



**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018 FUNDING**

Issue

The Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Advisory Committee has reviewed 17 applications for funding totaling \$319,435, and is seeking Council authorization for an expenditure of \$280,000 from the approved 2018 FCSS Operating Budget.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That, as recommended by the Family and Community Support Services Advisory Committee, \$280,000 from the 2018 Family and Community Support Services Operational Budget be approved to support community organizations as follows:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Calgary and Area - Mentoring in Okotoks	\$50,000
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society - Foothills Community Immigrant Services Volunteer Program	\$ 5,000
Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools - The Connections Program	\$25,000
Citizens on Patrol Okotoks - Volunteer Program	\$ 1,000
Foothills Country Hospice Society - Volunteer Services Program	\$12,800
Foothills Fetal Alcohol Society - FASD Prevention and Awareness Project	\$ 7,500
Foothills Regional Victim Services Association - Volunteer Program	\$ 7,000
Foothills School Division - Family School Liaison Counsellor Program	\$35,000
Foothills School Division - Success Connector Program	\$25,000
Foothills Special Needs Association for Parents and Siblings (SNAPS) - Family Support	\$15,000
High River and District Parent Link Centre - Okotoks Parent Link Programming	\$17,000
Junior Achievement South Alberta - Foothills Region - Volunteer Program	\$ 2,000
Literacy for Life Foundation - Community Family Literacy Projects	\$12,000
Okotoks and District Seniors' Club - Program Facilitator	\$ 6,000
Okotoks Meals on Wheels Society - Volunteer Appreciation	\$ 875
Rowan House Society - Branches Preventative Education and Awareness Program	\$20,000
Wild Rose Community Connections - Dad's Central	\$38,825

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Calgary and Area - Mentoring in Okotoks

Amount Requested: \$63,000

Big Brothers Big Sisters offer mentoring programs in Okotoks. Through these programs, children and youth receive high quality mentoring services both site and community based. Mentoring is effective as a preventative tool, helping youth navigate through a host of risk factors, increasing resiliency, opening new worlds and opportunities to those involved, promoting success in school, and easing the transition from social or cultural isolation into mainstream Canadian society. Volunteers who mentor also gain new insights into the issues facing children and youth. FCSS funding will be used to support the capacity of Big Brothers Big Sisters district office in Okotoks to operate mentoring programs and services in the community.

Calgary Catholic Immigration Society - Foothills Community Immigrant Services Volunteer Program

Amount Requested: \$16,700

Foothills Community Immigrant Services (FCIS) is a rural project of Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) and has been operating in Okotoks since 2009. They are the only immigrant service agency in Okotoks and the Foothills area providing comprehensive settlement services to immigrants and refugees; along with community orientation, direct client services, newcomer family support, informal English learning, community referrals and assistance with integration into the community. The FCIS Volunteer Program provides opportunities for local residents (both Canadian born and newcomers) to provide important support and community connections for newcomers to Okotoks. FCSS funding will be used to help cover the Volunteer Coordinator wages, volunteer training and appreciation.

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools - The Connections Program

Amount Requested: \$25,000

The Connections Program is designed to meet the needs of students who have been unsuccessful in a traditional school setting. The program is designed to keep vulnerable students in school by facilitating a positive school bonding experience. Significant in-school social and emotional supports and cooperation with, or referral to, external supports are provided to meet the needs of these students and their families. The funding will be used to support the existing Okotoks-based Connections Program.

Citizens on Patrol Okotoks - Volunteer Program**Amount Requested: \$5,960**

Citizens on Patrol Okotoks provides an important service to the Town, RCMP and Okotoks Municipal Enforcement by supporting their efforts to keep Okotoks a safe, healthy and friendly place for all residents. By engaging local citizens to support their community they feel connected and get great satisfaction from doing something positive and proactive for their community. The Citizens on Patrol organization is 100% volunteer based. FCSS funding will be used for volunteer appreciation and training.

Foothills Country Hospice Society - Volunteer Services Program**Amount Requested: \$12,800**

The Foothills Country Hospice utilizes volunteers to support clinical staff, patients and their families. Grief support services are provided, including telephone support that is offered to families by volunteers for up to a year following the death of a loved one. FCSS funding will be used to help cover the Volunteer Coordinator wages, volunteer training and appreciation.

Foothills Fetal Alcohol Society - FASD Prevention and Awareness Project**Amount Requested: \$7,500**

The Foothills Fetal Alcohol Society's (FFAS) mission is "To enhance capacity for the prevention of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) and for the provision of care and support to rural communities". Supports are provided to caregivers, professionals and individuals with FASD. Education, prevention and awareness initiatives are also facilitated in the community. FCSS funding will be used to provide or offset of preventative programming to youth, adults and general public awareness.

