

NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT **2019 FCSS REPORT**



What is Family and Community Support Services?

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a unique funding partnership between the Government of Alberta and participating municipalities and Métis settlements that supports the design and delivery of preventive social initiatives that enhance the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. FCSS transforms government money – provincial and municipal – into social profit.

The Province has been providing FCSS funding since 1966, first under the Preventive Social Services Act and Conditional Regulation and, since 1981, the Family and Community Support Services Act. There were about a dozen participants at the outset; today, 314 municipalities and Métis settlements receive FCSS funding and 205 programs. No other province or territory has similar legislation.

The Province provides a pre-determined grant that is calculated according to a formula that takes into consideration the local population and income levels. The grant covers 80 percent of total program costs while municipalities must contribute 20 percent. Municipalities, adhering to mandated guidelines, then determine how that funding is best allocated locally.

The 20-percent match by municipalities/Métis settlements is the minimum required but may allocate more. According to the Province's funding formula, the total cost deemed necessary to run an FCSS program in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is \$2,405,641, provincial/municipal contribution; \$1,924,513: \$481,128 respectively. However, the Municipality contributed \$1,136,412 that contributed to the actual cost of the program \$3,060,925.



Where Does FCSS Funding Go?

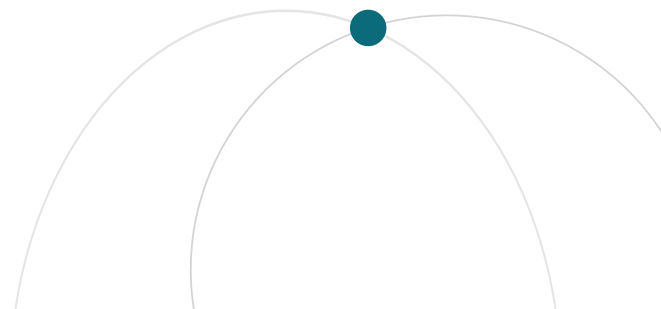
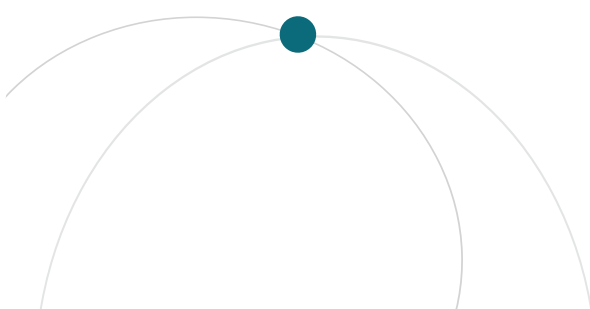
FCSS funding is awarded through the Alberta Ministry of Community and Social Services. The Municipality, guided by the Community Services Department, then distributes the money for preventive programs and services. Prevention is a proactive, intentional process focused on strengthening the positive conditions that contribute to the well-being of youth and children, families and communities, and building upon the personal attributes and skills that are required to ensure healthy lifestyles, especially for those who are at risk. According to the FCSS Act and Program Handbook, there are three levels of prevention – primary, secondary, and tertiary. FCSS programs focus on primary prevention (community development) and secondary prevention (community-based services). Community development and social planning are part of primary prevention and intervention. This includes administrative support for community committees that fall under FCSS guidelines; community engagement; awareness campaigns; research; workshops; planning and evaluation; report writing, training and mentorship for service provider and Municipal staff, and local/provincial collaborations.

Under secondary prevention, community-based services and the Community Investment Programs whose programs and outcomes align with the FCSS Act, Regulation, and the FCSS Program Handbook are partially supported with FCSS funds and municipal contribution.

FCSS is an extremely effective partnership with outcomes that benefit everyone. Funding is allocated to service providers in the region that provide much-needed support to residents.

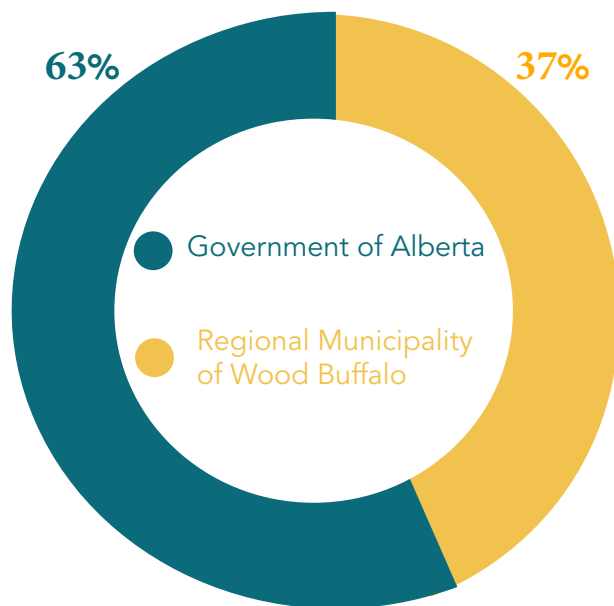
A community's most valuable assets are its people. Investments made in developing and supporting people pay dividends in all aspects of community life.

