



# Understanding FCSS

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# ABOUT FCSS

- ▶ **FCSS is unique in Alberta**
  - 8 Regions in Province
  - 207 FCSS Communities
  - Less than 4,400 Albertans reside in communities without FCSS
- ▶ **80/20 partnership between municipalities or Metis settlements, and the province**
- ▶ **FCSS Act and Regulation**
  - Provides mandate and describes responsibilities/requirements of partners
- ▶ **Provincial FCSS Supports**
  - Alberta Human Services
  - FCSSAA Association of Alberta
  - FCSS Director's Network

# FCSS Approach

- ▶ Communities “design and deliver social programs that are preventative in nature, provided at the earliest opportunity to promote and enhance well being among individuals, families and communities”
- ▶ Key Principle: *Local Decision Making*
  - Province provides 80% funding, but municipalities and Metis settlements decide how to allocate to best meet the needs and priorities of the community
- ▶ Key Principle: *Community Development*
  - based on belief that self help contributes to a sense of integrity, self-worth and independence
  - “People helping people” approach to improving quality of life and build capacity of families and communities to prevent or deal with crisis situations

# Eligible and Non-Eligible Services

## Eligible projects and services

- ▶ Assist communities to identify their social needs and develop response plans, including:
  - Raising public awareness around community issues
  - Developing strategies for community advocacy
  - Developing comprehensive social community plans and initiatives
  - Environmental scans, service reviews, strategic planning and program planning
  - In-kind support to community-based groups (until they can sustain themselves) such as, provision of office space, printing, photocopying, help with preparing proposals, etc.
- ▶ Promote, encourage and support volunteer work in the community, including:
  - Recruitment, training and placement services
  - Resources to support volunteers
  - Volunteer recognition
  - Coordination of volunteer services

# Eligible and Non-Eligible Services

## Eligible projects and services

- ▶ **Inform the public of available services, including:**
  - Information and referral services
  - Community information directories
  - Newcomer services
  - Interagency coordination
  
- ▶ **Enrich and strengthen family life by helping people to develop skills so they can function more effectively within their own environment, including:**
  - Mentoring programs
  - Parenting and family life education and development programs
  - Programs for single adults and single parents
  - Courses designed to enhance self-awareness and personal growth
  - Individual, family and group counselling services that are educational and not treatment oriented
  - Youth development and leadership services

# Eligible and Non-Eligible Services

## Eligible projects and services

- ▶ Enhance quality of life of the retired and semi-retired, including:
  - Home support services
  - Educational and information services
  - Coordination of senior services and programs
  - Self-help socialization programs
  
- ▶ Promote the social development of children and their families, including:
  - Parent-child development activities
  - Early childhood development services for children 0-6 (excluding childcare)
  - Support services for young children aged 6-12

# Eligible and Non-Eligible Services

## Non-Eligible projects and services

- ▶ Those that provide primarily for recreational needs or leisure time pursuits
- ▶ Those that offer direct assistance, including money, food, clothing or shelter to sustain an individual or family
- ▶ Those that are primarily rehabilitative in nature
- ▶ Those that duplicate services that are the responsibility of government or government agencies

# Eligible and Non-Eligible Services

## Non-Eligible projects and services

- ▶ **FCSS expenditures shall not include:**
  - The purchase of land or buildings
  - The construction or renovation of a building
  - The purchase of motor vehicles
  - Any costs to sustain an organization that do not relate to an FCSS funded service
  - Municipal property taxes and levies
  - Payments to board members, except out of pocket expenses incurred on FCSS business

# FCSS Structures at Municipal Levels

## ► Single Municipality or Metis Settlement

- Most common structure from larger municipalities to smaller towns
- Applies to the province to participate in FCSS. It operates its own FCSS program for its residents

## ► Multi-Municipal Program

- A group of municipalities join together as one “Regional” or “District” FCSS program
- One municipality is designated the Unit Authority and receives the provincial funding for each municipality in the group; each municipality forwards its 20% contribution to the Unit Authority
- An advisory board of representatives from each municipality (usually at least one council and at least one community member from each municipality) is established
- A multi-municipal agreement must be signed between the municipalities and with the province

