

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome to the Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting – April 10, 2025
- 1.2 Call to Order
- 1.3 Approval of Agenda

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- 2.1 Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement - Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services Board acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

None

4. **BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes from March 13th, 2025
- 4.2 FCSS Board Terms of Reference Review
- 4.3 2025 FCSS Grant Requests – Grant Funding Allocations
 - 4.3.1 Natasha Young – Mind Body Bliss, Collective Therapies
 - 4.3.2 Iron Ridge Elementary Campus for Connection Club
 - 4.3.3 Iron Ridge Junior Campus – School Presentations (2)
 - 4.3.4 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe & District
 - 4.3.5 BCG Wolf Creek Blackfalds
 - 4.3.6 Matrix Assessment Form
- 4.4 FCSS Managers Report – Verbal Update
- 4.5 Volunteer Programmer Report – March
- 4.6 Community Engagement Programmer Report – March
- 4.7 Youth Programmer Report - March
- 4.8 FCSS Client Statistics - March

5. **CONFIDENTIAL**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting Scheduled for: May 8th, 2025 at 7:00 pm

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Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Sands	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Brenda Dennis	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Heather Johnson	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large
Aaron Hoyte	Public at Large

ATTENDING

Sawyer Hick	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Manager
Sue Penner	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Asst

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

Gloricel Cavago	Public at Large
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WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Member Johnson moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read to recognize that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty Six territory.

PRESENTATIONS

N/A

BUSINESS

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Approval of Minutes of February 13th, 2025

Member Burrell moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from February 13th, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Leaders of Tomorrow Adjudicator

- The current process for the Leaders of Tomorrow Adjudicator is that the Mayor, FCSS Youth Programmer and one FCSS Board Representative will review and adjudicate the Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Award.
- This year there are 61 nominations in the Leaders of Tomorrow recognition program:
 - Elementary – 9 nominees
 - Junior High – 25 nominees
 - High School – 27 nominees

The FCSS Board appointed Member Johnson to the Youth Awards Adjudication Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS Managers Verbal Update

- Manager Hick reported on the following:
 - Completed working on the FCSS Annual Report.
 - Working with the Volunteer Programmer on **Emergency Social Services (ESS)** training. A two-day course is scheduled for June 10th and 11th for staff in charge of Emergency Management to include ESS Facilities Management Training and ESS Coordinator Training. The course would include ESS Basics, Registration and Reception Centre Program and My Alberta Emergency Registration System. A one-day live Reception Event will be scheduled for the fall for staff and volunteers. Once dates have been finalized Volunteer Programmer will start recruiting volunteers to be added to a list we can call in case a reception center is activated.
 - Only one FCSS grant application has been received and it is hoped that more will be submitted before the March 21st, 2025, deadline.
 - Have been requested to attend a meeting with the Blackfalds Hub regarding youth services.

Volunteer Programmer Report

- Volunteer Programmer continues planning for National Volunteer Week taking place on April 27 – May 3, 2025.
- Best of Blackfalds will take place April 17th and is an 18+ event and the evening includes local businesses supplying a variety of appetizers, live music, cash bar and beer tasting along with award presentations.

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- Youth Recognition Nights is an Oscar themed youth event and includes Red Carpet, appetizers, small performances for the IRJC school band, youth dancers and award presentations.
- Sponsorship/Grants: Volunteer Programmer has secured sponsorship from MEGlobal and has applied for the National Volunteer Week Grant. The Town of Blackfalds Economic Development Officer is helping to secure food vendors for the Best of Blackfalds event as well as door prizes to be used at both events.
- **Seniors Master Contact List:** Volunteer Programmer and FCSS Admin Assistant have been diligently working to update the contact listing, and we now have 200 addresses on file, and they aim to have this list finalized by mid-March. This significant increase in our contact list, coupled with the rise in inquiries regarding **Seniors Housing and Home Care Services**, indicates a growing demand in our community. Considering this, hopefully the board can discuss how to encourage and collaborate with Lacombe Foundation to distribute a new survey. This survey could help assess the current and near-future interest in seniors housing, as well as identify how many individuals are currently in need of housing. This information will be invaluable for securing grant funding and addressing the housing needs in Blackfalds.
- **Seniors Information Sessions:** FCSS put the call out to businesses and skilled individuals to partner with us. This could include music therapy, art classes, dance workshops, or other specialty skills. We've received positive feedback and have made connections to be able to offer unique programming and activities. March senior sessions will include:
 - **(Mar 18) Transitioning to Your Next Chapter: Selling your Home** 'Expert Tips from a Real Estate Agent: Learn essential strategies for successfully selling your home, including pricing, staging, and marketing your property to attract buyers. As well as insights from the Lacombe Foundation: Discover resources and support available to help you during this transition, ensuring a smooth and stress-free experience.'
 - **(Mar 25) Wills & Estate Planning Session** 'Expert Tips from Servus Credit Union: Learn essential strategies for creating a Will, understanding Estate Planning, and ensuring your wishes are honored.'
- Additional springs sessions will include Medication & Supplements: What Every Senior Needs to Know, Tenant Rights & Responsibilities, Empowering Seniors: A Session on Elder Abuse Awareness

Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:

- Feb 17: Winterfest (6 Volunteers, totaling 26.5 volunteer hours)
- Jim Hurley Free Skate on Sunday's (3 volunteers, rotating Sunday's)
- Snow Angel Program
 - 28 volunteers are supporting 18 locations
 - 5 residents participating in the Neighbourhood Snow Angel Program
 - 4 on the waitlist

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ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. **Monthly FCSS Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In February, the newsletter was emailed to 291 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 46%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Snow Angel Program – Winter months
 - b. Family Easter Event – April 12

Community Engagement Programmer Report

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- Received approval to be a host site in 2025
- Received approval for 2005 Efile numbers and passwords
- Received approval for 2025 COIN number
- A dedicated computer, printer, and office space has been set up
- Attended CVITP Webinars
 - What's new this filling season – CVITP
 - What's new this filling season – Tax return
 - Interview Setup and Specific Situations
- Hosted Volunteer meeting
- Loaded new 2024 Tax software
- Updated intake processes
- Updated drop off & pick up system tracking

More than a Movie:

- We hosted a delightful gathering for our community seniors, where we enjoyed watching the movie *Legends of the Fall*. At the end of the film, we introduced a fun activity where guests "critiqued" the movie by giving it a thumbs up, two thumbs up, or a thumbs down. It was wonderful to see everyone engaging in lively conversations as they shared their thoughts and decided on their ratings. The variety of responses added to the excitement of the discussion. This activity fostered meaningful connections, encouraged seniors to reflect on their personal experiences, and celebrated the unique voices of each guest!

18 guests attended

- 17 from the Town of Blackfalds
- 0 City of Lacombe
- 1 County of Lacombe

50+ Walking Club:

- This program remains very popular!
- Average number of 29 walkers per Tuesday.
 - 71% of the Walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds
 - 12% are from the City of Lacombe

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- 17% are from the County of Lacombe

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 987 followers at the close of January

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 162 followers at the close of January

Abbey Center Membership Assistance Program:

- **2 applications were screened:**
 - 1 adult, two children approved
 - **1 application disqualified** -The resident did not meet the eligibility criteria.

Outer duties:

- 1 Support application was screened and approved, for the 2025 Back to School program, Winter Coat program and 2025 Christmas Bureau Program.
- Continue to Explore the fridge magnet/ emergency responder fridge magnet initiative
- The Camp Curious Champion application is ready to go in March
- Connected with the Abbey Centre to have a celebration PIZZA PARTY for staff to collect the most food for the TOB Christmas/Reindeer Games Food drive.

Youth Programmer

- BYC had a total of 73 participants.
- Inspiring Virtues had 7 registrants.
- Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety had 15 registrants.
- Youth Cooking Club had 6 registrants.

Youth Programmer Initiatives:

- Arranged for new TOB employees to receive Pink Shirts for Pink Shirt Day. A local business was able to produce these shirts.
- All TOB staff who wore pink shirts were entered into a draw for a gift card to BP by uploading their photo onto Motivosity.
- Collaborated with Trish Pfeifer, the social worker at Iron Ridge Secondary, to incentivize students to wear pink shirts by offering them free hot chocolate during their flex period. This was made possible through the generosity of Starbucks Blackfalds, while FCSS provided whipped cream and sprinkles. I also had the opportunity to meet with their student leadership team, which allowed me to establish further connections with older youth in our community!

Child Safe Canada: Internet Safety

- Obtained Internet Safety facilitation training

Continuing Initiatives

- Facilitating the Spring Easter Event
- Organizing Youth Week in May
- Creating Life Literacy Camp programs for July and August



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Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for February

- 239 email sends with an open rate of 74% and 52 are mailed for a total of 291.

Chair Thomas adjourned the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Dena Thomas, Vice Chair

Sue Penner, Admin Staff

4.2**MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD****FROM: SAWYER HICK
FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGER****ISSUE: FCSS Board Terms of Reference Review**

BACKGROUND

As part of the ongoing Council Committee Audit, the Municipality is requesting each Committee review their draft Terms of Reference in the Agenda at their next meeting. This review is essential to ensure that the purpose/mandate and guidelines remain relevant and effective for the FCSS Board. The draft Terms of Reference for the FCSS Board are attached along with a draft copy of the master Council Committee Bylaw.

You will note that the Terms of Reference are quite short, and that is due to the bulk of the procedures being within the master Council Committee Bylaw.

DISCUSSION

Once the FCSS Board has had the opportunity to review the Terms of Reference, the FCSS Manager and/or the Chair of the FCSS Board will attend an upcoming Council Meeting to present any updates or changes that arise from our review.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

That the FCSS Board review the Terms of Reference and assign a Board member to attend an upcoming Council meeting to report on any updates or changes.

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule "E" Terms of Reference
Draft Council Committee Bylaw

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES BOARD****1. Purpose/Mandate**

- 1.1. The purpose of the Family & Community Support Services Board ("FCSS") is to act as an advisory board to Council, governed by a partnership with the Government of Alberta dedicated to enhancing the social prosperity of individuals, families, the community and district. The FCSS Board provides recommendations, with support and advice from Administration, regarding direct service provision; including, but not limited to, programming, policy development, volunteer recognition, annual budgeting, partnering opportunities, and funding for other social prevention programming providers. The decisions and recommendations that come from the Board for Council's consideration are influenced by the current Social Needs Assessment and Master Plan.

2. Membership

- 2.1 FCSS Board is comprised of a minimum of eight (8) to a maximum of ten (10) members, which are appointed by Council. Council will appoint FCSS Board members who are dedicated to enhancing the social prosperity of individuals, families, the community and district. Membership includes:
 - 2.1.1 A maximum of two (2) Town Council members (voting members);
 - 2.1.2 A minimum of five (5) - maximum of seven (7) members at large who are residents of Blackfalds (voting members);
 - 2.1.3 A maximum of three (3) members at large who are Lacombe County residents (voting members); and
 - 2.1.4 FCSS Manager and any other Administrative Staff that the Chief Administrative Officer deems necessary (non-voting members).
- 2.2 The majority of members must maintain a residence within the Town of Blackfalds.
- 2.3 The term of the Committee appointments will be for up to three (3) years.

3. Meetings

- 3.1 Meetings will be held starting at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month, with no meetings regularly scheduled in July and August. The Chair may call additional meetings as required.

4. Committee Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1. At the Organizational meeting, the Committee, by a majority vote, will elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Committee to serve a one (1) year term.
- 4.2 The Committee will make recommendations to Council on the development, provision, and quality of a broad range of family and community support services and programs,

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES BOARD**

including monitoring and review of the terms of reference. As well as recommend the allocation of grants and funds to community organizations.

- 4.3 The Board shall advise and make recommendations regarding the preparation of a Social Needs Assessment Master Plan at least every five (5) years, outlining, in order of priority, and providing recommendations relating to preventive social services matters in accordance with the Social Needs Assessment Master Plan.
- 4.4 The Board shall monitor and review operating policies and procedures and make recommendations to Council regarding the creation and implementation of Bylaws, policies, and procedures relating to preventative social services matters in accordance with the Social Needs Assessment Master Plan.
- 4.5 The FCSS Board shall adjudicate the nomination process for annual volunteer recognition awards for the Town of Blackfalds and recommend award recipients.
- 4.6 Donated funds that are remaining at the end of the budget year may be held in municipal reserves for Council approved municipal family and community support services projects. Provided these funds are reported and shown in the annual audit report, the FCSS Board may recommend to Council special projects for allocation of reserve funds generated by family and community support services related activities.
- 4.7 Decisions of the FCSS Board are not binding on the Town of Blackfalds until it is approved by Council. Where Administration recommendation varies from that of the Committee both recommendations will be brought forward.
- 4.8 Establish project sub-committees as required. These sub-committee may include non-FCSS Board members. Project committee will report back to the FCSS Board through the sub-committee chair.
- 4.9 The Board shall promote collaboration throughout the Regional Family and Community Support Services District to encourage the sharing of available resources towards the provision of preventative social services opportunities for everyone in the district.

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO ESTABLISH AND REGULATE THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A Bylaw of the Town of Blackfalds, in the Province of Alberta, pursuant to the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, being Chapter M 26.1 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000 and amendments thereto, for the purpose of establishing procedures for Council Committees, and other bodies established by Council;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 145 of the *Municipal Government Act*, being Chapter M 26.1 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000 and amendments thereto, permits Council to pass bylaws to establish procedures for Council Committees, and other bodies established by Council;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council to establish Council Committees and prescribe the powers, duties and functions of those Committees.

NOW THEREFORE, the Municipal Council of the Town of Blackfalds, duly assembled hereby enacts:

PART 1 – TITLE

- 1.1 That this Bylaw shall be cited as the “**Council Committee Bylaw**”.
- 1.2 The following Schedules shall form part of this Bylaw:
 - 1.2.1 Schedule “A” - Criteria for Establishing a Committee
 - 1.2.2 Schedule “B” - Committee Terms of Reference Template
 - 1.2.3 Schedule “C” - Committee Evaluation Checklist
 - 1.2.4 Schedule “D” - Terms of Reference, Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee
 - 1.2.5 Schedule “E” - Terms of Reference, Family & Community Support Services Board
 - 1.2.6 Schedule “F” - Terms of Reference, Recreation, Culture & Parks Board
 - 1.2.7 Schedule “G” - Terms of Reference, Member at Large Review Panel

PART 2 – DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 In this Bylaw:
 - (a) “**Act**” means the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA. 2000, c. M-26 and any amendments thereto.
 - (b) “**Chief Administrative Officer**” means the individual appointed by Council to the position as per the *Municipal Government Act*.
 - (c) “**Closed Session**” means a portion of a meeting or a meeting that is closed to the public as the matter to be discussed falls within one of the exceptions to the disclosure in Division 2 Part 1 of the *Access to Information Act*.
 - (d) “**Committee**” means a committee, commission, board, authority, task force or other body established by Council.
 - (e) “**Council**” means the Council of the Town of Blackfalds elected pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act* of Alberta, as amended.
 - (f) “**Legislative Services**” means employees that work in Legislative Services (Legislative Services Coordinator, Legislative / Executive Assistant).
 - (g) “**Member**” means members of Council who are appointed to Committees by Council at the annual Organizational Meeting of Council, or as required throughout the year.
 - (h) “**Member at Large**” means a member of the public appointed by Council to a Committee.
 - (i) “**Member at Large Review Panel**” means the Members appointed to carry out the interview process and recommendations for Member at Large appointments and subsequent approval consideration by Council.
 - (j) “**Recording Secretary**” means an employee who has been designated by the Town Manager or designate to act as the Recording Secretary for a Committee.