Young girls are empowered through mentorship programs, children with special needs are aided through early intervention, youth are engaged through arts and sports activities, families are assisted with parenting programs and drop-in play, individuals experiencing homelessness are helped to increase their life skills, newcomers are supported to integrate into the region, and seniors are connected with caring volunteers and support services.

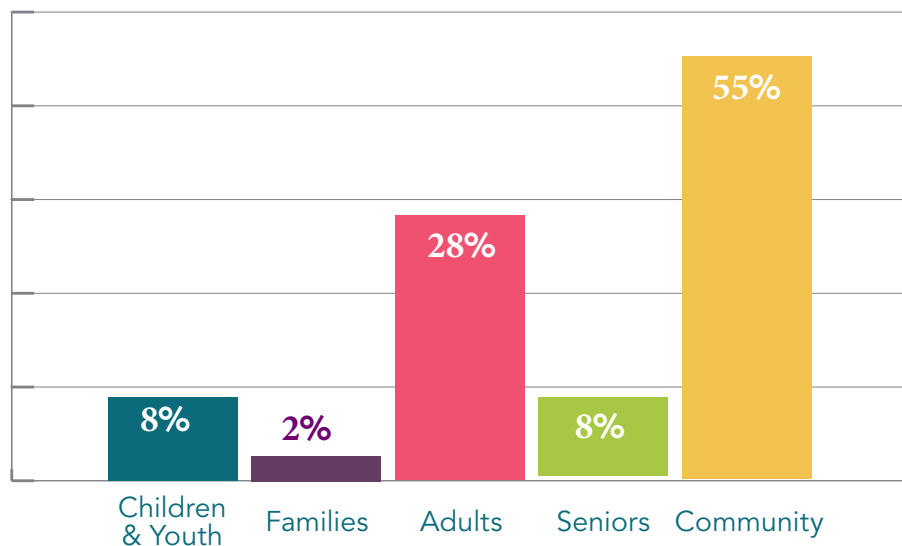


2019 Snapshot

Partnered Contributions



Every \$1 contributed by the Municipality leverages \$2.69 in the community.



¹The value of Volunteering in Canada; the conference Board of Canada (2018). https://volunteer.ca/vdemo/Campaigns_DOCS/Value%20of%20Volunteering%20in%20Canada%20Conf%20Board%20Final%20Report%20EN.pdf



5 & 16

5 SOCIAL PROFITS
AND 16 PROGRAMS
RECEIVED FUNDING



6,386

PEOPLE WERE SERVED



2,317

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED



309

VOLUNTEERS PUT IN

3,322

VOLUNTEER HOURS
EQUIVALENT TO

\$89,694¹

Children and Youth

FCSS-funded programs for children and youth encourage positive development and increase and improve independence, coping and interpersonal skills, relationships and connections, and awareness of social needs and responsibility.



Zap+ Out of School and Limitless Youth Program Fort McMurray Boys and Girls Club

Provide a safe, accepting environment where they can make friends, engage with the community, learn new skills, and increase self-esteem

