



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY



FCSS Rocky View County Priority Funding Framework



1. FCSS Background

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a joint municipal/provincial funding program designed to establish, administer, and operate preventive social services. At the Provincial level, the *FCSS Act* mandates an emphasis on prevention, with an 80/20 cost sharing arrangement between the province and municipalities/Métis settlements and a focus on enhanced local autonomy. Specifically, FCSS Programs across the province must do one or more of the following:

- i. Help communities identify social needs and develop responses.
- ii. Promote, encourage, and support volunteer work.
- iii. Inform the public about services.
- iv. Support children and their families' social development.
- v. Help families enrich and strengthen family life and function.
- vi. Enhance retired and semi-retired people's quality of life.

Under FCSS, **ineligible** use of funds includes initiatives/programs that:

- Are only focused on individual leisure or recreational needs.
- Provide an individual or family with basic living supports such as money, food, clothing, or shelter.
- Are only focused on rehabilitation.
- Duplicate services provided by government.





2. FCSS Rocky View County Background

Since 2000, Rocky View County has partnered with the Government of Alberta to deliver the FCSS Program. While Rocky View County Council and the Province determine the overall FCSS program budget each year, the FCSS Rocky View County Board of Directors approves FCSS grants. The Board is supported by Rocky View County administration, including the FCSS Coordinator.

Funds are disbursed each year in two funding 'streams':

1. **General FCSS Funding** intended to support larger programs and on-going smaller programs that address local needs.
2. **Special Project Funding** intended to support one-time, short term, or pilot projects costing \$7,500 or less.

Vision

Advancement of inclusive communities, resilient individuals, and strong families in Rocky View County.

Mission

To cultivate caring and inclusive communities that enhance social well-being through prevention, volunteerism, collaboration, and community development.

***Prevention** is a proactive process that strengthens the protective factors of individuals, families, and communities to promote well-being, reduce vulnerabilities, enhance quality of life and empowers them to meet the challenges of life.*



3. FCSS Rocky View County Priorities

FCSS Rocky View County prioritizes preventive programs and services that involve Rocky View County residents.

Based on a Social Needs Assessment of the County conducted in 2022, along with deliberation by the FCSS Rocky View County Board of Directors in 2023, three priority areas for FCSS Rocky View County have been identified. These priority areas point to areas of social need within the County and can help shape the direction of FCSS funding allocation, recognizing that emergent or previously overlooked needs may be brought forward and funded, helping to ensure FCSS is a responsive community investment partner within the County.

Priority Areas:

1. Mental Health Supports:

Preventive programs and services that promote and support the advancement of positive mental health outcomes for Rocky View County residents.

2. Seniors Supports:

Preventive programs and services that focus on the social needs, desires, and wellbeing of older adults living in Rocky View County.

3. Child, Youth, and Family Supports:

Preventive programs and services that focus on the social needs, desires, and wellbeing of children, youth, and families living in Rocky View County.





4. Approach for Addressing Priorities

The 2022 Social Needs Assessment also identified strengths and community priorities that can inform the approach of initiatives funded under FCSS Rocky View County. Based on these identified strengths and priorities, and with consideration of the Provincial FCSS Program objectives and the social reality in the County post-COVID19-pandemic, the Board of Directors identified three key programming approaches that can be used by initiatives seeking to impact the FCSS Rocky View County Priority Areas.

1. Community Connections:

Using existing connections or creating new connections in the community to provide preventive services and programs to Rocky View County residents.

2. Collaborative Partnerships:

Leveraging existing or developing new partnerships to collaboratively advance preventive services and programs for Rocky View County residents. This includes FCSS Rocky View County as a key community partner in building community capacity to advance initiatives.

3. Volunteerism:

Advancing or creating opportunities for Rocky View County residents to engage in community-based volunteer activities and supporting residents in becoming involved in existing or new volunteer opportunities.



FCSS Rocky View County Priority Funding Framework Overview

Promoting inclusive communities, strong families, and resilient individuals in Rocky View County through:

Prevention

Volunteerism

Collaboration

Community Development

In three priority areas:

1. Mental Health Supports



2. Seniors Supports



3. Child, Youth, and Family Supports



Using three approaches that leverage identified strengths of Rocky View County:

1. Community Connections



2. Collaborative Partnerships



3. Volunteerism





5. Guiding Principles

Evidence-Informed: Decisions are informed by and responsive to available evidence and data.

Community Partnership: FCSS Rocky View County is a partner in the community and seeks to advance and deepen community partnerships, where possible.

Equitable, Accessible, and Inclusive: It is recognized that Rocky View County residents experience different life circumstances, and that all residents can benefit from investment in preventive social services, programs, and supports. Decisions made by the FCSS Rocky View County Board take into consideration the principles of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and seek to advance processes that are as accessible as possible.

Community Capacity Building: The building of capacity within the community advances sustainability and contributes to community wellbeing in the long-term.

Responsiveness: FCSS Rocky View County seeks to be responsive to community needs and desires through ongoing connection to community.

Relationships: FCSS Rocky View County maintains strong relationships with the community, the Province, and other FCSS programs to support responsiveness and ongoing implementation of best practices.

Transparency and Accountability: FCSS Rocky View County seeks to ensure funding decisions and program processes, policies, and procedures are transparent and support accountability back to the community, the Province, and Rocky View County Council.



FCSS Rocky View County Priority Funding Framework at a Glance

Vision	Advancement of inclusive communities, resilient individuals, and strong families in Rocky View County.
Mission	To cultivate caring and inclusive communities that enhance social wellbeing through prevention, volunteerism, collaboration, and community development.
Priority Population	Rocky View County Residents
Priority Funding Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mental Health Supports2. Seniors Supports3. Child, Youth, and Family Supports
Approaches to Addressing Priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Community Connections2. Collaborative Partnerships3. Volunteerism
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence-informed• Community partnership• Equitable, accessible, and inclusive• Community capacity building• Responsiveness• Relationships• Transparency and accountability