

FCSS ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a Provincial-Municipal partnership that backs initiatives that prevent crises, build on strengths, and increase well-being of people, families and communities. Red Deer & District FCSS is a central Alberta partnership that started in 1974.

2023

FCSS BOARD MEMBERS

- Councillor Jeff Bourne, Village of Delburne
- Councillor Michael Dawe, City of Red Deer
- Councillor Philip Massier, Red Deer County
- Councillor Tyrone Muller, Town of Penhold
- Councillor Cameron Galisky, Town of Penhold
- Gordon Thomas, Citizen Representative, Vice Chair
- Councillor Cindy Jefferies, City of Red Deer
- Milt Williams, Citizen Representative, Chair
- Councillor Sandy Gamble, Town of Bowden
- Sheyi Olubowale, Citizen Representative
- Dick Lemke, Citizen Representative
- Councillor Kraymer Barnstable, City of Red Deer
- Councillor Lisa Ferguson, Village of Elnora
- Councillor Christine Moore, Red Deer County
- Councillor Mike Walsh, Town of Penhold



PEOPLE SERVED

INTERNAL AND EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Municipality	People Served
Town of Bowden	3,763
Village of Delburne	1,083
Village of Elnora	375
Town of Penhold	6,619
Red Deer County	15,987
The City of Red Deer	10,851
Other/Not Reported	1,519
Total	40,197

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Total Funding	\$3,851,075
Province of Alberta	\$3,226,324
Town of Bowden	\$19,061
Village of Delburne	\$14,901
Village of Elnora	\$13,389
Town of Penhold	\$46,835
Red Deer County	\$146,099
The City of Red Deer	\$566,292

FUNDING CATEGORY

Admin	\$337,006
Adult	\$238,000
Children & Youth	\$1,466,798
Indigenous Community	\$190,000
Seniors	\$474,462
Reconnect	\$77,835
Sub-Total	\$2,784,101
Community Development Initiatives	\$1,075,596
FCSS Regional Projects	\$3,730
Sub-Total	\$1,079,326
Spark (Neighbour grants)	\$18,902
Agency Capacity Building	\$13,840
Sub-Total	\$32,742
TOTAL	\$3,896,169



Reconnect Community Projects

The Reconnect community grant supports creative community-led projects that build new and deeper relationships, especially for people that are isolated.

In 2023, 14 projects were supported.

TOTAL GRANTED

\$80,675

TOTAL GATHERINGS

174

ATTENDANCE

2,860

(817 was added as an estimate for the number of participants for four reports that were delayed)

All the projects were focused on connecting and reconnecting neighbours and community members of many backgrounds and ages through fun activities, food, education and awareness activities, workshops etc. The activities brought old and new faces together through these and many more:

- Young family and Seniors 60+ Community connections
- 3D printing, LEGO® creations, makers space and art
- Downtown grassroots initiative (residents, businesses, property owners, and organizations) to engage community at Paradise Plaza
- Potlucks/collective kitchens, and raised garden beds
- Multi-cultural drum circle

All grantees also completed a five week Community Leadership Program, where they shared lessons and challenges as they ran their projects, on how to know who is in your community, reach new people, deepen relationships, and host activities that are welcoming to all.

Nine out of 10 grantees felt a stronger sense of community with the people in their neighbourhood because of their projects.



Child & Youth Projects

Pooled indicator

13,006 children and youth were served by the following projects in 2023. Among these children and youth, 58% reported increased self-esteem.

Projects funded

Benalto Playschool

Benalto Playschool

Bowden Play and Learn

Bowden Playschool

Central Alberta Refuge Effort

Immigrant Youth Program

Chinook's Edge School Division

Family School Wellness Program

Delburne Playschool Society

Delburne Playschool Program

Elnora Playschool

Playschool

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools

Family School Enhancement Counsellors

Red Deer Public School District

Community Liaison Worker

Spruce View Rural Child Care Society

Spruce View Playschool

Town of Penhold

Penhold Youth Club

YMCA of Northern Alberta

Universal Access

Youth HQ

Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Red Deer & District

Youth HQ

Boys & Girls Club of Red Deer & District

Example of impact

From a parent:

"I just wanted to thank you for recommending that class. They are AMAZING!!! I've learned so much even about myself in the two classes I've done and feel so much inner peace about it. It's such a great takeaway. Again, I really appreciate it and thank you for being so much help and listening to my "cries" for help!"