- (k) **“Staff Liaison”** means a designated employee of the Town, who acts in a liaison capacity for a Committee and who can provide subject matter expertise to the Committee.
- (l) **“Single Purpose Task Force”** means a body appointed by Council to study or work on a specific project or problem facing Council.
- (m) **“Town”** means the municipality of the Town of Blackfalds.
- (n) **“Organizational Meeting”** means a meeting that is held annually at the first meeting of the calendar year where the election is held for the Chair and Vice Chair if required, for the applicable Committee.
- (o) **“Organizational Meeting of Council”** means the meeting that is required to be held annually under section 192 of the *Municipal Government Act* not later than 2 weeks after the 3rd Monday in October.
- (p) **“Pecuniary Interest”** means a matter that could monetarily affect a Member, Member at Large or a Member, Member at Large appointee’s family, as referenced in the Act. Family is defined as a spouse, adult interdependent partner, children, parents of a spouse or adult interdependent partner.

PART 3 – EXCLUSIONS

- 3.1 This Bylaw does not apply to the:
 - 3.1.1 Assessment Review Boards;
 - 3.1.2 Municipal Emergency Management Committee;
 - 3.1.3 Policing Committee;
 - 3.1.4 Municipal Library Board;
 - 3.1.5 Council Remuneration Committee;
 - 3.1.6 Intermunicipal Committees; and
 - 3.1.7 Municipal Planning Commission
 - 3.1.8 Regional Subdivision and Development Appeal Board.

PART 4 - ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES

- 4.1 The following Committees are hereby established.
 - 4.1.1 Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee;
 - 4.1.2 Family & Community Support Services Board;
 - 4.1.3 Recreation, Culture & Parks Board; and
 - 4.1.4 Member at Large Review Panel.
- 4.2 Unless otherwise provided for in this Bylaw. Members and Members at Large are appointed by Council resolution.
- 4.3 In determining when or if a Committee should be established, Council shall refer to the Criteria for Establishing a Committee, attached as Schedule “A” of this Bylaw.
- 4.4 When a Committee is established, the Terms of Reference for the applicable Committee shall be developed, as per the template attached as Schedule “B”, which shall include:
 - 4.4.1 The purpose of the Committee;
 - 4.4.2 The composition of the Committee; and
 - 4.4.3 Roles and responsibilities of the Committee.
- 4.5 The Chief Administrative Officer shall designate the position who will carry out the Staff Liaison role required for providing subject matter expertise and advice to each Committee.
- 4.6 The Chief Administrative Officer shall designate the position who will carry out the Recording Secretary duties for each Committee.
- 4.7 If the Committee receives grants, donations, or contributions, any monies received will be administered by the Town under their accounting principles and the terms under which the monies were received.

- 4.8 If applicable, the Committee will prepare and submit an annual proposed budget for Council as part of the Town's budget process.

PART 5 - MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

- 5.1 Member appointments will be conducted at the annual Organizational Meeting of Council unless otherwise directed by resolution of Council.
- 5.2 During the annual appointment process, consideration shall be given to weighing the benefits of proposing Members for either new appointments or reappointments.
- 5.2.1 New appointments may provide Members with increased learning opportunities and exposure to various Committees.
- 5.2.2 Reappointments may be warranted in certain Committees, for instances when it is deemed to be beneficial due to continuity, complexity, knowledge, organizational history, training requirements, etc.
- 5.3 Members appointed to Committees are to act as representatives of the Council and to act as liaisons between the Committee and Council. In this role, the Member will:
- 5.3.1 Advocate proactively within the Committee for outcomes that will help to progress the outcomes that are set out in Council's Strategic Plan.
- 5.3.2 Monitor and guide the Committee's activities in order to ensure they are aligned with the Committee's mandate.
- 5.3.3 Ensure that the Committee is not directing any Staff Liaison or other Town resource to undertake work on behalf of the Committee.
- 5.3.4 If there is a conflict between a Member's personal opinion on an issue and the direction provided by Council, the Member should represent Council by voting in alignment with the Council position.
- 5.3.5 When the Committee brings forth a question or request to Council, the Member should vote from the perspective of Council; this means that, even if a Member voted in favour of a motion at Committee, they may find themselves voting against the issue at Council after hearing the debate and opinions of fellow Councillors.
- 5.3.6 Make every effort to attend scheduled meetings.
- 5.3.7 Actively participate in open and respectful sharing of opinions.
- 5.3.8 Make every effort to ensure that matters are considered fairly and consistently.
- 5.3.9 Make decisions based on the best available information.
- 5.3.10 Report back to Council routinely on the activities of the Committee.
- 5.4 Members are to keep matters discussed at a Committee meeting in a Closed Session confidential until such time that they are discussed at a Committee meeting held in public.
- 5.5 Following the municipal election, the Chief Administrative Officer will ensure that the Members are provided with an introduction to the various Committees prior to or during the Council orientation training.

PART 6 - MEMBER AT LARGE APPOINTMENTS

- 6.1. Annually in September, those Member at Large terms that are set to expire but are eligible for reappointment shall be asked to provide written confirmation of their interest in reappointment.
- 6.2. Once the number of Committee vacancies is determined, notification of such vacancies shall be published on the Town's website and in the local newspaper. Vacancies that occur throughout the year will be listed on the Town's website and periodically posted on the Town's social media outlets.

- 6.3. Application forms shall be made available at the Town's Civic Centre and on the Town's website.
- 6.4. Completed application forms shall be accepted throughout the year and may be retained by Legislative Services on file for six (6) months for consideration should additional vacancies occur.
- 6.5. Any vacancies may be filled from the retained applications or through additional advertising.
- 6.6. The Member at Large Review Panel will review all applications for vacancies on a Committee.
- 6.7. The Member at Large Review Panel will shortlist candidates.
- 6.8. The Member at Large Review Panel will conduct interviews to make recommendations to Council for consideration.
- 6.9. All Members of the Member at Large Review Panel shall actively participate in the interview and selection process.
- 6.10. Legislative Services shall manage all applications received, schedule interviews on behalf of the Member at Large Review Panel, and provide any other administrative support required.
- 6.11. The Member at Large Review Panel has the discretion to request an interview with a reapplying Member at Large.
- 6.12. The reapplying Member's at Large participation, service and conduct on the Committee shall be considered in the review process.
- 6.13. Member at Large Appointments will be for 1-, 2-, or 3-year terms unless determined elsewhere, or otherwise approved by Council.
- 6.14. No Member shall serve on a Committee for more than three (3) consecutive terms, unless authorized by Council.
- 6.15. Appointments to fill a vacancy due to resignation will be appointed to the Committee for the balance of the term.
- 6.16. If not restricted by legislation, Council may appoint Members at Large to fill a Committee vacancy for terms which are incomplete due to the resignation or removal of a Member.
- 6.17. Council may consider and subsequently approve Member at Large annual appointments, as recommended by the Member at Large Review Panel.
- 6.18. Following Council approval, applicants shall be notified of their appointment by Legislative Services.
- 6.19. All Members and Member at Large appointees shall be required to submit a Criminal Record Check free of charge to Legislative Services prior to their attendance at the first Committee meeting.
- 6.20. Council may revoke a Member at Large appointment from a Committee by resolution for any reason they deem appropriate.
- 6.21. Legislative Services shall maintain a current record of all Committee appointments and details of their term.
- 6.22. A Member at Large may resign at any time but must provide the Chair of the Committee with written notice in advance. The Chair will notify Council, through Legislative Services, and Town Council will formally accept the resignation.
- 6.23. All Member at Large Appointees will serve without remuneration. In instances where expenses are incurred for out-of-town meetings or other events approved by the Committee, the applicable travel expenses will be paid for the Member at Large, where the relevant budget has been provided.

PART 7 - RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 7.1 All Member at Large appointees to a Committee shall conduct their business in accordance with this Bylaw and the applicable Terms of Reference as attached in the applicable Schedule to this Bylaw.

- 7.2 In accordance with the Act, a meeting may be conducted by means of electronic or other communication facilities if:
- 7.2.1 The facilities enable the public to watch and / or listen to the meeting;
 - 7.2.2 The facilities enable all the meeting's participants to watch and / or hear each other; and
 - 7.2.3 Notice is given to the public of the meeting and the way in which it is to be conducted.
- 7.3 Members at Large or Members participating in a meeting held via communication facility are deemed to be present at the meeting.
- 7.4 A Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees to consider or inquire into any matter that falls within its purpose. The sub-committee(s) shall then report their findings to the Committee.
- 7.5 To benefit from additional expertise, a Committee may invite others to assist with making presentations and/or serving on a sub-committee. These individuals shall not have voting powers.
- 7.6 No action of a Committee, except where a power to act has been granted by Council or as legislated, shall be binding on the Town.
- 7.7 The Chair of a Committee shall not be a Council Member.
- 7.8 The Chair of the Committee will:
- 7.8.1 Liaise with the Recording Secretary on the agenda development for meetings;
 - 7.8.2 Review the draft minutes once prepared by the Recording Secretary;
 - 7.8.3 Preside over and keep order at Committee Meetings;
 - 7.8.4 Endeavor to ensure that Member at Large appointees are fairly and appropriately engaged in meetings and related events;
 - 7.8.5 Assist the Member at Large Review Panel on the selection and interview process;
 - 7.8.6 Ensure that new appointees receive an orientation on the Committee prior to their first meeting; and
 - 7.8.7 On behalf of the Committee, report annually to Council as outlined in Section 9 of this Bylaw.
- 7.9 The Chair of the Committee shall endeavour to ensure that Member at Large appointees are fairly and appropriately engaged in meetings and related events.
- 7.10 Meetings of the Committees shall be scheduled as determined by their Terms of Reference and/or as otherwise scheduled by the Committee.
- 7.11 Once all Committee meeting dates are determined by the Committee at its Organizational Meeting, they will be posted on the Council meeting calendar on the Town's website.
- 7.12 Committee meeting agenda packages will be made publicly available on the Town's website at least three (3) days in advance of a meeting date, unless extenuating circumstances prevent this from occurring.
- 7.13 All Committee meetings must be held in a publicly accessible location.
- 7.14 A quorum shall consist of fifty percent (50%) of the Committee unless otherwise provided for by legislation or regulation.
- 7.15 All Committee meetings shall be open to the public unless the topic falls under the *Access to Information Act*, Division 2 - Exceptions to Disclosure.
- 7.16 Before entering a Closed Session, the Committee shall state:
- 7.16.1 That the Committee will be moving to Closed Session;
 - 7.16.2 The basis under which the meeting will be held in Closed Session, as defined by legislation; and
 - 7.16.3 A vote must be held to move to a Closed Session, and a separate vote shall be held to return to the open public meeting. No other motions may be made in a Closed Session.

- 7.17 Committees will follow the rules of procedure for Council as outlined in the Council Procedural Bylaw unless another act or authority states otherwise.
- 7.18 All Members and Members at Large shall be required to vote on any matter before the Committee unless a conflict of interest is declared. In the event of a tie vote, the motion shall be deemed defeated.
- 7.19 Nothing in this Bylaw shall be construed to empower a Committee to pledge, appropriate or expend any public money without prior approval of Council.
- 7.20 Nothing in this Bylaw shall be construed to empower a Committee to direct resources of the Staff Liaison.
- 7.21 Minutes from the Committee meeting will be taken and, following adoption, signed by the Committee Chair and Recording Secretary. Originals will be forwarded to Legislative Services for filing and inclusion in the next Regular Meeting of Council under its Consent Agenda.
- 7.22 Any Member at Large who is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Committee automatically ceases to be a Member at Large as of the date of the third meeting unless such absence is authorized by resolution of the Committee.
- 7.23 Individual Committees shall utilize the Committee Evaluation Checklist, attached as Schedule "C". This shall be used to determine the committee's effectiveness. The evaluation shall occur annually, at the end of each Committee mandate, or as determined by the Council.
- 7.24 Members at Large have a responsibility to make decisions based on the best interests of the Town.
- 7.25 All Members at Large must abide by the Council Committee Code of Conduct Bylaw.

PART 8 - PECUNIARY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 8.1 Members or Members at Large have a Pecuniary Interest if:
 - 8.1.1 A matter could monetarily affect the Member or Member at Large or employer of the Member or Member at Large; or
 - 8.1.2 The Member or Member at Large knows or should know that the matter could monetarily affect their family.
- 8.2 A Member or Member at Large who believes they have or could have a Conflict of Interest or Pecuniary Interest in a matter presented at a meeting shall:
 - 8.2.1 Declare and disclose the general nature of the Pecuniary Interest prior to any discussion of the matter;
 - 8.2.2 Abstain from discussions or voting on any question relating to the matter; and
 - 8.2.3 Recuse and remove themselves from the meeting venue until the matter is concluded.
- 8.3 The official minutes shall indicate the Member or Member at Large's declaration, the nature of the Conflict or Pecuniary Interest, the time at which they left the room, and the time they returned.

PART 9 - REPORTING PROCEDURES

- 9.1 A Committee, with the exception of the Member at Large Review Panel, shall report annually to Council on:
 - 9.1.1 Their proposed work / strategic plan;
 - 9.1.2 Matters referred to them or requested by Council; or
 - 9.1.3 When Council approval is required for a specific action, initiative or budget request.
- 9.2 Committees shall report to Council through the Chair or designate.
- 9.3 Any sub-committee struck by a Committee shall report to Council through the Committee.

PART 10 - REPEAL

10.1 That Bylaws **^^, ^^, ^^** and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed upon this Bylaw coming into effect.

PART 11 - DATE OF FORCE

11.1 That this Bylaw shall come into effect, upon the date on which it is finally read and passed.

READ for the first time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

(RES.)

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO KIM ISAAK

READ for the second time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

(RES.)

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO KIM ISAAK

READ for the third time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

(RES.)

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO KIM ISAAK

SCHEDULE "A"**CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE**

- 1. Will the mandate of this Committee be to look into a specific issue or oversee an ongoing issue?**

(This will help determine if Council should create a Committee or a Single Purpose Task Force, defined as a body appointed by Council to study or work on a specific project or problem facing Council. Normally, task forces have a set mandate and term and are disbanded once the task has been completed. Task forces can consist of representation from both Council and the public.)

- 2. Will this Committee help, advise, instruct, or exercise any responsibility for or authority over any aspect of the organization that has already been delegated to Administration? If so, then what will Council hold the Town Manager accountable for in this regard?**

- 3. Has Council developed a clear mandate for the Committee, and has criteria been established for how and what it will report to Council?**

- 4. Will the mandate of this Committee assist Council in parts of its own Strategic Plan, goals, or responsibilities?**

- 5. Has Council established what specific resources will be required by this Committee, and are they available to be committed?**

(This will include resources such as Staff Liaison, Recording Secretary and support, appropriate budget, and sufficient timelines to properly investigate the objectives.)

SCHEDULE "B"

COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE TEMPLATE

1. Purpose/Mandate

1.1. This section outlines the purpose of the applicable Committee.

2. Membership

2.1. This section outlines the Committee membership and shall include the following clause:

2.2 As per the Council Committee Bylaw, any member who is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Committee automatically ceases to be a Member at Large as of the date of the third meeting unless such absence is authorized by resolution of the Committee.

3. Meetings

3.1 This section outlines the Committee's meeting schedule and specifies that, if required, the election of Chair and Vice Chair will be completed at the Organizational Meeting.

4. Committee Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 This section outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Members at Large on the Committee and must include the following:

4.1.1. Completion of Committee Annual Evaluation Checklist.

DRAFT

SCHEDULE "C"

COMMITTEE EVALUATION CHECKLIST

1. **Is the mandate of the Committee still relevant, or has the original mandate and/or the need for the Committee changed?**

Still relevant _____ Not Fulfilled _____

If not, is there any reason by the Committee should continue to exist?