## ► Partnering or “Grant Transfer”

- An arrangement where neighboring communities agree to give some or all of their FCSS funds to one of the municipalities to provide services to residents of the partnering municipalities.
- The municipalities continue to sign funding agreements individually with the province, but “pool” their FCSS funding to provide services across municipal boundaries.
- May pool all or some of their funding on an ongoing basis for the projects or events throughout the year

# Slave Lake FCSS Program Delivery



## Combination Model

### ► Direct Service Delivery

- Services provided by FCSS program staff, or service providers under contract

### ► Youth

- Outback Power Pack Camp
- Roots of Empathy
- Home Alone Safely
- Babysitter's Safely Course

### ► Adults

- Northern Links Parent Link Network
- Slave Lake Parent Link Center
- Anger Education

### ► Seniors

- Seniors Week
- Seniors Christmas
- Volunteer Income Tax
- Meals on Wheels
- Home Support

### ► Families

- Kids Christmas Extravaganza

### ► Volunteers

- Volunteer Gala
- Pitch-in Week

### ► Community Development

- Interagency
- Program Guide
- Community Showcase
- National Addictions Awareness Week

# Slave Lake FCSS Program Delivery

## Combination Model

### ► External Grants

- FCSS funds granted to local organizations and groups to deliver services or projects - "FCSS Funded Agencies"
- Can be ongoing grants or one-time projects
- Must meet FCSS eligibility guidelines
- Reporting expectations must be in place for accountability to the province at year end (or end of project)

### ► 2014 Funded Agencies

- Slave Lake Boys and Girls Club
- Lesser Slave Lake Regional Arts Council
- The Filipino Community Association of Slave Lake
- Slave Lake Victim Services - Volunteer Development
- Slave Lake Native Friendship Center

# Reporting Requirements

## ► Financial

- Annual report submitted to province for year end December 31<sup>st</sup> by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## ► Outcome Measures

- Annual report submitted to the province

# Role of Councils, Boards and Program Directors

## ► Municipal Council

- Determines whether to participate in FCSS
- Signs funding agreement with the province, is accountable to the province for FCSS operations
- Approves annual FCSS Budget
- Takes guidance and recommendations for programming and budgeting from the CAO, FCSS Advisory Board and Program Director
- If FCSS operates under direct municipal management, council approves grants

## ► Advisory Board

- Appointed by council to oversee FCSS program
- Terms of Reference established through enabling municipal bylaw
- With Program Director, develops annual FCSS budget and program planning to recommend for council approval
- May develop procedure for how it operates
- Approves grant applications – either in principle to recommend to council, or may have vested authority from council to approve grants and report to council
- Reports to council, as determined by council
- Ensures FCSS program meets needs of community, within approved budget and FCSS legislation

# Role of Councils, Boards and Program Directors

## ► Program Director

- Municipal employee
- Executive director, program manager, program coordinator, etc.
- Works with the advisory board to develop annual program plan and budget; responsible for managing day-to-day operations of FCSS program
- Reports to advisory board and is supervised by CAO or designated municipal manager
- Is a knowledgeable and trusted resource to advisory board and council's decision-making
- Has a good relationship with provincial FCSS office and FCSSAA; is key resource for relaying information to advisory board, council and CAO
- Knows what's happening in community, regionally and provincially that might impact FCSS program delivery

# Provincial Funding

## History

- ▶ 1997 31.1 million
- ▶ 1998 36.1 million
- ▶ 1999 36.6 million
- ▶ 2000 37.6 million
- ▶ 2001 42.3 million
- ▶ 2002 57.3 million
- ▶ 2003 58.6 million
- ▶ 2004 61.1 million
- ▶ 2005 62.5 million
- ▶ 2006 64.5 million
- ▶ 2007 67.5 million (includes 1.2 million for one-time supplemental funding to small rural programs)
- ▶ 2008 70.0 million
- ▶ 2009 74.4 million (includes approx. 2.5 million unspent from the Community Partnership Enhancement Fund)
- ▶ 2010 74.8 million
- ▶ 2011 74.7 million
- ▶ 2012 74.8 million
- ▶ 2013 74.8 million
- ▶ 2014 74.8 million
- ▶ 2015-17 No increase projected; flat lined at 74.8 million