- Red Deer Catholic School District, Family School Enhancement Counselling Circle of Security Parenting Program





Adult Projects

Pooled indicator

2,507 adults were served by the following projects in 2023. Across these participants, 58% of adults reported increased optimism (i.e. an improvement in feeling good about their future).

Projects funded

Red Deer Family Service Bureau
Family Counselling

Shalom Counseling
Strengthening Emotional and Relational Wellness for Individuals and Families

Example of impact

"[A woman in mid life was able to access help] because [a] subsidy for her counselling was available at a time when her income had been greatly reduced and it felt like her life was falling apart – losing her professional employment, marriage falling apart, and mental health plummeting]. She could get the [counselling] help that has allowed her life to seem much more manageable and even hopeful."

– Staff at Shalom Counseling



Indigenous Projects

Pooled indicator

In 2023, funded projects served 862 self-identified Indigenous community members across the Indigenous funding stream.

Projects funded

Urban Indigenous Voices Society
Community Facilitator

Red Deer Dance Troupe Society
Revitalizing the Circle

Example of impact

"This dance troupe community has given me a lot of opportunities to think and nurture the idea of wanting to be something more than something mediocre, they are like a family. While my time working and learning with the great and kind people within this group, this community became my sanctuary where I felt safe and learned with people who were quite similar to me. Upon graduating from high-school, there was no better feeling than the teaching of respect, culture and fun that Red Deer Indigenous Dance Troupe offered me. Performing in community has also helped me feel comfortable in places within community like the college where I will pursue further education."

– Participant at Red Deer Indigenous Dance Troupe Society



Seniors Projects

Pooled indicator

1,334 seniors were served by senior serving organizations. Of these seniors, 61% reported an improvement in available social supports.

Projects funded

Golden Circle Senior Resource Centre
Golden Circle Outreach

Red Deer Family Service Bureau
Home Support Program

Red Deer Meals on Wheels
Meals on Wheels Red Deer

Example of impact

"One of our outreach clients lost his wife at the beginning of 2023. She was a true force in their marriage and her loss left a large hole for him. He was not a very social individual – it seems that his wife took that role for them both – and so initially was isolating himself in his home.

After a few phone calls to the office with questions, his Outreach Coordinator suspected that he may be lonely and convinced him to come to the office to go over his questions in person. He ended up staying for lunch, the Outreach Coordinator connected him with information on our activities and events, and he started regularly coming to play cards and joined our men's group.

He became quite popular amongst other program attendees and I believe is now referred to as "The Mayor of Westpark." It has been a joy to watch him open up and flourish with his peers."

– Staff at Golden Circle



FCSS Projects

Recharge

Back Alley Collective – Creative Place-Making

Four Seasons Grant

Downtown Neighbourhood Alliance

Meet me at the Park

Snow Angels

Reconnect Community Learning Series

Cookies for Community/Soup and Social

Little Free Libraries

Substance Abuse Prevention

High Risk Youth Coalition

Spill the Beans

Family Connect Nights

Northside Connections

New Resident Packages – Community Capacity Building

Nordic Walk & Chat

Mental Health Week

Computers with a Cause

Coffee and Cards for Seniors

'Souper' Neighbour Neighbourhood Building

Tech Time for Older Adults

Red Deer Coalition for Youth

Seniors Coffees and Santagrams

Youth in Facilities

Volunteer Income Tax

THANK YOU



INDIGENOUS PARTICIPANTS

2,711

VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS

1,400

HOURS

29,252

TOTAL VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION

MEASURED AT \$20/HOUR

\$585,040