2. **Has the board or Committee Mandate been fulfilled?**

Fulfilled _____ Not Fulfilled _____

If not, is there any reason by the Committee should continue to exist?

3. **What is the recommendation of the Staff Liaison pertaining to the overall mandate and function of the Committee?**

4. **Has the Committee reported its progress throughout the year?**

5. **Are the activities of the Committee consistent with its mandate?**

6. **Are Members at Large of the Committee still considered the right fit, or does the membership need to change?**

7. **Has the Committee had a large turnover rate or had difficulty attracting Members at Large?**

8. **What additional term is required for this Committee to complete its mandate?**



Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

5018 Waghorn Street, Box 220, Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

Phone (403) 600-9066 Fax (403) 885-0011

Email fcss@blackfalds.ca

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- Enhance, strengthen and stabilize family and community life
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Community Group Grant Application

Purpose: To provide funding to assist established social service groups, organizations and individuals with expenditures incurred in the operation and the delivery of their existing programs.

Who May Apply: Not for profit community groups that support and deliver an activity whose primary focus is social service. Service must be delivered in Blackfalds, AB.

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**Applications due:
March 21st, 2025 at 4:30pm**

To request funding, groups must submit a complete application consisting of a fully completed grant application form and the required support documents. The original, signed grant application must be returned to Blackfalds FCSS by the required deadline date. If you require information or assistance, you can reach us by phone at (403) 885-6247. We are located at 5018 Waghorn Street, Blackfalds, AB.

Successful applicants must adhere to reporting timelines and information requirements. **Annual reports and financial statements for groups awarded 2023 grants are due to FCSS office no later than December 31st, 2025.**

The personal information provided as part of this application is collected under the authority of the Family and Community Support Services Act (FCSSA) R,218-294, the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). Under the FCSS, this application constitutes part of the grant application and financial information will be used to ensure both financial sustainability and to evaluate the effectiveness of any long-range planning. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and Section 33 (c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and will be protected under Part 2 of the FOIP Act. The personal information collected on this form will be used solely to administer FCSS Grand Funding Applications in the Town of Blackfalds. Questions regarding the collection and use of personal information may be directed to the Town of Blackfalds FOIP Coordinator at 403-885-6370.



Part A - Community Group Information

1. Organization's Name: Mind Body Bliss, Collective Therapies
2. Mailing Address: 38 Parkway Drive, Blackfalds AB
Postal Code: T4M 0G4
3. President or Principal: N/A
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
4. Treasurer: N/A
Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____
5. Primary Contact Person: Natasha Young
Phone: () 403-872-8183 E-Mail: natashaahunt24@hotmail.com
6. Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable) _____
7. How long has your organization been operating in Blackfalds? Feb. 1, 2025
8. Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from the Town of Blackfalds? If so, please specify.
No
9. Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.
No
10. Does your organization qualify for any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.
Unsure



11. The following documentation is required in addition to your application:

- List of the current Board Members
- Minutes of the meeting which approved the current Board Members
- Copy of the Bylaws and/or organizational guidelines
- Minutes of the meeting which approved the grant application
- Letters showing community support for your proposed program

12. Please provide the previous year audited financials.

Grant Funding Requested:

Declaration

We, the undersigned officers of the organization, certify that this statement contains a full and accurate account of all matters stated herein:

Name: Natasha Young

Name: _____

Position: Owner/Yoga Teacher/Holistic Practitioner

Position: _____

Signature Natasha Young 
Digitally signed by: Natasha Young
Date: 2025-02-18 13:03:21 -0700

Signature _____



Part B – Purpose and Need

1. Demonstration of need:

- What service gap(s) has been identified that shows the social service need for this program in our community?

Gap: A key service gap in Blackfalds is the lack of integrated holistic wellness programs that address the interconnectedness of mental, emotional, and physical health. Services are often siloed, focusing on one aspect of well-being while neglecting others.
 Solution: Mind Body Bliss bridges this gap by offering programs that integrate physical activities (yoga, strength training) with proven mental and emotional techniques (NLP, journaling, meditation, social emotional learning and breathwork). This holistic approach empowers individuals to cultivate well-being across all dimensions, fostering resilience and potentially preventing future mental health concerns.
 I recognize that there have been recent programs implemented in Blackfalds that are amazing at addressing certain populations need for social connection, however, there is room for more. My programs are specific and directed at youth in age groups like elementary aged, pre-teen and teen. For women like mothers groups and from 18-60.
 Gap: While digital communication plays a role in modern life, the importance of in-person interaction for well-being cannot be overstated. Since the onset of COVID-19, opportunities for face-to-face connection and community building have significantly decreased, leaving a void in social support networks.
 Solution: Recognizing the vital role of in-person interaction, Mind Body Bliss programs prioritize group sessions that encourage direct social engagement. These programs provide a supportive environment where individuals can connect with others who share similar interests and goals, fostering a stronger sense of community and combating social isolation.

- How does this program/service serve to strengthen and support social functioning of the residents of Blackfalds?

As a mother of three, I deeply understand the challenges young people face in today's world, especially with the pervasive influence of social media. I understand the challenges of being a working mother and the challenges brought on by mental health struggles. The pressures of today's world can lead to feelings of isolation, anxiety, and low self-esteem. My holistic wellness programs directly address these challenges by creating a supportive community where participants can connect with others, develop crucial social skills like empathy and self-compassion, and build resilience. Importantly, these programs also incorporate physical practices like yoga and strength training, which have been shown to directly impact mental and emotional well-being by reducing stress hormones, improving mood, and promoting better sleep. Furthermore, creative expression provides an outlet for emotional processing and self-discovery, fostering communication and connection with others. By integrating these physical, mental, and creative practices, along with NLP and SEL, I aim to equip residents of Blackfalds with the tools they need to navigate these pressures, foster healthy, meaningful relationships, and improve their overall well-being.

2. Organization

- Describe your organization including the type, the purpose, and number of members. Describe the type of program(s) and/or services offered.

Organization Name: Mind Body Bliss
 Type of Organization: Holistic Wellness Services Provider / Integrative Wellness Center
 Description: Mind Body Bliss (Collective Therapy) is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of individuals and the community through holistic, integrative wellness programs and services. I aim to empower individuals to create their "best life" by addressing the interconnectedness of the physical, mental, emotional, and creative dimensions. Mind Body Bliss strives to create a supportive and inclusive environment where individuals can develop essential life skills, build resilience, foster meaningful connections, and cultivate a greater sense of self-awareness and well-being.
 My holistic wellness programs include:
 - Mindful Yoga: Combines yoga asana with mindfulness meditation and breathwork to reduce stress and improve mental clarity.
 - Strength Training: Focuses on building physical strength and confidence through functional exercises.
 - Creative Expression: Utilizes art and journaling as tools for emotional processing and self-discovery.
 - NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming): Teaches techniques to reframe negative thought patterns and improve communication skills.
 - SEL (Social Emotional Learning): Provides strategies for managing emotions, setting boundaries, and building healthy relationships.

- What are your organization's goals and objectives for this year?
 My goals as an organization are to find an accessible space to operate out of. I want my programs, which will run and feel like "mini retreats" to be accessible to all marginalized populations. Normally, retreats are too expensive for many to access.
- Does your group have sponsorship or a committee for fundraising? What are your user fees and/or membership dues?
 No
 Fees for the current programs running have been \$111 for the 6 week pre-teen program and 188\$ for the 8 week women's program. However, I have given 3 free spaces to lower income women and charged less for others. Supplies per participant are high price wise as each week we are doing an artistic expression (craft). My current yoga class fees are 15\$/person. If successful in receiving a grant I would lower the class price to 10\$/person and lower the class fees to closer to 77 (6 week program) and 99 (8 week program). I would continue to offer complimentary passes to those in need as well.
- Please list other sources of funding applied for to fund the service/project (even if the application was not successful.)
 None yet, though I intend to ask the company I work for (Heritage Family Services) if there are any grants or bursaries for running programs like this as I intend to include cultural awareness and sensitivity within the workshops.

3. The Project

a. Describe the issue or priority area your project/program proposes to address.

If I had to choose a single priority area, it would be mental health, however I feel that description is lacking. My programs aim to address the interconnected issues of social isolation, lack of holistic wellness services, the need for preventative mental health support, and the specific needs of vulnerable populations in Blackfalds. Summed up, the mental wellbeing of the community members in Blackfalds could benefit by my programs that will be offering accessible, integrated programs that promote physical, mental, emotional, and creative well-being.

b. In which of the following areas does this project/program impact on social sustainability in our community: Who is impacted by this issue? Please describe.

- Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skill and become more resistant to crisis;
- Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;
- Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people;
- Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them;
- Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community.

c. Who is impacted by this issue? Please describe.

Everyone within our community, regardless of age, social status, race, gender and sexuality could benefit from strengthening their coping skills, building resilience and developing/fostering their interpersonal and group skills.

d. In what way are they impacted? Please describe short and long term implications.

Reducing the risk of developing mental health problems by nurturing the above skills empower people to manage stress and adversity, improve their emotional well-being, build stronger relationships and social support networks. And ultimately, everyone would benefit from improving their overall quality of life.

e. What is the impact of not addressing the issue?

Not addressing the need for preventative mental health support in a holistic and fun way takes away the opportunity for many to grow into happier and healthier people. As someone who has struggled with many challenges, I understand the struggles that could have been avoided.

My programs have the potential to make a positive impact on many people's lives in Blackfalds. By proactively addressing these skills, our community can become more resilient, connected, and healthier.

f. How does your project/program plan to address the issue?

The programs at Mind Body Bliss focus on empowering individuals to find self-compassion, learn coping and communication skills, strengthen their body, build resilience, create/strengthen relationships in the community, learn skills and techniques proven to manage stress and boost mental health.

They are formatted into 8 week and 6 week workshops, they were originally planned to be one hour classes, however now that I have been running them, they will be changed to 90 minute sessions. Each week has a specific focus and goal. The amount and type of creative expression each session is dependent on the groups age/population, but is important as it will help enhance bonding and create opportunities to find a new hobby or interest. Activities will include yoga, guided meditations, mindfulness exercises, journaling prompts, goal-setting exercises, art activities and discussion groups.

- g. Describe specifically how you will measure the success of the program and your expected results. (Examples: # of participants, # of surveys completed, survey feedback, program waiting list, etc.)

I will measure the success of my programs by the number of participants/wait lists and surveys I will have them complete afterwards.

- h. Are there similar programs offered in the community? If so, explain how they are different.

At the Abbey centre there is a program tailored to senior citizens and programs tailored to youth. There is also yoga offered at the Abbey Centre and at a private studio in town. However, these programs do not incorporate a holistic approach to healing and specifically include/teach many different techniques to improve mental health. I volunteer for a program called "Move your Mood" with AHS, and it is holistic, however, it is referral based and ran in a much different layout/format that my program will run.

- i. Describe your organizations' use of volunteers. Include the nature of volunteer services provided, the number of volunteers and the estimated total annual number of volunteer hours worked.

I am the sole proprietor of the business Mind Body Bliss. I volunteer with my son's hockey team teaching yoga and mindfulness techniques and with MYM AHS.T here are no volunteers for this business.

- j. Describe the need for this program in the community. Attach letters of support.

I think there is a need for this program in the community because improving mental health and wellbeing should always be a priority. I think the fact that today there are less IRL (in real life) interactions than those in person highlights the need to grow community in many different group levels.

- k. Describe the implications of not receiving (or receiving less than requested) grant funding for this program.

If I do not receive funding for these programs, I will need to raise prices or change the quality and quantity of supplies used for the workshops and I am a "low income" mother of three, recently separated, and beginning this career journey after many years of education. Because of this and student loan debt, I do not have the ability to "start up" a business in a way that would allow me to easily implement and run these programs. However, I was lucky to find a small space to lease (unit D 5001 Broadway Ave). I would love to grow this space into the next unit over as I cannot have more than 8 members in each program I am running at the moment. I want to help people. Due to my education, certifications, experiences in life and working I now have the confidence and knowledge to facilitate this level of program.



Part C – Program Budget

Revenue	2025
Fees:	
Grants:	
Community Donations:	
Fundraising:	
Total Revenue	
Expenses	2025
Personnel:	
Materials & Supplies:	
Other Expenses:	
Total Expenses	
FCSS Funding Request	

1. Demonstration of need:

What service gap(s) has been identified that shows the social service need for this program in our community?

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Mind Body Bliss is a brand new business! The programs may include the areas that I am educated in such as :yoga, somatic healing, counselling once certified, mindfulness and meditation coaching and of course the Holistic Wellness Programs that I am seeking the funding to begin. The 6 and 8 week programs are designed to target specific demographics, and are offered in a group format, both in-person and online, to foster community and social connection. Participants receive a "Radiance Toolkit" and a program outline at the first session.

3.The Project

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If I do not receive funding for these programs, I will need to raise prices or change the quality and quantity of supplies used for the workshops and

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Part A – Community Group Information

Question #'s	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Part A 1	Organization Name:			
Part A 2-5	Org contact info			
Part A 8-10	Other financial assistance?			
Part A 11	List of Board members included?			
Part A 11	Organization bylaws included?			
Part A 12	Financials included?			
	Is the application signed?			
	Is this program primarily recreational in nature?			If yes, the application is ineligible
	Does the program offer direct assistance, including money, food, clothing or shelter?			If yes, the application is ineligible
	Is this program duplicating a current program?			If yes, the application is ineligible

Part B – Purpose & Need

Question #'s	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Part B 1	Demonstration of Need:			
	✓ Is there an identified service gap?			
Part B 1	✓ Does the organization strengthen & support social functioning in Blackfalds?			
Part B 2	Organization:			
	✓ Do you understand what the purpose of the organization is?			
Part B 2	✓ Do the goals and objectives align with FCSS mandated programming expectations?			
Part B 2	✓ Has other funding been explored?			
Part B 3a	✓ Which of the FCSS priorities are addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullying/ Conflict Resolution ○ Child & Youth Safety ○ Mental Health Supports ○ Parenting ○ Relationship Support ○ Family & Domestic Violence Support ○ Substance Abuse ○ Intergenerational Programming 			
Part B 3c	Is the target audience identified?			
Part B 3b	Which <u>Strategic Direction</u> is addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop an awareness of social needs <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people <input type="checkbox"/> Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them <input type="checkbox"/> Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community. 			

The Project

Question #'s	Criteria	Comments	Rating
Part A 11 Part B 3j	Community Support Question #'s addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Did the application include client testimonials? ✓ Did the application include letters showing community support? ✓ Has this organization been one of the active community support groups in the area? 		
Part B 3b	Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Greatest investment, greatest impact ✓ Immediate, intermediate or long term benefits and outcomes? ✓ Which age groups will be most benefitted and how? ✓ Will it strengthen and support social functioning of Blackfalds residents? 		
Part B	Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The organization is a valued partner of FCSS ✓ The organization promotes FCSS as a funder ✓ Collaboration with other community groups and non-profit organizations ✓ Collective impact (community level, neighbourhood level, surrounding communities) ✓ Have other funding options been explored/utilized (sponsorships, fundraising, grants) ✓ Does the organization make use of volunteers? 		
Part B 3g	Performance Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What does success look like? ✓ How will it be measured? ✓ Measurement of outcomes (not just outputs): Are the goals & objectives attainable? ✓ What is the proposed timeline to achieve the goals? ✓ Are the measurement tools feasible and realistic? 		
Part B 3k	Impact / Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What is the risk of impact on the community if we do not provide the funding? ✓ What is the impact on FCSS if we do not provide the funding? ✓ What is the risk of not providing the funding? (How vulnerable is the proposed program without FCSS funding?) ✓ If FCSS cannot provide funding are there other potential funders in the area that we can refer them to? 		

Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Detailed budget specifies what the funding will be used for 			

Grant funding requested? _____

Amount approved: _____

Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services



5016 Waghorn Street, Box 220, Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

Phone (403) 887-6247 Fax (403) 885-0011

Email fcss@blackfalds.com

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To request funding, groups must submit a complete application consisting of a fully completed grant application form and the required support documents. The original, signed grant application must be returned to Blackfalds FCSS by the required deadline date. If you require information or assistance, you can reach us by phone at (403) 885-6247. We are located at 5016 Waghorn Street, Blackfalds, AB.

Successful applicants must adhere to reporting timelines and information requirements. Annual reports and financial statements for groups awarded grants are due to FCSS office no later than December 31, 2025.



The personal information provided as part of this application is collected under the authority of the Family and Community Support Services Act (FCSSA) R,218-294, the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). Under the FCSS, this application constitutes part of the grant application and financial information will be used to ensure both financial sustainability and to evaluate the effectiveness of any long range planning. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and Section 33 (c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP), and will be protected under Part 2 of the FOIP Act. The personal information collected on this form will be used solely to administer FCSS Grand Funding Applications in the Town of Blackfalds. Questions regarding the collection and use of personal information may be directed to the Town of Blackfalds FOIP Coordinator at 403-885-6248.

Part A - Community Group Information

1. Organization's Name: Iron Ridge Elementary Campus (Wolf Creek Public Schools)

2. Mailing Address: Box 160, Blackfalds, AB, T0M 0J0

3. Principal: Vicky Sahlin

Phone: 403-885-4646 E-mail: Vicky.Sahlin@wolfcreek.ab.ca

5. Primary Contact Person: Katelin Fesyk

Phone: 403-885-4646 E-mail: Katelin.fesyk@wolfcreek.ab.ca

6. Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable) **N/A**

7. How long has your organization been operating in Blackfalds? **1940s**

8. Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from the Town of Blackfalds? If so, please specify. **No.**

9. Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify. **No.**



10. Does your organization qualify for any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify. **No.**

11. The following documentation is required in addition to your application:

- List of the current Board Members
- Minutes of the meeting which approved the current Board Members
- Copy of the Bylaws and/or organizational guidelines
- Minutes of the meeting which approved the grant application
- Letters showing community support for your proposed program

(We do not have this information as we are a school.)

12. Please provide the previous year audited financials.

Grant Funding Requested **\$8000.00 to fund a staff member to run a 0.2 position to facilitate the Connection Club.**

Declaration

We, the undersigned officers of the organization, certify that this statement contains a full and accurate account of all matters stated herein:

Name: Vicky Sahlin
Position: Principal

Name: Katelin Fesyk
Position: Assistant Principal

Signature: Vicky Sahlin

Signature: Katelin Fesyk



Part B – Purpose and Need

1. Demonstration of need:

- What service gap(s) has been identified that shows the social service need for this program in our community?

1. Connection with our most vulnerable students: Our school community has observed a noticeable gap in students' social and emotional skills upon entering school, primarily when forming deep connections to the school with trusting adults. Over the 2024/2025 school year, the introduction of the Connection Club has had a significant impact, particularly for some of our most vulnerable students. This program has provided our school social worker, teachers, educational assistants and administrators with valuable time and the opportunity to connect with students in the morning before the school day begins. These interactions help regulate students, allowing them to check in on their social and emotional well-being, setting a positive tone for the day ahead.
2. Focus on Resilience. This program is designed to help children regulate the body, mind and emotions through connection. Studies have shown a profound connection between strong relationships and a sense of belonging with relevant people. We aim to build resistance in our students by creating meaningful, strong connections. Werner and Smith (2001) stated that “the presence of at least one caring, consistent adult is considered the most critical factor in building resilience”. This is one of the aims of the Connection Club: to build caring, consistent adults in these students' lives.
3. Explicitly teaching self-regulation skills: Students are taught self-regulation skills as a group and can practice these skills in a safe, controlled environment. Skills taught include waiting your turn, breathing techniques, calming techniques, positive self-talk, starting conversations and emotional regulation. This group of students are susceptible to struggling with emotional regulation, and this program provides a platform for students to learn these skills in a small, safe setting.
4. Provide opportunity for guided conversations: Students are taught how to converse with peers and adults in guided conversations. This includes asking how their day is, checking in on their feelings, taking turns, asking to sit at the same table and using their manners.



- How does this program/service serve to strengthen and support social functioning of the residents of Blackfalds?

The Connection Club gives students a sense of belonging and safety within the Blackfalds community. Each day, students are welcomed warmly by a staff member and given a light snack, creating a consistent and positive start to their day. They also engage in meaningful conversations with peers sitting at a table to eat, fostering connections and friendships. During this time, students develop essential social skills such as saying please and thank you, starting and maintaining conversations, building healthy relationships, creating positive mindsets, handling conflict, and practicing self-regulation. These valuable skills help students boost relationships, enhance their social interactions, and build a more profound sense of connection to both students and adults within the community of Blackfalds.

2. Organization

- Describe your organization including the type, the purpose, and number of members. Describe the type of program(s) and/or services offered.

Iron Ridge Elementary Campus offers Pre-K to Grade Three programs for a projected student population of 475 students for the 2025-2026 school year. We are located in the town of Blackfalds, and operate within the Wolf Creek Public Schools division. Students with special needs are successfully included into regular classrooms. IREC offers pre-Kindergarten and half day kindergarten programs.

Our Mission: Empowering Learners to Lead and Succeed

- Creating a safe and caring community

Our school website:

<http://irec.wolfcreek.ab.ca/>

What are your organization's goals and objectives for this year?

Our goal for this year was to build connections between the school, students, families and the community.

- Teacher-Parent Relationships: Strengthening communication and collaboration between teachers and parents to support student success.
- Blackfalds Bulldogs Reading Program: Encouraging literacy and a love of reading within the community.
- Elder Program: Partnering with local Elders to share cultural knowledge and wisdom, fostering respect and understanding.
- Partnering with Hope Mission: Working together to support local families in need, creating a sense of community and service.
- SEL Programming with the School Division: Offering Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs through a grant, which will conclude this year, to help students build emotional resilience and positive social skills.



Please click on this link to access our Education Plan and Report.

<https://irec.wolfcreek.ab.ca/download/172145>

- Does your group have sponsorship or a committee for fundraising? What are your user fees and/or membership dues?

Our school council raises a few thousand dollars each year to help buy classroom books, ipads, makerspace material etc.

We also have a fundraising leg of our school council and they are called "FIRES" (Friend of Iron Ridge Campus Society). Currently, they are fundraising to replace existing playground structures.

- Please list other sources of funding applied for to fund the service/project (even if the application was not successful.)

Other than per-pupil funding from the government, we have not applied for any other funding for the Connection Club next year.

3. The Project

- a. Describe the issue or priority area your project/program proposes to address.

Our focus is on supporting students in building meaningful connections within our school and community while strengthening adult-student relationships. Through guided conversations with teachers, administrators, SSWs, and other students, we teach emotional regulation, boost self-esteem, and promote resilience by providing at-risk students with a safe space to develop coping skills. By fostering these connections and skills, we create an environment where students feel valued, supported, and empowered to thrive.

- b. In which of the following areas does this project/program impact on social sustainability in our community:

Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis;

Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;

Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people;

Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them;

Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community



c. Who is impacted by this issue? Please describe.

Students in Blackfalds need opportunities to have positive interactions and a safe space to learn and develop independence, resilience and friendship skills. We believe that students need multiple opportunities to learn these skills in different ways, which reaches more children. Building strong school connections impacts our community by the positive relationship our youth have with each other and the community as a whole.

d. In what way are they impacted? Please describe short and long term implications.

This year, we have observed a significant decrease in problematic behaviors and emotional dysregulation among this group of students. They are more settled in class and demonstrate an improved ability to regulate their emotions independently. By proactively checking in with these at-risk students at the start of the day, we foster a safe and supportive environment that encourages regular school attendance and positive engagement.

e. What is the impact of not addressing the issue?

With our SEL grant funding ending, we are concerned that this group of students may fall through the cracks. Without continued instruction in these vital social skills and time spent with a trusted, connected adult in the school, we risk seeing an increase in concerning behaviors and emotional dysregulation. This could also lead to declining self-esteem, social-emotional skills, resilience, and a decreased sense of belonging within the community. The relationships that have been established are vital to our schools sense of community, and the students' sense of belonging.

f. How does your project/program plan to address the issue?

Connecting with students each morning before their school day starts allows students to feel connected to our school community immediately. It also offers a way to ease into the day, which helps many of our students with self-regulation. Our main plan to address the issue is to build meaningful connections between at-risk students and staff, other students, administrators, and our School Social Worker.

g. Describe specifically how you will measure the success of the program and your expected results. (Examples: # of participants, # of surveys completed, survey feedback, program waiting list, etc.)

Each day, around 25-40 students attend the Connection Club. Feedback from parents, staff and teachers is that they are ecstatic about the program. Students are more content coming to school, are more settled and regulated in class, and have formed significant friendships with other students and deep bonds with staff beyond their regular classroom teacher. Students feel like they are a part of the whole school community. We will measure our success by allowing staff and guardians to provide feedback through a survey.



h. Are there similar programs offered in the community? If so, explain how they are different.

Not that we are aware of.

i. Describe your organization's use of volunteers. Include the nature of volunteer services provided, the number of volunteers and the estimated total annual number of volunteer hours worked.

We are fortunate to have parents and grandparents support our school by coming in to volunteer to help on field trips, read with students, organize and deliver hot lunch, and to help out in the classroom. We also have a volunteer fundraising board that is raising money for our replacement playgrounds, which is called FIRES. We have opened our doors to the Blackfalds Bulldogs to join us for Connection Club once a week, to further those community ties. We have also partnered with BBBS and IRSC to facilitate a Big Brothers, Big Sisters program to support students at the school.

j. Describe the need for this program in the community. Attach letters of support.

Please see the attached letters of support.

k. Describe the implications of not receiving (or receiving less than requested) grant funding for this program.

Without the grant, we may be forced to discontinue the Connection Club in the morning. This program relies on having a dedicated staff member on-site during the first two periods to support student transitions, welcome students at the door, facilitating guided conversations, teaching social skills and preparing snacks and materials. Losing this funding could significantly impact our at-risk students, who greatly benefit from the connection, regulation, and resilience-building opportunities that the Connection Club provides.

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue Approved Projected Requested

Revenue	2025
	\$0

Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

Community Group Grant Application



Fees:	
Grants:	
Community Donations:	
Fundraising:	
Total Revenue	
Expenses	2025
Personnel:	\$8000(0.2 EA staff support to facilitate the Connection Club space)
Materials & Supplies:	n/a
Other Expenses:	n/a
Total Expenses	\$8000
FCSS Funding Request	\$8000



APPENDIX A- Letters of Support

Please see the following testimonials in support of the Connection Club at IREC

1. "Bronx loves Connection Club! He's made great friends and his confidence has really grown
"- Anonymous Parent

2. "Connection club has helped my student to meet and learn other kids names in the school. At the beginning of the year, she would not say hi to anyone or acknowledge them. After being in Connection Club, she says hi to kids in various circumstances, even using their names. She lets them know if she likes what they are wearing which has now developed into little blossoming friendships. Please continue this program for the following years for not only the positive effects of a nourishing breakfast but also the benefits of social interactions that she now uses in growing friendships that have developed because of the program".
-Grade 2 Educational Assistant

3. "It has been so helpful having a place for students coming in with anxiety or other needs, to a safe positive environment to start their day"
- Grade 2 Teacher

4. "I think it's great! Opening it up to more students would be great eventually."
-Grade 3 Teacher



March 17th, 2025

Re: Request for Funding Support for the Connection Club Program at IREC

Dear FCSS Board of Directors,

I am privileged to write a letter of support regarding the request for funding for the Connection Club program at Iron Ridge Elementary Campus.

It has been my privilege as the School Social Worker at Iron Ridge Elementary Campus for the last 28 years to support the development of our student's emotional and social development and experiences during their school life as they attend IREC from Pre-K to Grade 3. I provide counseling support to students as well as building capacity in families to access community support. I also provide additional programming at IREC such as the Rainbows program, Roots of Empathy, the Elder Program, and the In-School Mentoring program.

My Mission is:

To create a brave space where students and families of IREC struggling with the storms of life can find connection, support, referrals, and encouragement to become their best selves.

I see you. I hear you. I am with you.

This school year at IREC we are piloting the Connection Club program that supports our most vulnerable students. Our Connection Club averages 25-40 students each day and is open in the mornings when students arrive for school. The focus is to build resilience, teach self-regulation skills, and build capacity for guided conversations with staff and peers. Connection Club is a place that promotes belonging and safety for all students. We also provide a light snack for students to access before they transition to class for the day.

The positive impact that Connection Club has provided for our students is reflected in their ability to develop their resilience skills and emotional regulation, capacity to build and maintain healthy relationships, and a positive sense of self and belonging. We are observing a significant decline in problematic behaviors and emotional dysregulation among our most vulnerable students this year due to this program.

As the School Social Worker I see the positive impact on a daily basis as I connect with our students in the Connection Club every morning. My hope is that this is a program that will become part of the culture of IREC in the years to come, where we can continue to provide the safe and nurturing environment that many of our vulnerable students need when they come to school each day in Connection Club.



Thank you for considering this request for funding for the Connection Club program. I look forward to discussing any further details about Connection Club with the Board of Directors and am open to discussing any further questions or inquiries you may have regarding this program.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lorelei Reader, RSW
School Social Worker
lorelei.reader@wolfcreek.ab.ca
Expressive Arts Facilitator and Educator
Iron Ridge Elementary Campus
403-885-4646 Ex. 4451
Blackfalds, Alberta



March 17th, 2025

To whom it may concern,

My name is Gwen Rutherford, and I serve as an Educational Assistant at IREC. This academic year, I've had the privilege of working with students in our Connection Club Program. This initiative has proven invaluable, fostering stronger relationships among students, peers, and staff, thereby enhancing their sense of belonging and safety within our school community.

Beyond relationship-building, the program emphasizes self-management skills. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for tasks such as cleaning up after themselves and maintaining their environment, which contributes to higher self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.

I've observed that students who arrive feeling anxious or upset often leave the program feeling calmer and more content. The supportive environment we cultivate ensures they feel valued and cared for, setting them up for success throughout their day.

I sincerely hope that the Connection Club Program continues to thrive at IREC and expands to other schools within the Wolf Creek School District. Its positive impact on our students' well-being and development is truly commendable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gwen Rutherford Educational Assistant IREC



March 18th, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am an EA working in an elementary school and this year I have had the pleasure of being a part of our connection club. I start my day by helping to prepare breakfast and snacks for kids when they arrive at school. Our connection club is so much more than just a place to eat. It's a place to sit with friends, to talk about our night or morning, a place to catch your breath and regulate. Children learn manners and proper conversation skills. It's a safe space full of love and kindness.

Our kiddos start their day with a full belly but most importantly knowing that they belong and are loved.