The New Beginning-Girls Inc of Northern Alberta

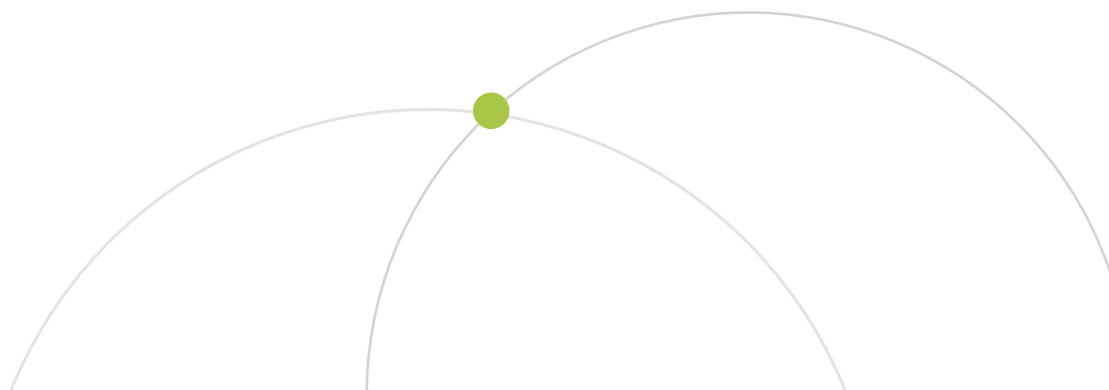
Empowers and equip girls with the skills and information needed to make healthy choices and break the cycle of violence against Indigenous Woman and girls. Girls develop positive identities, self-esteem and understand the root causes of violence and the impact on the lives of indigenous women and girls.

FCSS Children and Youth Counselling Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Increases awareness of opportunities to engage with and participate in the community; refers or connects them to appropriate agencies and support services as needed.

Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth (MACOY) Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Empowers and engages youth to participate actively and inclusively in the community and to have a voice in decisions that affect youth in the region.



Impact

According to program surveys:

100%

of youth who participated reported feeling good about themselves and confident because of the New Beginning Program

93%

of youth who participated reported feeling good about themselves as a result of the Limitless Youth Program

89%

of youth who participated reported feeling connected to their culture, race, and ethnic group because of the New Beginnings Program.

95%

of youth who participated reported spending time helping others in the community because of the MACOY program

90%

of youth who participated said that they are able to make good decisions because of the Limitless Youth Program

81%

of youth who participated report being supported by MACOY program

M.S and I am a special needs teacher at Composite High School. The Boys and Girls Club has been coming into my class to participate in Boccia. Through Boccia, all students of various cognitive and physical needs are able to participate in a team-based physical activity. Through this opportunity, all students can play, learn, and compete with each other, while having fun and enjoying the game. Students were able to learn various social skills such as, sportsmanship behavior, communication skills, respect, and compassion."

~Fort McMurray Boys and Girls Club- Kids Special Needs Program~



489

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH
WERE SERVED**



125

VOLUNTEERS PUT IN

720

VOLUNTEER HOURS



354

**RESOURCE MATERIALS
WERE PROVIDED**

(such as educational material, information about supports and youth opportunities, etc.)

Families

FCSS-funded programs for families aim to enhance social well-being and healthy functioning, develop positive relationships, and ensure that they have social supports, such as networks and access to resources.



Postnatal Support Services

The HUB Family Resource Centre

Provide Outreach program to families with infants, providing opportunities to bring information on self-care, supports parentals' mental health and how to access resources available.

Circle of Security Parenting Program

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Helps parents develop positive and more confident parenting skills; expands social networks and decreases social isolation; improves understanding of child behaviour and development; focuses on early intervention models to increase attachment.