Foothills Regional Victim Services Association - Volunteer Program**Amount Requested: \$7,000**

Foothills Regional Victim Services Association provides support, information and referrals to victims of crime and/or trauma. Immediate crisis support is provided and in the case of criminal court proceedings, victims are kept updated and given court orientation and accompaniment. Highly trained community volunteers, available around the clock, provide services to victims under the direction and supervision of a paid coordinator. FCSS funding will be used to offset volunteer expenses, including out of pocket expenditures, mileage and training.

Foothills School Division - Family School Liaison Counsellor Program**Amount Requested: \$35,000**

The Family School Liaison Counsellor (FSLC) Program provides counselling to children and their families to address psycho-social, emotional, and behavioural concerns. FSLC staff work collaboratively with schools and agencies in the community to help students and families develop and strengthen positive coping skills to deal with disruptive, stressful or challenging events. FCSS funding will be used to support FSLC staff.

Foothills School Division - Success Connector Program**Amount Requested: \$25,000**

The Success Connector works to strengthen the student's connection to the school, build consistency and structures into the student's day, provide modification of the environment and support their learning, wellness and social-emotional health in a holistic manner. The Connections Program relies on strong, mutually respectful, personal relationships to engage cooperation in the classroom, school community and the community of Okotoks. FCSS funding will be used for staff salaries.

Foothills Special Needs Association for Parents and Siblings (SNAPS) - Family Support**Amount Requested: \$15,000**

Foothills Special Needs Association for Parents and Siblings (SNAPS) serves all barriered individuals, of all ages, with all diagnoses and their families in Okotoks and surrounding area. SNAPS works with the community, individuals and families to support special needs individuals to become fully included in all areas of the community. FCSS funding will be used for staff wages to run Okotoks programs.

High River and District Parent Link Centre - Okotoks Parent Link Programming**Amount Requested: \$18,000**

Parent Link Centres provide a free, universal program open to all families, parents, para-professionals and childcare providers working and living with children aged prenatal to six years. "Connecting through play" is a guiding philosophy of Parent Link Centres, offering play based learning activities that support the parent's role in fostering optimal child development through parent/child activities. It also includes parenting programs which provide support and information to families regarding positive parenting practices. FCSS funding will be used to offset costs for the Okotoks program.

Junior Achievement South Alberta – Foothills Region - Volunteer Program
Amount Requested: \$2,000

With the engagement of community volunteers, Junior Achievement South Alberta programs will inspire and educate all young Albertans to succeed in the global economy by developing entrepreneurial, financial literacy and leadership skills. FCSS funding will be used to offset volunteer training costs.

Literacy for Life Foundation - Community Family Literacy Projects
Amount Requested: \$12,000

Literacy for Life programs develop literacy and learning skills, while parents build positive relationships and create an effective learning environment. Programming is free to families and is available for babies through to adults. FCSS funding will be used to purchase resources and materials for the Books for Babies program and wages for facilitators to provide the Building Blocks, Dog Tales and preschool group programs.

Okotoks and District Seniors' Club - Program Facilitator
Amount Requested: \$8,000

The Program Facilitator provides seniors with information on available resources and community connections, and works with members to create an environment that encourages social contact and physical activity. Seniors are encouraged to be involved in the Club and in the community, so they understand that their contributions are valued and appreciated. FCSS funding will be used to offset the cost of the Club's Program Facilitator.

Okotoks Meals on Wheels Society - Volunteer Appreciation
Amount Requested: \$875

Okotoks Meals on Wheels Society is solely operated by volunteers that generously provide their time and expertise for the operations of the society. Volunteers use their private vehicles for the delivery of hot meals 5 days a week to Okotoks residents, in partnership with Sandstone Lodge. The FCSS grant money will be used for volunteer recognition, appreciation and training.

Rowan House Society - Branches Preventative Education and Awareness Program
Amount Requested: \$25,000

The Branches Preventative Education and Awareness Program engages the community and promotes the prevention of family violence through education, awareness, and volunteerism. Rowan House provides Branches presentations, workshops, and education/awareness displays on topics related to family violence. FCSS funding will be used to support community and in-shelter preventative education.

Wild Rose Community Connections - Dad's Central

Amount Requested: \$40,600

Wild Rose Community Connections mission is "Creating positive life opportunities for children by working with parents and caregivers to strengthen the family unit and their connection to their community." Early intervention and preventative programs are provided for families. The Dad's Central Program builds capacity for Dads and other positive, influential males in a child's life by provide parenting education and connecting families to meaningful community resources. FCSS funding will be used for the Dad's Central program.

Strategic Plan Goals

<input type="checkbox"/>	Manage Community Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Strong Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Quality Community Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain Organizational Excellence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster Economic Vitality
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote Environmental Stewardship

Governing Policies/Bylaws/Legislation or Agreements

Family and Community Support Services Act and Regulation.

Public Engagement/Communication Strategy

Funding decisions are available to view on the Town website. Funded programs provide recognition to Okotoks Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) either as in name or by displaying the logo.

Alternatives for Consideration

N/A

CAO Comments

I support the recommendations of the Family and Community Support Services Advisory Committee.

Attachment(s)

1. N/A

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January 17, 2018