Sincerely,

Leeann Carmicheal, Educational Assistant IREC

Part A – Community Group Information

Question #'s	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Part A 1	Organization Name:			
Part A 2-5	Org contact info			
Part A 8-10	Other financial assistance?			
Part A 11	List of Board members included?			
Part A 11	Organization bylaws included?			
Part A 12	Financials included?			
	Is the application signed?			
	Is this program primarily recreational in nature?			If yes, the application is ineligible
	Does the program offer direct assistance, including money, food, clothing or shelter?			If yes, the application is ineligible
	Is this program duplicating a current program?			If yes, the application is ineligible

Part B – Purpose & Need

Question #'s	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Part B 1	Demonstration of Need:			
	✓ Is there an identified service gap?			
Part B 1	✓ Does the organization strengthen & support social functioning in Blackfalds?			
Part B 2	Organization:			
	✓ Do you understand what the purpose of the organization is?			
Part B 2	✓ Do the goals and objectives align with FCSS mandated programming expectations?			
Part B 2	✓ Has other funding been explored?			
Part B 3a	✓ Which of the FCSS priorities are addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullying/ Conflict Resolution ○ Child & Youth Safety ○ Mental Health Supports ○ Parenting ○ Relationship Support ○ Family & Domestic Violence Support ○ Substance Abuse ○ Intergenerational Programming 			
Part B 3c	Is the target audience identified?			
Part B 3b	Which <u>Strategic Direction</u> is addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop an awareness of social needs <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people <input type="checkbox"/> Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them <input type="checkbox"/> Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community. 			

The Project

Question #'s	Criteria	Comments	Rating
Part A 11 Part B 3j	Community Support Question #'s addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Did the application include client testimonials? ✓ Did the application include letters showing community support? ✓ Has this organization been one of the active community support groups in the area? 		
Part B 3b	Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Greatest investment, greatest impact ✓ Immediate, intermediate or long term benefits and outcomes? ✓ Which age groups will be most benefitted and how? ✓ Will it strengthen and support social functioning of Blackfalds residents? 		
Part B	Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The organization is a valued partner of FCSS ✓ The organization promotes FCSS as a funder ✓ Collaboration with other community groups and non-profit organizations ✓ Collective impact (community level, neighbourhood level, surrounding communities) ✓ Have other funding options been explored/utilized (sponsorships, fundraising, grants) ✓ Does the organization make use of volunteers? 		
Part B 3g	Performance Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What does success look like? ✓ How will it be measured? ✓ Measurement of outcomes (not just outputs): Are the goals & objectives attainable? ✓ What is the proposed timeline to achieve the goals? ✓ Are the measurement tools feasible and realistic? 		
Part B 3k	Impact / Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What is the risk of impact on the community if we do not provide the funding? ✓ What is the impact on FCSS if we do not provide the funding? ✓ What is the risk of not providing the funding? (How vulnerable is the proposed program without FCSS funding?) ✓ If FCSS cannot provide funding are there other potential funders in the area that we can refer them to? 		

Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Detailed budget specifies what the funding will be used for 			

Grant funding requested? _____

Amount approved: _____



Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services
5018 Waghorn Street, Box 220, Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0
Phone (403) 600-9066 Fax (403) 885-0011
Email fcss@blackfalds.ca

Blackfalds FCSS is an 80/20 funding partnership between the provincial Children and Youth Ministry and the Town of Blackfalds. This partnership works with the community to support and develop locally driven preventative social support services. Locally FCSS strives to:

- Enhance, strengthen and stabilize family and community life
- Promote volunteerism
- Promote, encourage and facilitate the development of stronger communities &
- Enable local decision making

The Blackfalds FCSS Board is an advisory board of Town Council. Membership consists of 8 Members: 5 Members appointed by Town Council from citizens at large, 1 citizen at large from Lacombe County, and 2 Members appointed from the Council of the Town of Blackfalds.

Community Group Grant Application

Purpose: To provide funding to assist established social service groups, organizations and individuals with expenditures incurred in the operation and the delivery of their existing programs.

Who May Apply: Not for profit community groups that support and deliver an activity whose primary focus is social service. Service must be delivered in Blackfalds, AB.

Groups may submit only one grant application per year in all categories.

Operational grant funding is not intended to provide the basis for permanent operational funding. Applications are reviewed annually, independent of previous grant applications.

**Applications due:
March 21st, 2025 at 4:30pm**

To request funding, groups must submit a complete application consisting of a fully completed grant application form and the required support documents. The original, signed grant application must be returned to Blackfalds FCSS by the required deadline date. If you require information or assistance, you can reach us by phone at (403) 885-6247. We are located at 5018 Waghorn Street, Blackfalds, AB.

Successful applicants must adhere to reporting timelines and information requirements. **Annual reports and financial statements for groups awarded 2025 grants are due to FCSS office no later than December 31st, 2025.**

The personal information provided as part of this application is collected under the authority of the Family and Community Support Services Act (FCSSA) R,218-294, the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). Under the FCSS, this application constitutes part of the grant application and financial information will be used to ensure both financial sustainability and to evaluate the effectiveness of any long-range planning. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and Section 33 (c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and will be protected under Part 2 of the FOIP Act. The personal information collected on this form will be used solely to administer FCSS Grand Funding Applications in the Town of Blackfalds. Questions regarding the collection and use of personal information may be directed to the Town of Blackfalds FOIP Coordinator at 403-885-6370.

11. The following documentation is required in addition to your application:

- List of the current Board Members
- Minutes of the meeting which approved the current Board Members
- Copy of the Bylaws and/or organizational guidelines
- Minutes of the meeting which approved the grant application
- Letters showing community support for your proposed program

12. Please provide the previous year audited financials.

Grant Funding Requested:

10000.00

Declaration

We, the undersigned officers of the organization, certify that this statement contains a full and accurate account of all matters stated herein:

Name: Margo Froehlick

Name: Nicole Rawlinson

Position: IRJC School Social Worker

Position: IRJC Principal

Signature _____

Signature _____

Part B – Purpose and Need

1. Demonstration of need:

- What service gap(s) has been identified that shows the social service need for this program in our community?

There is no funding for schools to bring in guest speakers and presentations. Real life experiences enrich learning experiences, broaden horizons and provide real-world insights, and inspiration. Hearing the successes and challenges of others can inspire students to strive for excellence and set higher ambitions.

- How does this program/service serve to strengthen and support social functioning of the residents of Blackfalds?

Mental Health Commission of Canada outlines that research shows that when young people hear positive personal stories of hope and recovery, it breaks down barriers about mental health problems and mental illnesses and can change attitudes and behaviors. This is known as contact-based education and research has shown it to be the most powerful model of learning.

2. Organization

- Describe your organization including the type, the purpose, and number of members. Describe the type of program(s) and/or services offered.

We are asking for 1) Ryan Straschnitzki presentation to take place this current school year with IRJC and IRSC. This would be for 350 students from grades 7-12.

2) If successful in receiving the full amount we would then plan a second presentation for the fall of 2025 with IRJC/ IRSC with the possibility of opening up a parent presentation to the Iron Ridge Collective.

- What are your organization's goals and objectives for this year?

Our goal is to build a stronger more resilient community and build the capacity of students and parents. Iron Ridge Junior Campus (IRJC) mission is that All Learners are empowered to succeed.

We will be partnering with Iron Ridge Secondary Campus (IRSC) with a combined presentation from Ryan Straschnitzki. IRSC outlines: We are collectively responsible for all students. We believe that all students can learn and that it takes a village to ensure a child grows and learns to their full potential. Together, in partnership with community partners and service providers, we work together to ensure that we provide specialized supports to our students.

- Does your group have sponsorship or a committee for fundraising? What are your user fees and/or membership dues?

School Fees.

FIRCS/Friends of Iron Ridge Campus Society is a volunteering fundraising body that helps provide extras that are not in the school budget. (sports equipment, supplies for option classes, etc)

- Please list other sources of funding applied for to fund the service/project (even if the application was not successful.)

If we are not successful in this application we will not be bringing in guest speakers as we have no other funding source to assist with this. We have Ryan Straschnitzki on hold to be a presenter during Mental Health Week for May 2025. If successful for full application amount we will seek out educational presentation for the fall of 2025. The topics we would like to address include: resiliency, digital citizenship, bullying, addictions, building mental health capacity.

3. The Project

- a. Describe the issue or priority area your project/program proposes to address.

To bring in speakers who have had impactful life experiences that they can share with our student body to promote resiliency, positive choices, health and well-being, in turn building character and strengthening our school communities.

- b. In which of the following areas does this project/program impact on social sustainability in our community: Who is impacted by this issue? Please describe.

- Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skill and become more resistant to crisis;
- Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;
- Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people;
- Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them;
- Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community.

- c. Who is impacted by this issue? Please describe.

We are all have mental health and need skills to build positive coping and health choices. All of our students and families are impacted when building positive coping skills.

- d. In what way are they impacted? Please describe short and long term implications.

As school communities that work directly with the majority of adolescents in Blackfalds, the ripple effect of how people are impacted can be life long. Previously when these programs have been provided to school communities we have students talking about the changes they made in their lives years later. I am sure we can all recall special speakers or presentations that have left a long impact on us. That is our goal.

- e. What is the impact of not addressing the issue?

As a school communities we are constantly addressing these issues. In bringing in speakers such as Ryan Strasnitzki we will be more effective at at teaching the importance of perseverance and having a growth mindset

- f. How does your project/program plan to address the issue?

Ryan Strasnitzki is a former hockey player who played for the Humboldt Broncos for the 2018-2019 season , he is the founder of the Straz Strong charity organization and is in current pursuits to play in the paralympics one day. Ryan's journey has not been an easy one. He understands that each and every day will be a battle not just physically, but mentally as well. He enjoys public speaking where he spreads messages of positivity and motivation to those looking for ways to adapt and change their lives for the better.

<https://www.strazstrongfoundation.com/>

- g. Describe specifically how you will measure the success of the program and your expected results. (Examples: # of participants, # of surveys completed, survey feedback, program waiting list, etc.)

Verbal feedback from students.

We would do a google survey to all those that attend

- h. Are there similar programs offered in the community? If so, explain how they are different.

Iron Ridge Collective has a joint school council who's mission is to strengthen collaboration among schools and actively engage parents in meaningful discussions. They are offering a online safety presentation to all Blackfalds parents by Alberta ALERT and ICE units. This is something we would like to see continue and build on next school year if we are successful in receiving the grant.

- i. Describe your organizations' use of volunteers. Include the nature of volunteer services provided, the number of volunteers and the estimated total annual number of volunteer hours worked.

The number of volunteers we use each year varies greatly. Volunteers help with serving food to our school, coaching, supervising field trips, and as classroom presenters. We use our own student body to volunteer in the school as well as parent/community volunteers.

- j. Describe the need for this program in the community. Attach letters of support.

Due to the timeline of the application I was not able to obtain letters of support however Mental Health Commission of Canada outlines that research shows that when young people hear positive personal stories of hope and recovery, it breaks down barriers about mental health problems and mental illnesses and can change attitudes and behaviors. This is known as contact-based education and research has shown it to be the most powerful model of learning.

- k. Describe the implications of not receiving (or receiving less than requested) grant funding for this program.

4500.00 required for Ryan Straschnitzki

5500.00 requested for presentations for 2025 school year.

If we are not able to obtain grant we will not have the program run.

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue	2025
Fees:	Ryan Straschnitzki charges 4000.00 plus expenses for a speaking engagement, totaling 4500.00 Remaining amount would be put towards securing school wide(IRJC/IRSC) presentations for the 2025 school year.
Grants:	
Community Donations:	schools would use their buildings/facilities at no charge
Fundraising:	
Total Revenue	
Expenses	2025
Personnel:	none, current school staff would organize event
Materials & Supplies:	
Other Expenses:	none
Total Expenses	
FCSS Funding Request	10 000.00

Part A – Community Group Information

Question #'s	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Part A 1	Organization Name:			
Part A 2-5	Org contact info			
Part A 8-10	Other financial assistance?			
Part A 11	List of Board members included?			
Part A 11	Organization bylaws included?			
Part A 12	Financials included?			
	Is the application signed?			
	Is this program primarily recreational in nature?			If yes, the application is ineligible
	Does the program offer direct assistance, including money, food, clothing or shelter?			If yes, the application is ineligible
	Is this program duplicating a current program?			If yes, the application is ineligible

Part B – Purpose & Need

Question #'s	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Part B 1	Demonstration of Need:			
	✓ Is there an identified service gap?			
Part B 1	✓ Does the organization strengthen & support social functioning in Blackfalds?			
Part B 2	Organization:			
	✓ Do you understand what the purpose of the organization is?			
Part B 2	✓ Do the goals and objectives align with FCSS mandated programming expectations?			
Part B 2	✓ Has other funding been explored?			
Part B 3a	✓ Which of the FCSS priorities are addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullying/ Conflict Resolution ○ Child & Youth Safety ○ Mental Health Supports ○ Parenting ○ Relationship Support ○ Family & Domestic Violence Support ○ Substance Abuse ○ Intergenerational Programming 			
Part B 3c	Is the target audience identified?			
Part B 3b	Which <u>Strategic Direction</u> is addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop an awareness of social needs <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people <input type="checkbox"/> Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them <input type="checkbox"/> Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community. 			

The Project

Question #'s	Criteria	Comments	Rating
Part A 11 Part B 3j	Community Support Question #'s addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Did the application include client testimonials? ✓ Did the application include letters showing community support? ✓ Has this organization been one of the active community support groups in the area? 		
Part B 3b	Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Greatest investment, greatest impact ✓ Immediate, intermediate or long term benefits and outcomes? ✓ Which age groups will be most benefitted and how? ✓ Will it strengthen and support social functioning of Blackfalds residents? 		
Part B	Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The organization is a valued partner of FCSS ✓ The organization promotes FCSS as a funder ✓ Collaboration with other community groups and non-profit organizations ✓ Collective impact (community level, neighbourhood level, surrounding communities) ✓ Have other funding options been explored/utilized (sponsorships, fundraising, grants) ✓ Does the organization make use of volunteers? 		
Part B 3g	Performance Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What does success look like? ✓ How will it be measured? ✓ Measurement of outcomes (not just outputs): Are the goals & objectives attainable? ✓ What is the proposed timeline to achieve the goals? ✓ Are the measurement tools feasible and realistic? 		
Part B 3k	Impact / Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What is the risk of impact on the community if we do not provide the funding? ✓ What is the impact on FCSS if we do not provide the funding? ✓ What is the risk of not providing the funding? (How vulnerable is the proposed program without FCSS funding?) ✓ If FCSS cannot provide funding are there other potential funders in the area that we can refer them to? 		

Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Detailed budget specifies what the funding will be used for 			

Grant funding requested? _____

Amount approved: _____

Blackfalds FCSS is an 80/20 funding partnership between the provincial Children and Youth Ministry and the Town of Blackfalds. This partnership works with the community to support and develop locally driven preventative social support services. Locally FCSS strives to:

- ~ Enhance, strengthen and stabilize family and community life
- ~ Promote volunteerism
- ~ Promote, encourage and facilitate the development of stronger communities &
- ~ Enable local decision making

The Blackfalds FCSS Board is an advisory board of Town Council. Membership consists of 8 Members: 5 Members appointed by Town Council from citizens at large, 1 citizen at large from Lacombe County, and 2 Members appointed from the Council of the Town of Blackfalds.

Community Group Grant Application

Purpose: To provide funding to assist established social service groups, organizations and individuals with expenditures incurred in the operation and the delivery of their existing programs.

Who May Apply: Not for profit community groups that support and deliver an activity whose primary focus is social service. Service must be delivered in Blackfalds, AB.

Groups may submit only one grant application per year in all categories.

Operational grant funding is not intended to provide the basis for permanent operational funding. Applications are reviewed annually, independent of previous grant applications.