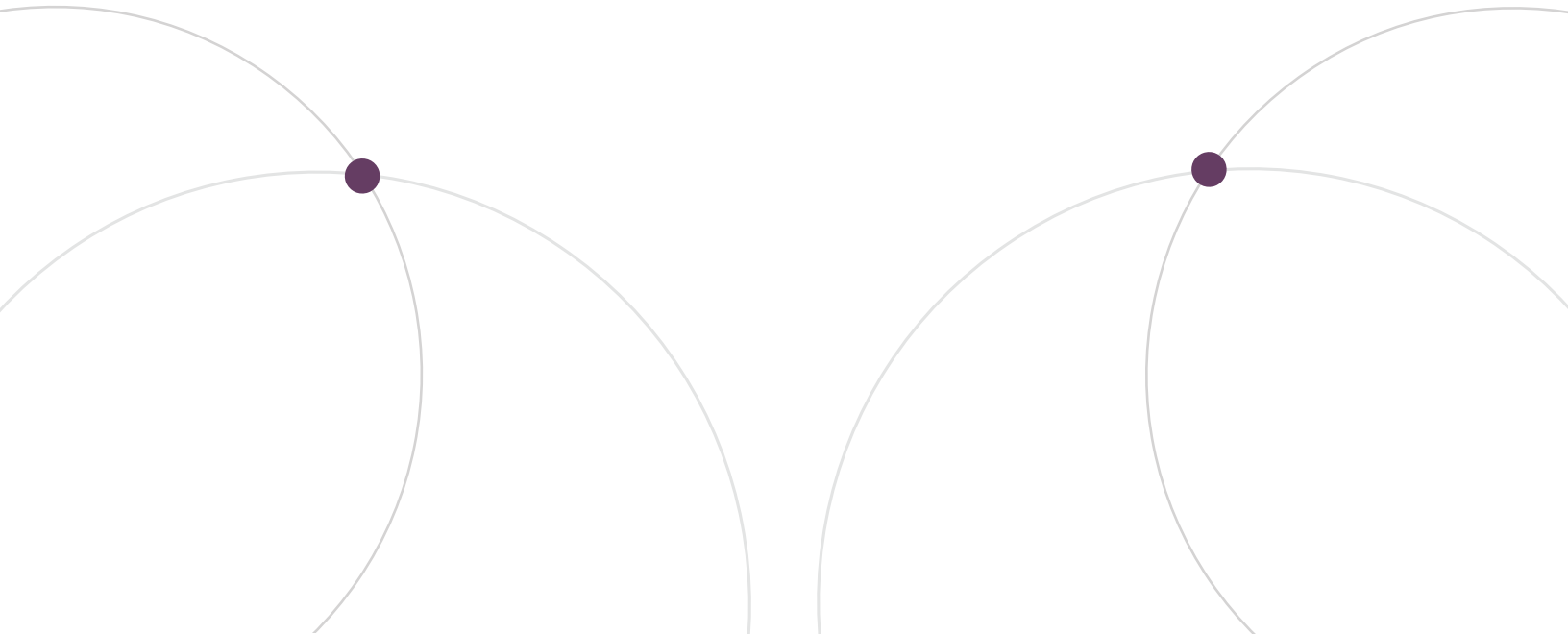
The Life Skills Program

Support Through Housing Team

Provides one-on-one mentoring and coaching services to program participants, provides basic life skills, enhance self-confidence and self-sufficiency.

FCSS Family Counselling *Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo*

Strengthens and enhances family connections; improves relationships and coping skills; links families to resources; increases confidence and ability to deal with psychosocial challenges.



Impact

According to program surveys:

100%

of families who participated in the the postnatal program reported being more knowledgeable about children's changing needs as they grow and develop.

100%

of families who participated in the life skills program reported improved effective family communication

100%

of parents who participated in the Postnatal program reported accessing resources needed for their families.

95%

of families who participated in the Circle of Security program indicated improved quality of social relations.

"Being able to attend Moms-Matter and drop in has helped me to enter otherhood with more confidence and support. Connecting with other moms helps me feel validated and less isolated "S.D. said.

~The Hub-Postpartum Program ~



104

FAMILIES WERE SERVED



8

VOLUNTEERS PUT IN

43

VOLUNTEER HOURS



150

RESOURCE MATERIALS WERE PROVIDED

(such as information about parenting supports, educational materials, etc.)



138

REFERRALS WERE PROVIDED

Adults

FCSS-funded adult individuals' programs seek to improve the social well-being of the individual, including enhancing self-esteem, strengthening relationships, developing life skills, and increasing connections, competency, access to resources, and awareness of social issues.



Conversation Cafe'- Diversity and Inclusion Diversity and Inclusion

Provide individuals with information on self-care and to access resources as well as increasing awareness about inequality, racism and discrimination as community social issues.

The Life Skills Program Support Through Housing Team

Greater confidence and awareness of available supports and resources; improved understanding of healthy choices; enhanced life skills; more engagement in the community; increased social connections, autonomy and individuals' improved capacity to meet their needs.

FCSS Adult Counselling Services

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Provides confidential intake and referral services, advocacy and direct counselling services to individuals; improves coping skills to deal with psychosocial challenges; strengthens self-esteem and resiliency; increases knowledge about and use of support services.

"...Counselling Services helped me find a new sense of self pride and confidence with my choices. I've been able to find with my inner centre and create more balance in my life. I have learned a great deal from counselling, and I feel I can attribute much of the success I have in relationships, life and career choices"

~FCSS Counselling Services RMWB~

Impact

According to program surveys:

86%

of adults who participated said that their capacity to meet their needs improved because of the Life Skills Development Program

86%

of adults who participated reported that they improved their lives and felt more positive about themselves thanks to the Life Skills Development Program

