



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: SAIF FUNDING

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present a motion for which Councillor Hughes gave notice on October 19, 2020.

PROPOSED MOTION(S):

That Stop Abuse in Families (SAIF) be provided additional one-time funding of \$75,000 to provide elder abuse and additional counselling services for 2020-2021 as a result of the increased demand due to COVID-19, to be funded from the stabilization reserve.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority # 5: Housing and Social Well-Being: Enhance housing options and social supports.

To explore options to address demands for counselling services.

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION

N/A

BACKGROUND:

SAIF's mission is to promote healthy, respectful relationships through education, support & advocacy. They provide counselling, education and advocacy for those who have been impacted by family abuse and violence in order to promote healing, develop coping strategies, support safety planning and build healthy relationship behaviors to avoid future abuse.

Elder Abuse Program

The Elder Abuse Community Response was a priority of the Seniors Working Group in 2009. A community partnership created the St. Albert Elder Abuse Protocol and a committee worked together to seek sustainable funding. The Elder Abuse program has been operational since 2012, delivered by SAIF and funded through the New

Horizons for Seniors Pan-Canadian Fund, Victims of Crime Fund, and community donations. The program caseload averages 90 clients annually, with a budget of \$35,000. The program is currently funded through a New Horizon's Grant for the period April 1, 2020 through to March 31, 2021. SAIF does not anticipate continued funding in 2021. If SAIF is not successful in finding alternate grant funding to offer the Elder Abuse Program, that service will end after March 31, 2021.

Counselling and SAIF Education

SAIF provides counselling to youth and adults who have experienced or witnessed abuse in their family or interpersonal relationships. Since March 2020, there has been a 70% increase in demand for service.

Adult counselling is funded through other government grants and community donations.

The COVID pandemic has resulted in financial challenges for the organization; in 2020 SAIF has seen a 50% decline in revenue for the counselling program and anticipates the same for 2021, which will result in a decrease in service to the community.

Costs for youth counselling have been offset by a grant through FCSS Program Funding. In 2020, SAIF received \$75,310: \$35,000 for youth counselling and \$41,300 to deliver the SAIF Ed program. SAIF has applied for FCSS Program funding in 2021, requesting \$75,000 to continue to deliver both programs.

Risks: There are risks associated with Council approving funding to an agency outside the current grant process:

- A framework for the grant process was developed in 2018 with a review of both the policy for the Outside Agency Grant and FCSS Program Funding. The review and amendments resulted in less confusion and stronger controls related to duplication of funding to organizations. The granting procedure may be perceived as undermined by agencies who participated in the process.
- Should Council approve the request from SAIF, they may be creating expectations for other community organizations who request funding outside the established grant process.
- This may cause confusion as to the role of the Community Services Advisory Committee.

Report Date: November 16, 2020
Author: Connie Smigielski
Department: Community Services
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer: Kerry Hilts
Chief Administrative Officer: Kevin Scoble