**Applications due:
March 21st, 2025 at 4:30pm**

To request funding, groups must submit a complete application consisting of a fully completed grant application form and the required support documents. The original, signed grant application must be returned to Blackfalds FCSS by the required deadline date. If you require information or assistance, you can reach us by phone at (403) 885-6247. We are located at 5018 Waghorn Street, Blackfalds, AB.

Successful applicants must adhere to reporting timelines and information requirements. **Annual reports and financial statements for groups awarded 2023 grants are due to FCSS office no later than December 31st, 2025.**

Part A - Community Group Information

1. Organization's Name: Big Brothers & Big Sister Association of Lacombe and District
2. Mailing Address: 5103 49 Street Lacombe, Alberta
Postal Code: T4L 1J4
3. President or Principal: Travis Marcott
Phone: _____ E-Mail: tmarcott@lacombe.ca
4. Treasurer: Joey Ingram
Phone: (403-318-86) 403-318-8970 E-Mail: joey.ingram@mnp.ca
5. Primary Contact Person: Brianna Berthiaume
Phone: () 403-782-7870 E-Mail: brianna.berthiaume@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
6. Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable) 886595396 RR0001
7. How long has your organization been operating in Blackfalds? 15
8. Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from the Town of Blackfalds? If so, please specify.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District does not currently receive ongoing financial assistance or subsidies from the Town of Blackfalds. However, we have received past support through the Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services Community Grant.
9. Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.

No, our organization presently is not receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or public agencies.
10. Does your organization qualify for any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.

Yes, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District qualifies for financial assistance from various levels of government and public agencies. We are eligible and have applied for funding through the Government of Canada's Canada Summer Jobs program, which supports seasonal staff. Additionally, we qualify for grants from the Government of Alberta, including the Community Initiatives Program and other provincial funding opportunities. Locally, we are eligible for funding from Family and Community Support Services in the communities we serve, including Lacombe and Lacombe County. As a registered charity, we also qualify to apply for gaming licenses and participate in fundraising activities, such as 50/50 draws and casinos, through Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis regulations.

11. The following documentation is required in addition to your application:

- ~ List of the current Board Members
- ~ Minutes of the meeting which approved the current Board Members
- ~ Copy of the Bylaws and/or organizational guidelines
- ~ Minutes of the meeting which approved the grant application
- ~ Letters showing community support for your proposed program

12. Please provide the previous year audited financials.

Grant Funding Requested:

\$16325

Declaration

We, the undersigned officers of the organization, certify that this statement contains a full and accurate account of all matters stated herein:

Name: Brianna Berthiaume

Position: Executive Director

Signature 

Name: Travis Marcott

Position: Board President

Signature 

Part B – Purpose and Need

1. Demonstration of need:

- ~ What service gap(s) has been identified that shows the social service need for this program in our community?

The Blackfalds Social Needs Assessment highlights mental health challenges, isolation, and a lack of strong community ties among youth. It shows that many young people need more positive relationships and social supports to build confidence, life skills, and belonging. Big Brothers Big Sisters addresses these gaps by offering mentorship that fosters resilience, emotional well-being, and community connection, aligning with local FCSS priorities to strengthen families, encourage volunteerism, and boost collaboration.

- ~ How does this program/service serve to strengthen and support social functioning of the residents of Blackfalds?

Big Brothers Big Sisters strengthens social functioning in Blackfalds by building positive mentoring relationships. Youth gain confidence, social skills, and a sense of belonging that help them overcome challenges. Families experience reduced stress and added support, while parent/guardians appreciate knowing their child has another trusted adult. This supportive network also spurs volunteerism, leadership, and community engagement, empowering youth to give back and drive positive change.

2. Organization

- ~ Describe your organization including the type, the purpose, and number of members. Describe the type of program(s) and/or services offered.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District is a registered charity empowering youth in Blackfalds, Lacombe and Lacombe County through mentorship. In 2024, we supported over 440 mentoring relationships and 6,000+ volunteer hours. Our diverse programs include Community-Based, In-School, Teen, and Group Mentoring which are building confidence, resilience, and social connections across all of Blackfalds and in all schools. Since 2021, our mentorship in Blackfalds has grown by 134%.

- ~ What are your organization's goals and objectives for this year?

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District is dedicated to expanding mentorship, strengthening community partnerships, and addressing evolving youth and family needs in Blackfalds. In 2025, our goals are to broaden access through teen, group, in-school, and community-based programs; enhance program quality; engage 75+ volunteers for 1,500 hours; secure sustainable funding; and serve over 200 youth in Blackfalds.

- ~ Does your group have sponsorship or a committee for fundraising? What are your user fees and/or membership dues?

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District partners with community sponsors to drive fundraising efforts such as Walk for Kids' Sake, Festival of Wreaths, and Duck Drop which help offset costs and boost program accessibility. As a registered charity, we charge no user fees or membership dues, relying entirely on grants, donations, and sponsorships to sustain and expand our mentorship services.

- ~ Please list other sources of funding applied for to fund the service/project (even if the application was not successful.)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District has applied for funding from several sources to support our services and projects, including:

1. Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program – to support seasonal staff positions.
2. Community Foundation of Central Alberta – for partial funding towards the launch of Teen Mentoring at Iron Ridge Secondary Campus.
3. United Way of Central Alberta – provides funding that supports various aspects of all our mentoring programs.
4. MEGlobal – support for Group Mentoring in the Town of Blackfalds.

3. The Project

- a. Describe the issue or priority area your project/program proposes to address.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District's program addresses a critical need for positive mentorship and support for youth in Blackfalds, focusing on mental health, social isolation, and emotional well-being. Through targeted mentoring, we build emotional resilience, foster strong social connections, and enhance academic performance empowering youth to overcome challenges and succeed.

- b. In which of the following areas does this project/program impact on social sustainability in our community: Who is impacted by this issue? Please describe.

- Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skill and become more resistant to crisis;
- Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;
- Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people;
- Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them;
- Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community.

- c. Who is impacted by this issue? Please describe.

Research from the National Mentoring Partnership shows that mentored youth are 55% more likely to pursue post-secondary education and 78% more likely to volunteer. This support not only boosts youth outcomes but also eases family stress and promotes stability. Ultimately, the entire community benefits with lower crime rates, stronger economies, and enhanced social cohesion demonstrating that investing in mentoring empowers individuals and enriches society.

- d. In what way are they impacted? Please describe short and long term implications.

Short-term, our program builds youth independence, effective coping, and social awareness, quickly enhancing interpersonal skills and crisis management. Long-term, these gains empower individuals to make responsible decisions, actively contribute to community life, and strengthen social networks for greater social sustainability. Ultimately, this ripple effect transforms personal lives and fosters thriving, resilient communities.

- e. What is the impact of not addressing the issue?

If not addressed, youth in Blackfalds may fail to develop essential life skills, emotional regulation, and positive social connections leading to short-term isolation, stress, and lower academic engagement. Over time, these challenges can escalate into higher risks of mental health issues, reduced employment opportunities, and increased reliance on social services, ultimately undermining community cohesion and economic productivity. Proactive intervention is essential to unlock the full potential of our youth and foster a thriving, resilient community.

- f. How does your project/program plan to address the issue?

Our project will tackle the issue with a comprehensive, multi-faceted mentoring approach that addresses both immediate and long-term social needs. We offer diverse mentoring models including teen, group, in-school, and community-based programs to provide consistent, positive adult/teen guidance. These structured programs empower youth to build independence, develop strong interpersonal skills, and master effective coping strategies. In the short term, participants gain confidence and emotional resilience, while in the long term, they become active, responsible community members. Additionally, we collaborate with local schools, businesses, and community organizations to align our mentoring efforts with broader community goals and ensure they remain responsive to emerging social needs.

- g. Describe specifically how you will measure the success of the program and your expected results. (Examples: # of participants, # of surveys completed, survey feedback, program waiting list, etc.)

We will measure the program's success using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitatively, we will track the number of active mentoring pairs, volunteer inquiries, and wait-list numbers. Qualitatively, we will administer annual surveys to mentors, mentees, and their families, conduct regular match support check-ins, and gather insights from staff and school liaisons. In 2025, a comprehensive focus group will further review all programming data. These measures will ensure we continuously improve and effectively meet our goals.

- h. Are there similar programs offered in the community? If so, explain how they are different.

There are no other programs in Blackfalds that offer group mentoring and/or one-to-one, long-term support that we provide. Our program is unique in its personalized approach, building lasting relationships that address the individual needs and growth of each youth in the community.

- i. Describe your organizations' use of volunteers. Include the nature of volunteer services provided, the number of volunteers and the estimated total annual number of volunteer hours worked.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District depends on dedicated volunteers who serve as one-to-one and group mentors—providing friendship, encouragement, and positive role modeling to youth in Blackfalds. Volunteers also support key events (Walk for Kids' Sake, Duck Drop), assist with fundraising, and help with daily operations. In 2024, over 110 volunteers contributed 6,000+ hours, and in Blackfalds alone, we project over 75 volunteers providing more than 1,500 hours in 2025 underscoring their essential role in our programs' success and sustainability.

- j. Describe the need for this program in the community. Attach letters of support.

Blackfalds has a clear need for structured mentorship. Our project addresses key priorities like youth resilience, family well-being, and stronger social ties through preventative programs aligned with FCSS's goals. By using insights from the Social Needs Assessment Master Plan and collaborating with local partners, our adaptable and sustainable approach ensures measurable improvements in well-being, inclusion, and community engagement. Funding our project directly strengthens Blackfalds from the ground up.

- k. Describe the implications of not receiving (or receiving less than requested) grant funding for this program.

Without full grant funding, our program's reach and impact will be limited. Fewer mentor-mentee matches, especially in group mentoring, would mean less support for youth. Budget constraints would reduce services and volunteer participation. To prevent this, we've increased sponsorships, fundraising, and secured additional grants, demonstrating our commitment to sustainability. Stable Community Grant funding is essential to meet the growing demand for mentorship, ensuring we continue saying "yes" to youth in need while maintaining financial stability and community strength.

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue	2025
Fees:	\$0
Grants:	FCSS Community Grant - \$16,325 United Way of Central Alberta - \$10,600 Other Grants - \$11,300
Community Donations:	Donations - \$14,820 Sponsorship - \$9200
Fundraising:	\$29,400
Total Revenue	\$91,645
Expenses	2025
Personnel:	Salary/Wages - \$53,485
Materials & Supplies:	Program Supplies \$4,200 Travel \$3,250 Advertising & Promotion \$1,950 Volunteer Recognition \$500 BBBSC Membership Fees \$6,860 Mentoring Program Database \$460
Other Expenses:	Mortgage \$5,500 Utilities \$2,600 Insurance Administrative & Program \$5,000 Accounting, Audit Fees & Legal \$3,000 Bookkeeping \$250 Telephone/Communication \$950 Office Supplies \$900 Office Maintenance \$540 Fundraising Expenses \$2,200
Total Expenses	\$91645
FCSS Funding Request	\$16325

Part A – Community Group Information

Question #'s	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Part A 1	Organization Name:			
Part A 2-5	Org contact info			
Part A 8-10	Other financial assistance?			
Part A 11	List of Board members included?			
Part A 11	Organization bylaws included?			
Part A 12	Financials included?			
	Is the application signed?			
	Is this program primarily recreational in nature?			If yes, the application is ineligible
	Does the program offer direct assistance, including money, food, clothing or shelter?			If yes, the application is ineligible
	Is this program duplicating a current program?			If yes, the application is ineligible

Part B – Purpose & Need

Question #'s	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Part B 1	Demonstration of Need:			
	✓ Is there an identified service gap?			
Part B 1	✓ Does the organization strengthen & support social functioning in Blackfalds?			
Part B 2	Organization:			
	✓ Do you understand what the purpose of the organization is?			
Part B 2	✓ Do the goals and objectives align with FCSS mandated programming expectations?			
Part B 2	✓ Has other funding been explored?			
Part B 3a	✓ Which of the FCSS priorities are addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullying/ Conflict Resolution ○ Child & Youth Safety ○ Mental Health Supports ○ Parenting ○ Relationship Support ○ Family & Domestic Violence Support ○ Substance Abuse ○ Intergenerational Programming 			
Part B 3c	Is the target audience identified?			
Part B 3b	Which <u>Strategic Direction</u> is addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop an awareness of social needs <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people <input type="checkbox"/> Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them <input type="checkbox"/> Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community. 			

The Project

Question #'s	Criteria	Comments	Rating
Part A 11 Part B 3j	Community Support Question #'s addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Did the application include client testimonials? ✓ Did the application include letters showing community support? ✓ Has this organization been one of the active community support groups in the area? 		
Part B 3b	Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Greatest investment, greatest impact ✓ Immediate, intermediate or long term benefits and outcomes? ✓ Which age groups will be most benefitted and how? ✓ Will it strengthen and support social functioning of Blackfalds residents? 		
Part B	Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The organization is a valued partner of FCSS ✓ The organization promotes FCSS as a funder ✓ Collaboration with other community groups and non-profit organizations ✓ Collective impact (community level, neighbourhood level, surrounding communities) ✓ Have other funding options been explored/utilized (sponsorships, fundraising, grants) ✓ Does the organization make use of volunteers? 		
Part B 3g	Performance Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What does success look like? ✓ How will it be measured? ✓ Measurement of outcomes (not just outputs): Are the goals & objectives attainable? ✓ What is the proposed timeline to achieve the goals? ✓ Are the measurement tools feasible and realistic? 		
Part B 3k	Impact / Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What is the risk of impact on the community if we do not provide the funding? ✓ What is the impact on FCSS if we do not provide the funding? ✓ What is the risk of not providing the funding? (How vulnerable is the proposed program without FCSS funding?) ✓ If FCSS cannot provide funding are there other potential funders in the area that we can refer them to? 		

Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Detailed budget specifies what the funding will be used for 			

Grant funding requested? _____

Amount approved: _____



Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

5018 Waghorn Street, Box 220, Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

Phone (403) 600-9066 Fax (403) 885-0011

Email fcss@blackfalds.ca

Blackfalds FCSS is an 80/20 funding partnership between the provincial Children and Youth Ministry and the Town of Blackfalds. This partnership works with the community to support and develop locally driven preventative social support services. Locally FCSS strives to:

- Enhance, strengthen and stabilize family and community life
- Promote volunteerism
- Promote, encourage and facilitate the development of stronger communities &
- Enable local decision making

The Blackfalds FCSS Board is an advisory board of Town Council. Membership consists of 8 Members: 5 Members appointed by Town Council from citizens at large, 1 citizen at large from Lacombe County, and 2 Members appointed from the Council of the Town of Blackfalds.

Community Group Grant Application

Purpose: To provide funding to assist established social service groups, organizations and individuals with expenditures incurred in the operation and the delivery of their existing programs.

Who May Apply: Not for profit community groups that support and deliver an activity whose primary focus is social service. Service must be delivered in Blackfalds, AB.

Groups may submit only one grant application per year in all categories.

Operational grant funding is not intended to provide the basis for permanent operational funding. Applications are reviewed annually, independent of previous grant applications.

**Applications due:
March 21st, 2025 at 4:30pm**

To request funding, groups must submit a complete application consisting of a fully completed grant application form and the required support documents. The original, signed grant application must be returned to Blackfalds FCSS by the required deadline date. If you require information or assistance, you can reach us by phone at (403) 885-6247. We are located at 5018 Waghorn Street, Blackfalds, AB.

Successful applicants must adhere to reporting timelines and information requirements. **Annual reports and financial statements for groups awarded 2025 grants are due to FCSS office no later than December 31st, 2025.**

The personal information provided as part of this application is collected under the authority of the Family and Community Support Services Act (FCSSA) R,218-294, the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). Under the FCSS, this application constitutes part of the grant application and financial information will be used to ensure both financial sustainability and to evaluate the effectiveness of any long-range planning. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and Section 33 (c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and will be protected under Part 2 of the FOIP Act. The personal information collected on this form will be used solely to administer FCSS Grand Funding Applications in the Town of Blackfalds. Questions regarding the collection and use of personal information may be directed to the Town of Blackfalds FOIP Coordinator at 403-885-6370.