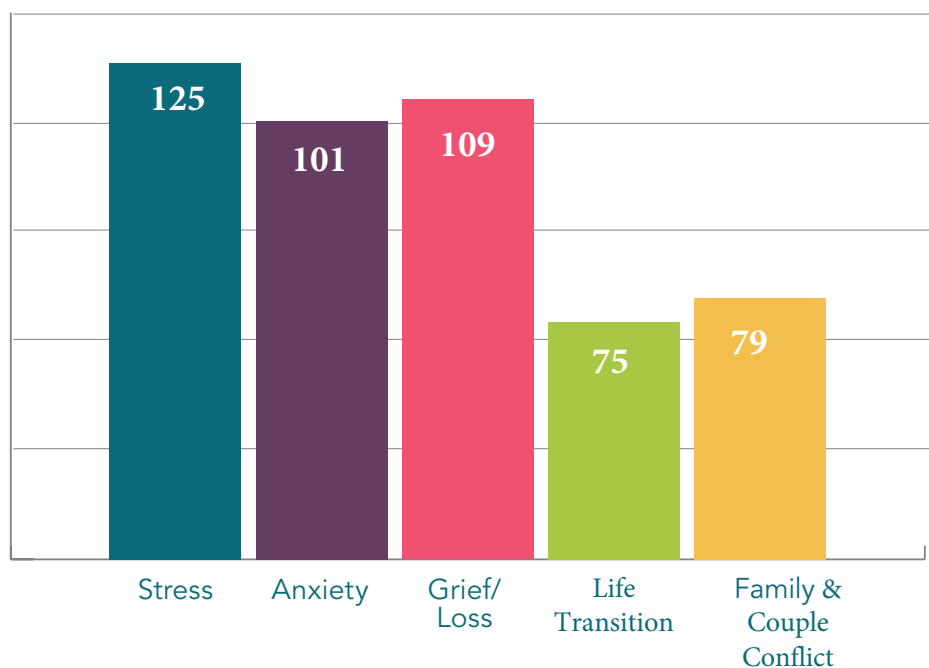
92%

of adults who participated indicated that they increased their social relationships because of the FCSS Counselling Outreach Program

92%

of adults who participated said that they increased their coping skills because the FCSS Counselling Outreach Program

FCSS Counselling Services Clients & Overarching Concerns



906

PEOPLE WERE SERVED



17

VOLUNTEERS PUT IN

161

VOLUNTEER HOURS



501

RESOURCE MATERIALS WERE PROVIDED

(such as educational material, information about supports available, etc.)



1,019

REFERRALS WERE PROVIDED

Seniors

FCSS-funded programs for seniors aim to improve their well-being, including strengthening coping and interpersonal skills, improving social supports, and increasing connections with others.



Seniors Outreach & Advocate Program

St. Aidan's Society

Provides services to increase access to services; increase ability to use needed support services; Seniors are connected and engaged with others in the community; healthy, dignity and quality of life for seniors are safeguarded and promoted.

Snow Angels Program

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Helps seniors feel safer and more secure, valued, respected and a part of the community; increases connections and lessens isolation; promotes intergenerational interactions and community engagement through volunteer recruitment.



Impact

According to program surveys:

95%

of seniors who participated reported that they felt safer leaving their homes during the winter because of the Snow Angels Program

91%

of seniors who participated reported feeling being connected and engaged in the community because of the Seniors Outreach & Advocate Program

95%

of seniors who participated reported feeling valued and improved sense of belonging to the community because of the Snow Angel Program

96%

of those who participated reported increased social connections and social support because of their Snow Angel volunteers and Seniors Outreach program.

"I opened my door and my driveway was all cleaned & my eyes started to tear. Thank you. Thank you."

~The Snow Angel Program-RMBW~



521

SENIORS WERE SERVED



118

VOLUNTEERS PUT IN

1,661

VOLUNTEER HOURS



1,019

RESOURCE MATERIALS WERE PROVIDED

(such as educational materials, information about senior support services, etc.)



