS Literature Review for additional research and evidence.

Poverty Reduction & Homelessness Prevention involves implementing policies, practices, and programs that support full and meaningful participation by addressing individual situational factors and structural or systemic factors. (Gaetz & DeJ, 6, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2021)

Programs that focus on one or more of the following areas will be prioritized in funding decisions:

Poverty Reduction

- Programs designed to strengthen financial resilience
- Programs that connect individuals with cost-saving resources
- Culturally and age-appropriate programs and services

Homelessness Prevention

- Programs/services that are coordinated and integrated within the homeless serving system of care
- Financial interventions that prevent people from losing their housing
- Culturally appropriate/responsive support services
- Eviction prevention
- Connection to Indigenous Culture
- Targeted supports for youth that face barriers and families with children

Eligibility

Eligible Organizations

- Be a not-for-profit organization registered for at least one year and in good standing with the incorporating body (Alberta Society, Non-profit Private Company, Non-Profit Public Company, Extra-Provincial Non-profit Company);
- Have a social services mandate;
- Demonstrate sound board and financial governance practices;
- Demonstrate initiative and success in generating diverse sources of funding;
- Accomplish an adequate level of activity to merit a grant; and
- Be in good standing with the City in terms of reporting requirements and outstanding payments.

Ineligible Organizations

Examples of ineligible organizations include but are not limited to:

- Based outside of Edmonton
- For-profit organizations

Eligible Programs

- Edmonton-based and serving Edmontonians; and
- Preventive and focused on one of the Grant Priorities: Positive Mental Health or Poverty Reduction & Homelessness Prevention

Ineligible Programs

Examples of ineligible programs include but are not limited to:

- Not aligned with one of the Grant Priorities: Positive Mental Health or Poverty Reduction & Homelessness Prevention.
- Only focused on intervention/rehabilitation. This includes tertiary prevention, which is defined as: Intensive interventions that provide support or treatment to those already affected by a problem or issue to address immediate needs and to reduce the impact of the issue after it has occurred. Tertiary prevention typically involves targeted or individualized activities for people or groups experiencing a specific problem.
- Only focused on an individual's leisure or recreational needs.
- Providing an individual or family with basic living supports such as money, food, clothing or shelter.
- Duplicating services provided by government or a government agency.

Eligible Expenses

Broad categories of eligible expenses are listed below. Refer to the FCSS Program Budget Template in the application for specific details.

- Program salaries & benefits (Providing program staff a living wage is encouraged)
- Administrative salaries
- Occupancy
- Travel & training
- Volunteer
- Materials & supplies
- Contracted Services
- Administration (up to 15%)

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Capital and facility upgrades, renovations and construction
- Debt reduction, financing charges and/or interest payments on loans
- Basic living supports such as money, food, clothing or shelter

Application Assessment and Considerations

Open Applications

A strong application answers the questions fully, thoughtfully, and concisely using specific examples, where appropriate. Applications are assessed based on the following criteria:

- Organization eligibility
- Organization governance
- Equity & social inclusion
- Alignment to prevention & grant priorities
- Program design & delivery
- Program viability & feasibility
- Evaluation
- Financial management

Additional Assessment Considerations

An application's overall score is one factor in the assessment process. Other considerations include but are not limited to:

- Current City priorities
- Emerging community needs
- Locations of programs and services
- Other City funding provided to the organization

Renewal Requests

The renewal process assesses currently funded programs to confirm their continued alignment with the ***Healthy Social Emotional Development*** and/or ***Healthy Relationships*** priorities, expectations, identified outcomes and impact. The assessment will determine the amount of funding and the term of the agreement, which may differ from the current agreement. No additional funding is available for these programs.

Renewal requests will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Past performance
- Financial reporting
- Annual outcomes reporting
- Progress towards equity & social inclusion
- Evidence-based program adjustments and improvements

New Grant Portal - Register Early

Renewal Requests and Open Applications must be submitted through the Community Investment Grant Portal. Please review this [instructional video](#) on how to register your organization. Organizations must be validated prior to submitting any application for grants. The validation process includes identifying your organization manager and providing your Certificate of Incorporation and/or Annual Proof of Filing. Following this, your organization will need to be validated by the Funding Strategies Team before you can apply for funding.

Please register early to ensure that your organization is validated. If you have any questions about registering, contact grants@edmonton.ca.

Submitting an Open Application

The organization must be registered and validated in the Community Investment Grant Portal to submit an Open Application.

Open Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

A separate application is required for each program you are applying for.

No late or incomplete submissions will be accepted.

Open Application Required Documents

The following required documents must be included with the Application:

- FCSS Program Budget Form (link in application);
- Most recent year-end financial statements, signed by 2 Board members
- A bank reconciliation and bank statement as at the fiscal year-end is required for financial statements that are internally generated (not presented as either a compilation engagement, Notice to Reader, review engagement or an audit); and
- Most recent Annual General Meeting Minutes.

Submitting a Renewal Request

The organization must be registered and validated in the Community Investment Grant Portal to submit a Renewal Request. Once the Renewal Request opportunity is open, the organization will receive an invitation to complete the Form.

Renewal Request Deadline

Renewal Requests must be submitted no later than Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

A separate renewal request is required for each program. No late or incomplete submissions will be accepted.

Renewal Request Required Documents

The following required documents must be included with the Renewal Request:

- FCSS Program Budget Form (link in the application)
- Most recent Annual General Meeting Minutes

Reporting Expectations

A condition of FCSS funding includes the following expectations:

- Audited Financial Statements, including, upon request, the Auditor's Management Letter (due March 1 each year);
- A Schedule of Revenue and Expenses using a City template (due at the end of January each year);
- Outcomes Reporting (due at the end of January each year);
- Proof of \$2 million liability insurance with the City named as Additionally Insured;
- Copies of governance documents (i.e. Annual Return, Annual Report, etc.);
- Monitoring conversations with City staff; and
- Others, as required.