Part A - Community Group Information

1. **Organization's Name:** BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds
2. **Mailing Address:** Box 4115 Ponoka, AB T4J 1R5
3. **President or Principal:** Grant Jorgenson
Phone: (403) 783-6497 **E-Mail:** grant@jorgensonhomes.ca
4. **Treasurer:** Kelly Sperber
Phone: (403) 963-2720 **E-Mail:** kellysperber@ponokacounty.com
5. **Primary Contact Person:** Beth Reitz
Phone: (403) 783-3112 **E-Mail:** beth@bgcwolfcreek.com
6. **Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable):** 879767515RR0001
7. **How long has your organization been operating in Blackfalds?**

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds has been building our presence in the community for approximately 1 year. Actual program delivery began in September 2024.
8. **Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from the Town of Blackfalds? If so, please specify.**

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is currently receiving no financial assistance or subsidy from the Town of Blackfalds.
9. **Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.**

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds currently receives financial support via various BGC Canada grant funding opportunities. In addition, our agency also accesses Child Care Subsidy from the province.
10. **Does your organization qualify for any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.**

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is a licensed child care facility. Parents can receive subsidy for the child care we provide.



11. The following documentation is required in addition to your application:

- x List of the current Board Members
- x Minutes of the meeting which approved the current Board Members
- x Copy of the Bylaws and/or organizational guidelines
- x Minutes of the meeting which approved the grant application
- x Letters showing community support for your proposed program

12. Please provide the previous year's audited financials.

Grant Funding Requested:

\$15,000.00

Declaration

We, the undersigned officers of the organization, certify that this statement contains a full and accurate account of all matters stated herein:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Part B – Purpose and Need

1. Demonstration of need:

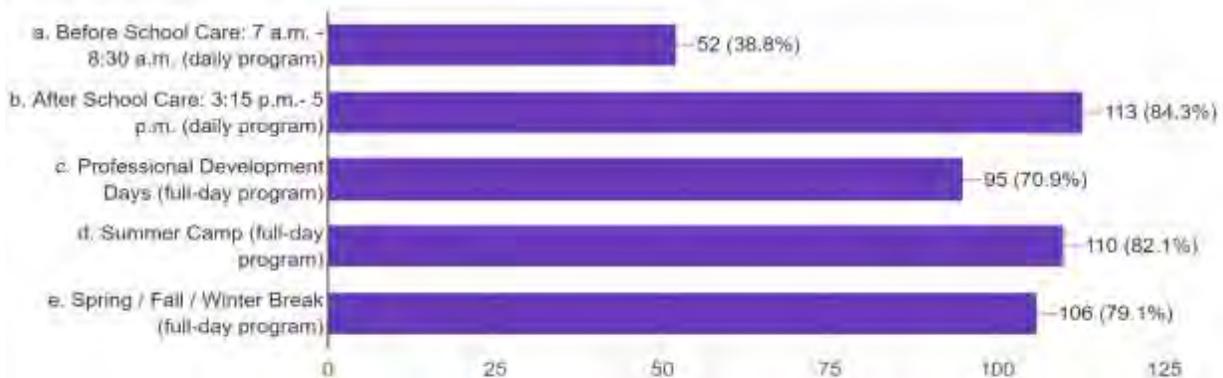
- What service gap(s) has been identified that shows the social service need for this program in our community?

BGC Wolf Creek, in partnership with Wolf Creek Public Schools, conducted a Needs Assessment in Blackfalds at the Iron Ridge Elementary School and Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus in February 2024. This evaluation was undertaken to determine if there was a need in the community for a BGC (formerly known as Boys and Girls Club) to open its doors in Blackfalds and provide Out of School Child Care for families.

The initial survey asked families what kinds of programs their family would access, if they were available. The options presented included: before and after school programming, as well as full-day programming during Professional Development days, school breaks (e.g. spring and winter), and during the summer. The results of the Needs Assessment were significant with 142 families responding, in total, and parents expressing the most need for after school programming and full-day programming. (Please see the results in the chart below.)

Please select the programs that your family would access if they were available.

134 responses



Since that time, further informal discussions also took place with the administration of St. Gregory the Great Catholic School where there was very strong indication that their families needed, and would utilize, the programs we could deliver. After careful thought and thorough consideration, BGC Wolf Creek determined that there was a need for Out of School Child Care in the community of Blackfalds, and we moved forward in bringing together all the pieces that would make that happen.

- How does this program/service serve to strengthen and support social functioning of the residents of Blackfalds?

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is a youth-serving agency that began program delivery in the Town of Blackfalds in September 2024 with the introduction of our Out of School Child Care programming. We are providing valuable programs and supports for children, youth, and families who reside and work in Blackfalds – programs and supports that help build a vibrant community. Programming such as ours brings many benefits to the communities in which they are delivered – for program participants, their families, and the broader community. Our agency is pleased to play a role in strengthening and supporting social functioning of the residents of Blackfalds in the following ways.

Beneficial to Youth

As our Mission Statement specifies, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds provides “*safe, supportive places where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships, and develop confidence and skills for life.*” We welcome youth into a safe space where they can count on being seen, feeling heard, and receiving kindness and respect. A variety of fun, engaging, and developmentally appropriate activities are offered each day that contribute to the overall health and wellness of the children who walk through our doors. The programs that are offered by our agency are beneficial in many ways to the children who attend, whether it be after school, on PD Days or during summer vacation.

Please reference the following regarding benefits to youth.

- a. “Kids are continuing to express not wanting to leave the program when their parents/caregivers show up to pick them up. In a number of instances, we have kids staying in the program later due to interest not necessity (e.g. one student has asked to be picked up after her brother is done hockey. On hockey days parents pick up one child and come back later for the second.)”
(BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds Staff Observation)
- b. “It provides a wonderful learning environment for children to interact with others, learn new skills through play and build positive relationships. It is a wonderful organization and am so pleased that it is a part of our community.”
(Community Stakeholder Comment)
- c. As part of the national BGC Canada 2024 survey, the following key insights were gathered regarding the benefits of BGC programs for Club youth. “*Wanting the best for young people is an age-old tradition that Clubs perpetuate, indefinitely. That’s not up for debate. Since 2022, Clubs have collected over 20,500 survey responses and conducted over 850 interviews as a part of the Learning & Impact Project—making it the largest evaluative study of its kind in Canada.*” (BGC Canada Learning and Impact Project)

The [Learning & Impact Project](#) has found:

- 95% of Club kids have **more people they like to spend time with.**
- 92% of Club kids are **better at helping out when it is needed.**
- 91% of Club kids are **more excited to try new things.**
- 91% of Club kids are **more confident in their abilities.**
- 90% of Club kids feel **more comfortable being themselves.**
- 90% of Club kids are **more aware of the feelings of others.**
- 90% of Club kids are **more physically active.**
- 90% of Club kids **work better with others.**

BGC Wolf Creek is currently in the process of completing the 2025 Learning and Impact Survey which will include specific results for all of our programs in each of our communities, out of which we will have a breakdown of specific results for those programs that are delivered in Blackfalds. We will be pleased to share these results with you in future reporting.

- d. “According to the National Youth Outcomes Initiative 2014 Outcome Report, conducted by Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the more times that a youth attends a club in a year, the greater the impact on many areas of their life. For instance, if a child or youth regularly attends our club, then they are more likely to experience greater success in academics, display good character and citizenship and experience a healthy lifestyle.”
- e. “A caring supportive relationship with another person is identified in much of the literature as the most important protective factor i.e. protecting a young person from harm.”
(Witt, P.A. & Crompton, J.L., (1996b). “Major themes emerging from case studies”. In P.A. Witt and J.L. Crompton (Eds). Recreation programs that work for at-risk youth. State Colleges. PA Venture

Publishing. Pp. 7-33. Resiliency and Assets: Understanding the Ecology of Youth Development, Carlos, R & Enfield, R. University of California)

Beneficial to Families

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds programs are also beneficial to families in the community. We provide support for parents/guardians in encouraging positive social and relational development, as well as unique and fun experiences for their children. Our agency also supports families in accessing Out of School Child Care, as options for care can be a hurdle that is difficult for many families to overcome when there may be few choices available, spaces fill as quickly as they become open, or the cost of available choices is prohibitive. Our programs are offered during times when child care is needed while parents are at work, subsequently allowing parents to have peace of mind that their children are safe and cared for. The cost for our programs is very reasonable, government subsidy is made available for qualifying families, and we have Club subsidy measures in place to ensure that no families are turned away due to financial constraints. The programs offered by our agency are very beneficial to families.

Please reference the following regarding benefits to families.

- a. 97% (n=28) (strongly agree or agree)
Parents would recommend the program to other parents and their children.
(2024 Ponoka Parent Survey)
- b. 95% (n=22)
Parents would recommend Summer Camp to other families.
(2024 Lacombe Summer Camp Parent Survey)
- c. "The BGC after school/SOD program has been an amazing opportunity both for my family, and the community. Finding local subsidized child care that includes transportation to both of my children's schools, snacks, structured play/activities with qualified staff, and endless fun has my children coming home every day with smiles and has left me with peace of mind. The themed days that are carefully planned out month after month have my children excited for what every day may bring. Blackfalds struggles to provide enough subsidized care opportunities for the many young families in town, so the Blackfalds BGC program has provided a great option for parents and caregivers to consider while looking for who to trust with the care of their children. We genuinely love the program and look forward to what adventures lay ahead - the Summer program as well!"
(BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds Parent Comment)
- d. "It is so important to our family as we both work and therefore rely on after school care for our son. This club is fun, reliable and a safe place for school kids. There are so many things the kids learn there, including social skills, kindness, responsibility, and creativity. This program is affordable which is so appreciated. The diversity of kids that attend the program is perfectly matched by a constantly changing and amazing program. The B&G club provides so many amazing opportunities to kids who may otherwise never have these opportunities. The club is more valuable, in our community, than words can explain."
(BGC Wolf Creek Parent Comment)
- e. "The counselling availability has had a positive impact on our students and their families and has been a huge addition for our school-based support."
(Community Stakeholder Comment)
- f. "Caring adults characterize successful youth programs. They provide youth with a sense of belonging, acceptance, empowerment and connection."
(Scott, D. Witt, P.A. & Foss M. (1996) "Evaluation of the impact of the Doherty Arts Centre's Creativity Club on children and risk." Journal of Parks and Recreation. 14 (3), 41-60, Halpern, R. (1992). "Rebuilding the Inner City: A History of Neighbourhood...Initiatives to Address Poverty". New York. Columbia University Press. Whalen, S.P. and Wynn, J.R. (1995). "Enhancing Primary Services for Youth Through an Infrastructure of Social Services". Journal of Adolescent Research. 10(1). 88-110.)

Beneficial to the Community

An important consideration for young families in choosing a community in which to live is the availability of reliable and quality child care. We would offer that the availability of Out of School Child Care programming is a powerful attraction and would frame the Town of Blackfalds as a desirable location for young families, as they determine where to put down roots.

Not only do programs such as ours attract young families, but they also provide safe activities that keep youth occupied during those out of school hours where harmful behaviours may take place. Youth who are occupied in healthy activities that are safe and fun are less likely to engage in behaviours that impact the community in negative ways.

Our agency is also intentional in providing opportunities for our Club members to reach out into the community – making connections and building relationships with individuals of all ages from all walks of life. When our neighbourhoods are seen as places full of friends and people we know, the collective benefit to the community cannot be overstated. BGC Wolf Creek is well-experienced in providing this piece in the communities in which we operate, and we know that our programs will contribute to making Blackfalds a vibrant and healthy community.

Please reference the following regarding benefits to the community.

- a. 97% (n=31) (strongly agree or agree)
BGC Wolf Creek offers a wide range of safe, fun, affordable, and relevant programs that meet the needs of the children and youth in the community.
(Community Stakeholder Survey)
- b. “Providing a safe, educational and fun place for our children and youth. The impact of this can not be measured. The positive impacts of your agencies are now evident in several generations in our community.”
(Community Stakeholder Comment)
- c. “Increasing the child care services in our community that not only provide care for working families but support services for the child such as free therapy. This child care approach allows families to connect and grow. The mentorship program is essential for child positive development and has benefit students.”
(Community Stakeholder Comment)
- d. “We are very grateful for you in our community. The programs that you offer to the youth are valued. Parents appreciate the support and programs you provide.”
(Community Stakeholder Comment)
- e. “Excellent agency to partner with in the community. They are always approachable and go over and above to ensure the needs of their children and families are met.”
(Community Stakeholder Comment)
- f. “The youth involved are excited to attend programs, and it is a positive support for youth and families that struggle financially or socially.”
(Community Stakeholder Comment)
- g. “Supervised, high-quality, challenging after-school programs have been shown to be an effective buffer against delinquency and victimizations and to benefit children greatly by improving their social skills, confidence, grades, range of interests and peer networks, as well as preventing the negative influences that lead to risky behaviours.”
(Chettleburgh, Michael, (2007) Young Thugs: Inside the Dangerous World of Canadian Gangs)

2. Organization

- Describe your organization including the type, the purpose, and number of members. Describe the type of program(s) and/or services offered.

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is a satellite of BGC Wolf Creek, an agency that is a member Club of BGC (formerly Boys and Girls Club) Canada. **BGC Canada has 90 clubs across Canada, serving over 600 locations.** We are a part of movement that is celebrating its **125th anniversary in 2025** – “marking 125 years of BGC Club impact and the BGC movement’s creation of opportunities for Canadian kids and

teens.” What an honor and privilege it is to be a member organization of something that has had a profound impact on literally thousands and thousands of lives over such a long period of time. BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is a part of something big!

As a member Club and non-profit organization, our **Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Core Values, and History** (as outlined below) provide an overview of our organization, our purpose, and members.

a. Mission Statement

BGC Wolf Creek Lacombe provides safe, supportive places where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships, and develop confidence and skills for life.

b. Vision Statement

All children and youth discover and achieve their dreams and grow up to be healthy, successful, and active participants in society.

c. Core Values

- **Belonging**
We welcome everyone in a safe, accepting environment based on belonging and positive relationships.
- **Respect**
We ensure that everyone - children, youth, families, volunteers, staff - is heard, valued, and treated fairly.
- **Encouragement and Support**
We encourage and support every child and youth to play, learn, and grow to achieve their dreams.
- **Working Together**
We work together with young people, families, volunteers, our communities, and government.
- **Speaking Out**
We speak out for children, youth, and families so that we can make our world better.

d. History

Ponoka Youth Centre/BGC Wolf Creek began operations over 20 years ago. Beginning with 1 small program functioning out of an empty room above the local hockey arena, programming was initiated in response to requests by families in that community for an intentional focus to be developed to serve children and youth.

Over the years, BGC Wolf Creek responded to the needs of families and grew exponentially to not only include programming for children ages 5-11, but also youth ages 12-18. Today the agency has its own building in Ponoka (under a long-term lease agreement with Wolf Creek Public Schools), a location in Rimbey Elementary School (as of March 2025), 3 locations in Lacombe (in partnership with Wolf Creek Public Schools and the Mary C. Moore Public Library), and our most recent addition to the BGC Wolf Creek family in Blackfalds (located in the new Iron Ridge Secondary Campus). It is clear to see that our partnership with Wolf Creek Public Schools has been crucial and we cannot overstate how much their support has contributed to our success.