1,019

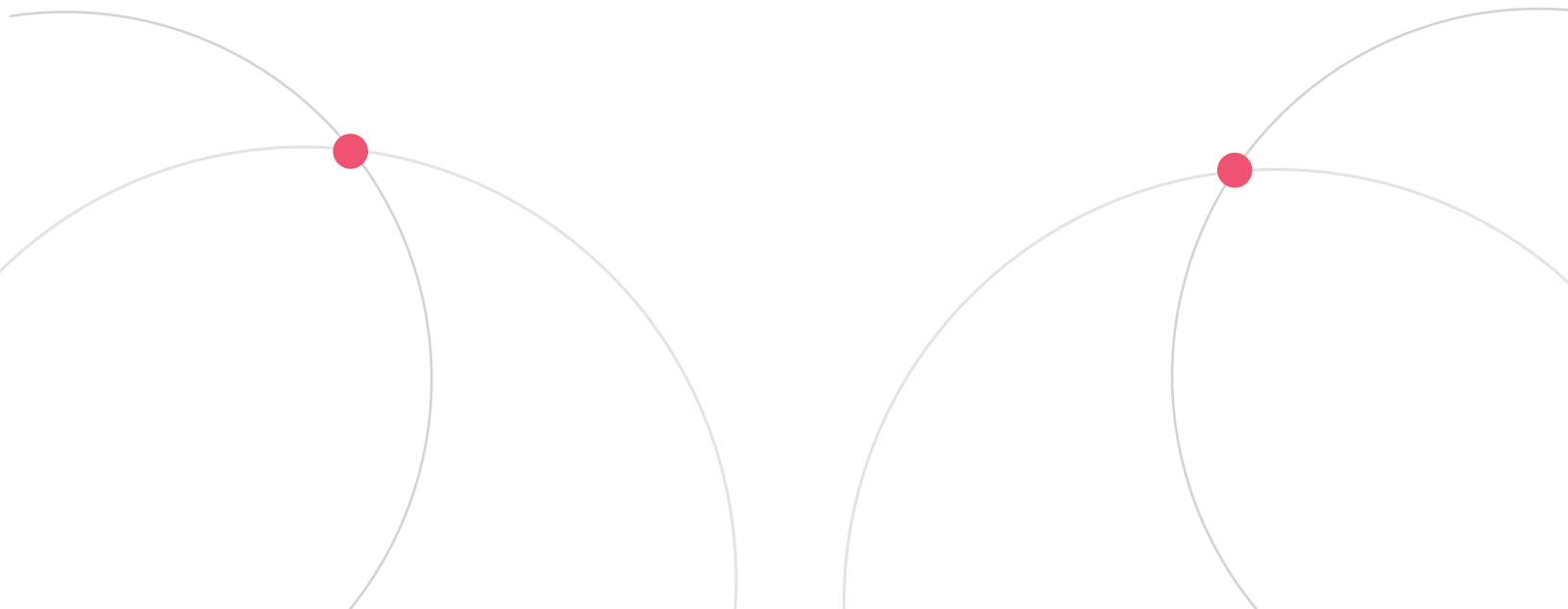
REFERRALS WERE PROVIDED

Community Development

FCSS community development programs are delivered by the Municipality. These initiatives seek to improve the social well-being of the community, including increasing connectedness, engagement and awareness of social issues and partnerships to address them.

FCSS Counselling Outreach Program *Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo*

- Provided outreach counseling services for more support for psychosocial challenges and provided educational workshops and information sessions to service providers such as grief and loss, the circle of the securities; to enhance a greater understanding of psychosocial challenges.
- Supported community partnerships providing residents with improved access to services and increased efficiency of referral process to programs and services available
- Facilitated partnerships to improve access to services and make the referral process, programs and services more efficient.
- Promoted cooperation with service providers and stakeholders to provide consistent support, wrap-around services, and collaborative case management.



Community Development_(continued)

