



Legislation Text

File #: AR-20-094, **Version:** 1

TAMRMS#: B06

Rescission of Council Policy C-CS-12 - FCSS Spring Grant Program

Presented by: Connie Smigielski, Manager of Family & Community Support Services, Community Services Department

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council Policy C-CS-12 - FCSS Spring Grant Program be rescinded, and that the remaining funds of \$102,978.43 be made available through the annual FCSS Operating Grant Program.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To recommend to Council that Council Policy C-CS-12 - FCSS Spring Grant Program be rescinded.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION

On June 10, 2019 the Governance, Priorities and Finance Committee passed the following motion:

(POL-19-002)

That the Governance, Priorities and Finance Committee recommend to Council that Council Policy C-CS-12 - FCSS Spring Grant Program be rescinded, and that the remaining funds associated be made available through the annual FCSS Operating Grant Program.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Administration is bringing forward a recommendation to rescind Council Policy C-CS-12 - FCSS Spring Grant Program.

The FCSS Spring Grant Program was established in 1998, and was originally funded from the Preventative Social Services Reserve Fund after the demise of the Canadian Assistance Plan. The Program has been providing a source of funding for eligible community groups for the delivery of preventative social services projects. Total amount of funding available to the community is \$5,700 annually.

The FCSS Spring Grant Program has been available to community not-for-profits for 21 years. Uptake of the grant has been sporadic; in some years no applications were received, and in others, requests were received for only a portion of the total grant. The small amount of funds available and/or the eligibility criteria has not been conducive to starting a new initiative or special project, as outlined in the Council Policy.

The Preventative Social Services Reserve has a balance of \$102,978.43 as of December 31, 2018.

Administration is recommending the FCSS Spring Grant Program be rescinded and the funds remaining be made available through the annual FCSS Operating Grant Program.

One of the key principles of the FCSS Program is local responsibility for priority-setting and resource allocation. Within the parameters of the *Family and Community Support Services Act* and Regulation, each municipality determines how this funding should be allocated to best meet the needs of their community. Through partnerships with outside agencies, the City can leverage our partners to help meet priorities and emerging needs.

Community Services undergoes an annual assessment of need through program statistics, current demographics, and outcome measures. An increase in funding available to the community will broaden the scope of programs offered and assist in addressing gaps and identified priority actions.

Community Services is committed to investing in not-for-profit organizations and appreciates their contribution to programs that promote and facilitate the development of stronger communities. With an increase in funding available to community not-for-profits, the City can enhance the delivery of preventative social services in an area not currently available and reduce the need for crisis intervention in the community by providing support to children, youth and families at the earliest opportunity.

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS OR ENGAGEMENT

Administration met with the five not-for-profit organizations currently funded through the FCSS Operating Grant Program to seek their input on the recommendation. Feedback received was positive and there were no concerns expressed.

The Community Services Advisory Committee were unanimous in their support with the recommendation to rescind Policy C-CS-12 FCSS Spring Grant.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

Financial:

None at this time.

Legal / Risk:

None at this time.

Program or Service:

None at this time.

Organizational:

None at this time.

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

If Council does not wish to support the recommendation, the following alternative could be considered:

That no change be made to the current FCSS Spring Grant Program, and the program continues status quo.

Report Date: June 24, 2019

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Deputy Chief Administrative Officer: Kerry Hilts

Chief Administrative Officer: Kevin Scoble