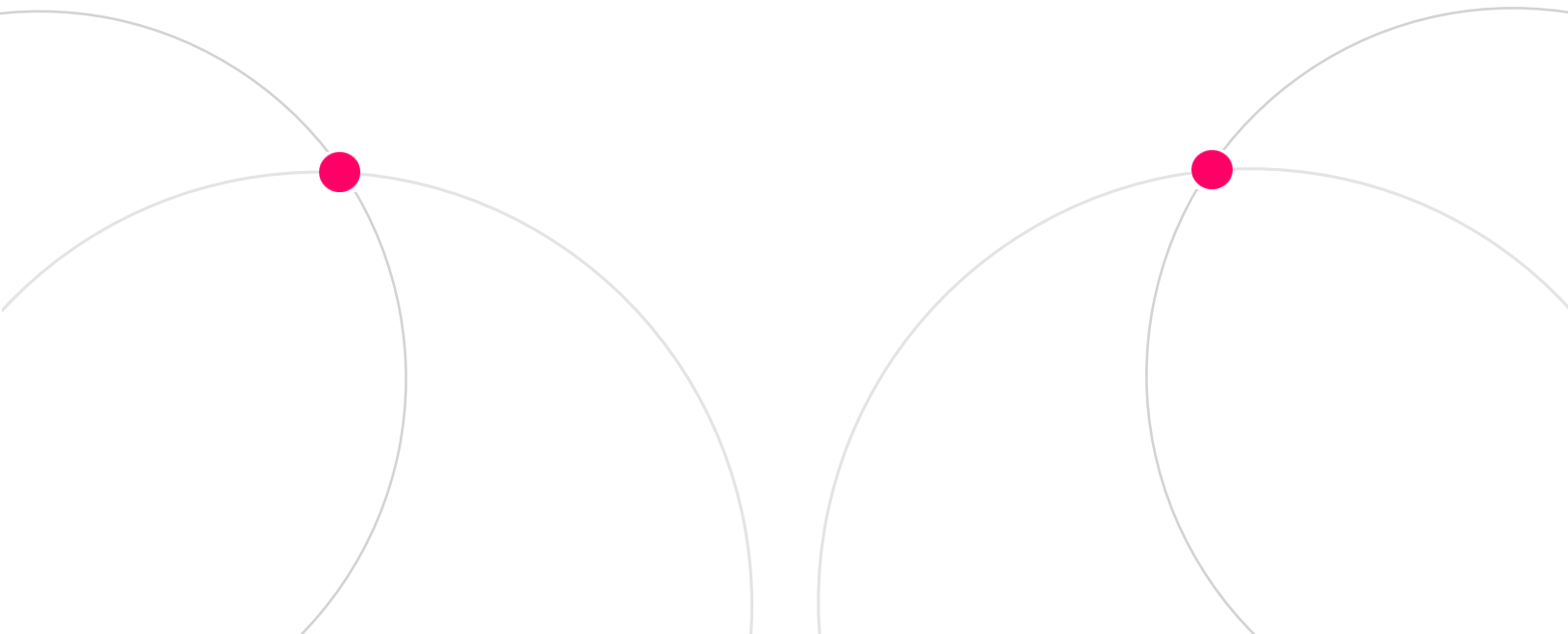


Children and Youth Program *Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo*

- Supported service providers dealing with children and youth; increased awareness of available supports and services; improved referral processes.
- Provided administrative support for the Roots of Empathy program.
- Provided administrative support for MACOY; oversaw expansion of the program.

Seniors Program *Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo*

- Provided administrative support for the council appointed Advisory Committee on Ageing and supported the implementation of the age-friendly community work plan.
- Administered the Snow Angels program, recruiting volunteers, and coordinating with seniors and volunteers.
- Sat on the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council, providing support for provincial initiatives, developing community response models, and increasing awareness about elder abuse issues.
- Raised awareness about the challenges that seniors face; supported service providers addressing senior-related issues.



Community Development_(continued)

Social Planning

Diversity and Inclusion

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

- Increased awareness and understanding of diversity and inclusion and strengthened a sense of belonging; broadened the inclusiveness of programs and services; reduced barriers to supports and services.
- Developed and implemented a Workplace Inclusion Charter to encourage local businesses to adopt inclusive policies and practices.
- Provided administrative support to the Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity, and Equality (RACIDE); strengthened RACIDE by providing learning opportunities.

"I See You: Sawubona" Exhibit

- The exhibit has generated awareness and understanding about how discrimination impacts survivors, the community and, the reality that hate, racism and discrimination incidents occur within our communities. Participants reported improved quality of social relationships, increased understanding of community social issues, and impact associated with social issues.

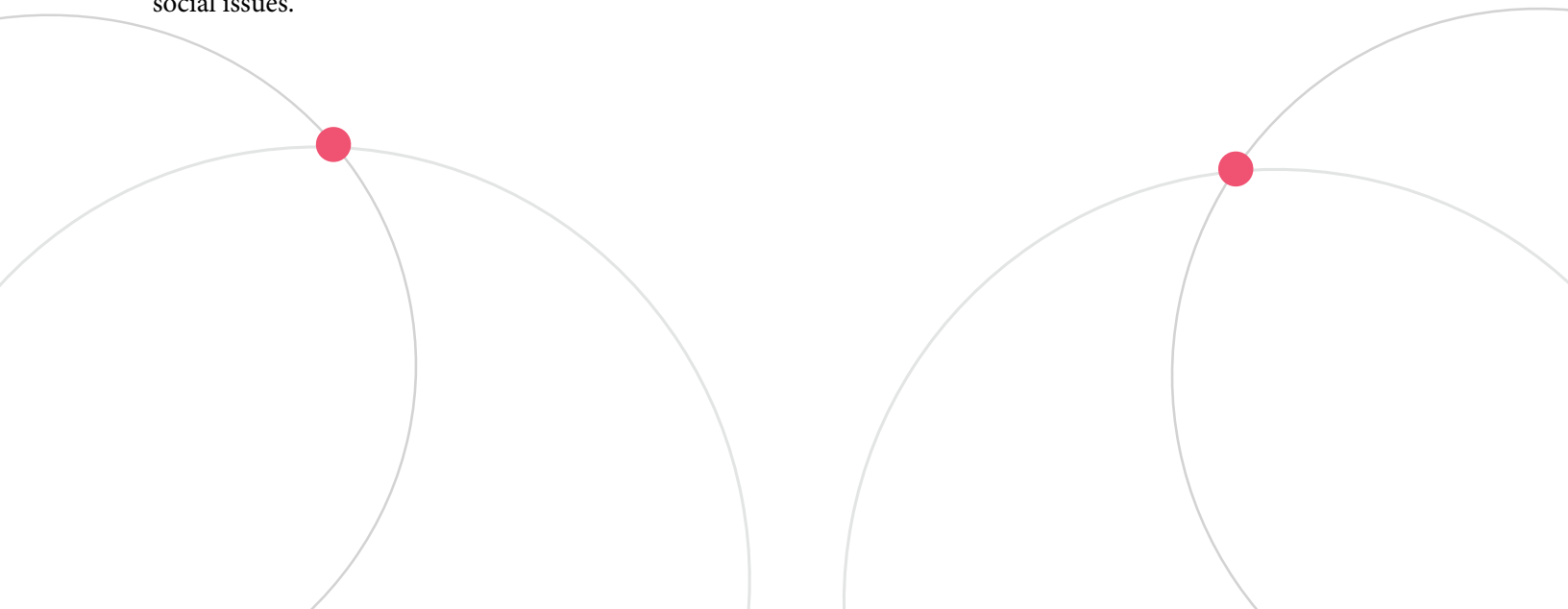
Poverty Reduction

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

- Provided administrative support to the Poverty Reduction Network (PRN) initiatives to raise awareness about poverty as a community social issue through workshops and training, and community events.
- Member of Alberta Living Wage Council, and Cities Reducing Poverty supported advocacy for affordable services; and to raise awareness about poverty provincially.

Coalitions Creating Equity (CCE)-Wood Buffalo

- The Coalition Creating Equity (CCE) is part of province-wide community of practice that supports the advancements of all equity issues and greater awareness of the human rights of Albertan, CCE also supports communities and individuals in navigating the pathways and access points to services to heal and support one another.



Community Development (continued)

Social Planning



Outcome Measurement Training *Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo*

- Increased awareness about and the capacity to track the impact of social programs and services in the community; improved the ability to provide evidence-based, sustainable, and effective services; broadened knowledge about outcome measurement.

Community Organization Capacity Building *Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo*

- Provided capacity-building and strategic direction plus resources to service providers and organizations, such as Pride YMM, Regional Inclusive Committee, Newcomer Interagency Network, Collaboration for Religious Inclusion, Early Years Coalition, and Y-Connect.



Impact

According to program surveys

100%

of participants accessing Social Planning support reported feeling more confident working with program evaluation tools, increased knowledge, skills, or resources to help them deliver effective programs to the community.

92%

of individuals events reported increased awareness and understanding of social issues around diversity, inclusion, and poverty in the community.

88%

of individuals reported feeling involved, connected and engaged in the community because of Poverty and homelessness awareness week's events.

86%

of community agencies/ organizations reported gaining new skills and access to program resources and feeling supported

"The social planning team developed our outcome measurement tool in a logical, concise and research-based manner. They were collaborative in this approach and they asked questions along the way. They are extremely knowledgeable in their field and provided useful advice."

**Service Provider using
Social Planning Support**



4,287

**INDIVIDUALS AND
ORGANIZATIONS
WERE SERVED**



41

VOLUNTEERS PUT IN

707

VOLUNTEER HOURS



202

**RESOURCE MATERIALS
WERE PROVIDED**

(such as educational materials, information about support services, toolkits, etc.)

THANKS TO...

All the committed volunteers who invest time and energy in helping the community.

The many organizations and dedicated staff who help those in need and deliver much-needed programs in the community.

The Community Services staff who work diligently to serve residents, community organizations, and volunteers to improve the well-being of residents and build a vibrant and sustainable community we are proud to call home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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9909 Franklin Ave.
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K4

(780) 743-7000 [rmwb.ca/
living/social-support-
services.htm](http://rmwb.ca/living/social-support-services.htm)



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**