BGC Wolf Creek offers **licensed child care** and **government subsidy**, and **employs approximately 30 staff** between Ponoka, Rimbey, Lacombe, and Blackfalds. We welcomed **1232 children and youth** to approximately **20 programs** in all **4 communities** in **2024**, **85** of whom were registered at our **Blackfalds BGC Club**. Of these Blackfalds children, **45 were town residents**.

It is also exciting to share that we had a total of **34,231 on and off-site visits** made to agency programs in **2024**, which is our greatest success of all! Those visits represent many opportunities to develop the relationships that are so important to us in building into young lives, as well as to create a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment that leads towards very positive outcomes.

Regarding our BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds Club site specifically, while it is new to our BGC Wolf Creek family, it has also already become part of our history. As a significant partner, the following markers will be of interest to you as you consider our grant application.

Program delivery began in September 2024, and we are very pleased with how the Club is unfolding after only a few months of operations.

- We are maximizing the usage of space with which we have been so generously provided at the Iron Ridge Secondary Campus. What a joy it is to be able to deliver programs in such a beautiful and welcoming new building! This location also places us in close proximity to many playgrounds and wide spaces for outdoor activities, not to mention the opportunities that the Abbey Centre provides.
- Program attendance began strong and has continued to increase. In fact, we often have a wait list for our S.O.D. Days due to their popularity. We have been able to manage this given that plans can change, and we can fill those empty spots should a family need to cancel their registration.
- BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds also removed the potential barrier of transportation to our Club location by purchasing a bus and providing bussing to our site. This began as quite an adventure, as we learned the ins and outs of dismissal times and parking, etc. at the various schools where we pick up, as well as managed the plug-in situation when temperatures dipped during the winter! The availability of transportation to our Club has been a significant support to those families who need it.
- Anticipation is building as we look forward to offering our first Summer Camp in Blackfalds this year. Summer Camp is a licensed Out of School Child Care program that allows families to access government subsidy should that be of assistance to them. Plans are well underway and the buzz among our families has begun.
- As we began to build relationships with our Club members and their families, it became evident that many could benefit from the Child and Family Counselling that our agency provides. This service is made available at no cost to individuals which removes the barrier of finances. It is also conveniently offered at 2 schools in the community which increases ease of access. Due to demand, we have increased the hours of availability for counselling. It seems that regardless of the amount of time we have available, if we opened more times for counselling, they would be filled. This is a significant need among our families.
- We have met each challenge and have overcome many of the “growing pains” that come with expansion. We now feel like we are finding our footing in the community – building relationships with children, youth, and families, fellow stakeholders, and the community of Blackfalds. We look forward to building on our strong start!

The following is a complete list of programs that BGC Wolf Creek offers to give a sense of the wide range of needs that are being met by Club programming. Because our programs are tailored to meet the needs expressed by each community, not all programs are delivered at each Club at all times. There is a fluidity for programs to come and go, based on need. The programs currently operating at our BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds location have an asterisk beside them. (* It is also important to note that we will soon be expanding program delivery to the youth demographic by offering casual, drop in programming at the high school during noon hours and potentially further programming as funding and need would allow.)

PONOKA YOUTH CENTRE/BGC WOLF CREEK PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

GRADES K - 6 PROGRAMS

*After School Program Monday - Friday 3:15p.m. - 5:30p.m.	The After School Program offers a diversity of experiences that provide opportunities for adventure, play and discovery. It includes open-ended activities that support social, emotional and physical development through connecting with children and their families in a caring, positive and supportive
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Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

	way. It operates during the school year and includes indoor and outdoor active play, arts and crafts, imagination stations, life-skills instruction, leadership training, recreation and a nutritional snack.
*S.O.D. (School's Out Day) Program Professional Development Days 8:30a.m. - 5:30p.m.	The S.O.D. Program is a full-day program of engaging experiences organized in a similar fashion as the After School Program. The S.O.D. Program operates during the school year during Professional Development Days and In Lieu Days for schools.
*Summer Camp Monday - Friday 8:30a.m. - 5:30p.m.	Summer Camp is a full-day program that offers a wide range of enjoyable experiences and opportunities both on and off-site organized in a similar fashion as the After School Program. Summer Camp operates daily during the summer months of July and August.
Torch Club Wednesday 3:15p.m. - 5:30p.m.	Torch Club is a junior leadership program that focuses on five core elements: service to club and community, teamwork, healthy choices, leadership and learning. Youth are encouraged to get involved and give back to their community while learning valuable leadership skills. The club meets once a week and is mentored by an adult staff member.
GRADES 7 - 12 PROGRAMS	
Drop In (Flex Your Head) Monday 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.	Flex Your Head is a drop in program that aims to help youth think about, talk about, and understand issues of mental health and wellness in a safe, fun and welcoming environment. Each week a new topic is covered, such as what is mental health, social media and mental health, and mental health stigma, etc.
Jr. Drop In Tuesday 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.	Jr. Drop In is a safe and supervised drop in program offered only for junior high youth. The program allows younger youth to spend time with their peers, as well as familiarize themselves and become more comfortable with the teen Drop In Program at a time when older teens are not in attendance. A portion of each programming day has an educational component that is delivered by an adult mentor.
Keystone Club (Lead Up 2.0) Wednesday 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.	Keystone Club (Lead Up 2.0) is a leadership program that focuses on five core elements: service to club and community, teamwork, healthy choices, leadership and learning. Youth will engage in service initiatives and give back to their community while learning valuable leadership skills. The club meets once a week and is mentored by an adult staff member.
Dinner and Drop In Thursday 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.	Dinner and Drop In is a program offering a family-style meal that encourages youth to gather around tables with adult mentors, enjoy a nutritious dinner and engage in discussions about daily life issues in a positive manner. The youth are then encouraged to remain for the regular Drop In Program.
Dungeons and Dragons Friday 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.	Dungeons and Dragons is a recreational program offered for youth who are interested in this game. Youth spend time socializing with each other, as well as learning critical thinking and logic skills during game play. Volunteers/mentors and staff members participate in the game alongside the youth, creating opportunities to build positive relationships, teach leadership skills and interact in a supportive way.
Learn On Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 2:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.	Learn On is an interactive after school tutoring program that allows youth to receive homework support, connect with tutors/mentors, interact with peers, explore their personal interests, increase digital literacy and plan for post-secondary education.
All Shook Up Tuesday & Thursday 8:00a.m. - 8:30a.m. 9:30a.m. - 10:30a.m.	All Shook Up is a breakfast smoothie program offered to students at both the Ponoka Secondary Campus and the Brick Learning Centre. This program provides youth with a nutritious start to the day, as well as an opportunity to connect and develop relationships with BGC Wolf Creek staff.
Drop In Thursday & Friday	The teen Drop In offers youth a safe and supervised place to spend time with their peers. Youth may participate in special events that are planned each

(September - June) Thursday (July - August) 6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.	night or simply come to the facility and relax with friends. The Drop In has a variety of options available for youth to enjoy including a broad selection of board games, movies, pool and ping pong tables, video games, a canteen, etc. Staff and adult volunteers/mentors engage with the youth and build positive mentoring relationships.
SUPPORT PROGRAMS	
Mentoring Program Monday – Friday (September – June)	The BGC Mentoring Program runs during the school year and involves both adult and teen volunteer mentors. Matches meet in the school setting for 1 hour each week to assist in strengthening self-esteem and social development through participating in crafts, games, sports, or other activities of interest to the child. Our teen mentoring program provides high school students with the opportunity to mentor elementary school-aged children while gaining valuable experience and receiving high school credits for their involvement.
Youth Justice Committee (January - December)	The Youth Justice program provides first time young offenders with an alternative to the formal court process by resolving legal conflicts through alternative measures, community service and meeting with victims and community members.
* Child and Family Counselling (January - December)	BGC Wolf Creek offers free counselling services by a licensed and registered therapist. The service is available to all children, youth, and families with no referrals necessary. Individual, group, and/or family sessions are offered.

□ **What are your organization’s goals and objectives for this year?**

Goals

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds has the following goals for 2025. We will:

- a. continue to offer the After School Program and S.O.D. (School’s Out Day) Program;
- b. continue to build on the momentum of Out of School Child Care program delivery that began in September 2024 through strong programs, quality staff, and impactful relationships that will result in increased usership and community impact;
- c. continue to offer free and timely counselling to children, youth, and families in the community and attempt to meet the increased need that we are observing;
- d. deliver our first Summer Camp in Blackfalds which will include full-day programming centered on fun weekly themes with activities taking place both on and off-site at locations around Blackfalds and Central Alberta. It is important to note that our Summer Camp is a licensed child care program and, as such, differs from other valuable summer programs that are offered in the community;
- e. begin program delivery of youth programs for students at the high school which will include a noon hour drop in program, as well as other life skills programming as funding allows (e.g. leadership, mental health, recreational, etc.); and
- f. assume a lead role in the formation of the HUB in Blackfalds – an initiative that has been running successfully in Ponoka for 7 years and, most recently, in Lacombe for approximately 1 year under the leadership of the executive director of BGC Wolf Creek. HUB was launched in response to the desire to provide more organized, collaborative, and targeted intervention in supporting vulnerable individuals and families in the community. HUB is comprised of representatives from multiple agencies within the community who have direct involvement in the provision of human services. These could include such agencies as BGC Wolf Creek, RCMP, Victim Services, school social workers, FCSS, Mental Health and Addictions, Child and Family Services, Community Corrections, Primary Care Network, senior’s housing, etc. The group accepts and manages files that are brought forward from various agencies each month (using a 3-pronged approach for acceptance in considering risk factors), allowing community agencies to collaborate in keeping those at-risk on our collective radars. HUB is a collection of community partners who can provide timely and targeted interventions and support in assisting our children, youth and families with those core issues that contribute to at-risk behaviour.

In addition to the above goals, we are also committed to doing our part to address several of the

areas of priority in the Town of Blackfalds' Social Needs Assessment Plan. The areas where we are in a position to provide the most support include: support for parents and families, connections and collaborations amongst local agencies, mental health, bullying and abuse, and isolation and loneliness.

Objectives

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds has the following objectives for our programming. Program participants will experience:

- a. increased feelings of safety and support;
- b. increased development in relational skills;
- c. increased access to new opportunities;
- d. increased ability to overcome barriers;
- e. improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem;
- f. increased understanding of choices for healthy living;
- g. increased engagement in lifelong learning;
- h. increased leadership skills; and
- i. development of life skills.

- Does your group have sponsorship or a committee for fundraising? What are your user fees and/or membership dues?

BGC Wolf Creek utilizes a Fund Development Committee, the members of which bring a wide variety of knowledge and experience to the table in considering a broad range of fundraising initiatives. Our agency also employs a part-time staff member to assist in writing grants.

BGC Wolf Creek has no user fees for our Child and Family Counselling Program or youth programs that will be introduced. We do, however, charge fees for cost-recovery or licensed child care programs only, which vary by community and program. Having said that, we ensure that fees are never an obstacle for a child to attend our programs. If a parent is struggling in their ability to pay program fees, the Club provides several options to assist the parent through discreet and compassionate measures. It is always our intention to support our families through challenges – financial being one that rises to the surface more and more frequently during this time. Accessing our own financial support is absolutely critical in assisting us to then turn around and support our families in covering these costs.

- Please list other sources of funding applied for to fund the service/project (even if the application was not successful.)

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds has applied for or received funding or in-kind donations from the following sources.

- a. BGC Canada
- b. County of Lacombe
- c. TELUS
- d. Wolf Creek Public Schools (in-kind)
- e. St. Gregory the Great Catholic School (in-kind)
- f. Community businesses and individuals (e.g. Santa's Bids for Kids online auction)
- g. Optimist Club of Blackfalds

3. The Project

- a. Describe the issue or priority area your project/program proposes to address.

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is responding to the **need** among families in Blackfalds and area for safe, fun, accessible, and affordable **Out of School Child Care Programming** that is convenient and available after school, on Professional Development days, and during the summer. Secondly,

we are following open doors and will launch some **teen programming** as resources and funding allow. Thirdly, we are also responding to the increased need for **Child and Family Counselling** that has been observed over the first 6 months of programming delivery in this community. Finally, we are invested in partnering with other community stakeholders in bringing together our collective resources through the initiation of **HUB** to best provide wrap around supports and services with potential for meaningful impact among those most vulnerable in the community.

b. In which of the following areas does this project/program impact on social sustainability in our community?

- Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis;
- Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;
- Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people;
- Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them;
- Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community.

c. Who is impacted by this issue? Please describe.

As mentioned above, children, families, and the broader community are impacted by this issue.

Impact on Children and Youth

We desire the children and youth with whom we interact to express increased feelings of safety and support. We desire to see increased development in relational skills, increased ability to overcome barriers, and increased access to new opportunities, as we provide activities for discovery that might not otherwise be available. We also desire our Club members to grow in their self-confidence and self-esteem, as well as develop ongoing skills for life – skills that will place them in good stead as their lives as contributing community members unfold. Positive relationships – healthy living – lifelong learning – leadership skills...the impact of our programs on children is potentially life-changing.

Children and youth are safe, supported, and experiencing fun opportunities that keep them engaged in positive activities rather than those that impact a community in a negative way. The entire community benefits by having children engaged in positive activities and not wandering the streets with nothing to do and bored.

Impact on Families

Our Out of School Child Care programs support parents/guardians who work - easing the worry and stress of finding reliable childcare. It is affordable, which is a major consideration in these days of soaring costs. It is a difficult time for young families, and we are here to help.

Our Child and Family Counselling has a powerful impact on the individuals who access this service. As individuals become healthier and stronger they, in turn, build into healthier families, which then reaches out and impacts the broader community in such positive ways.

Through providing their children with unique opportunities and access to all that the community has to offer, it also ripples out into families, who learn of what is happening in the community and, hopefully, consider how to be involved. Programming that intentionally stretches beyond the walls of our Club sites encourages our children and their families to be active participants in the community.

Impact on the Community

BGC Wolf Creek provides programs and services that contribute to an enhanced quality of life for citizens in this community – from our youngest members to our most senior.

We support and encourage the active participation of our Club members in the community through a variety of programming options each week. We are keen to provide our children with opportunities to engage with the many things Blackfalds has to offer, as we encourage a sense of discovery and pride in the community. Whether it be the beautiful walking paths, natural areas, recreational facilities, museums, library programs, etc., our intention is to reach out and engage with the myriad activities and events that make up the fabric of this community. This will occur more often during our full-day programming (e.g. S.O.D. Day Program and Summer Camp) when we have more time to explore.

BGC Wolf Creek programs enhance the quality of life for the children who participate, their parents/guardians who have reliable Out of School Child Care, and the community, at large, as we build into the development of young citizens who learn about their community and engage with it in positive ways.

- d. In what way are they impacted? Please describe short and long term implications.
BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds offers the following short-term, mid-term and adult outcomes that reflect the ways our programming impacts our Club members as per BGC Canada’s most recent Model for Success.

Short Term Outcomes

Children and youth are emotionally and physically safe	Children and youth feel welcomed, accepted, valued and respected	Children and youth enjoy exploring new opportunities	Programs build relevant skills for children and youth	Community, parents, children and youth are engaged in Clubs and feel ownership of programs
Children and youth engage in active healthy living programs Clubs meet safety guidelines based on up-to-date health evidence Children and youth feel safe and protected in their Clubs and Club programs Children and youth learn about healthy behaviours	Clubs are accessible and welcoming Club staff and volunteers represent the local community and make children and youth feel accepted	Children and youth engage in activities that are designed to promote curiosity and learning Children and youth learn to explore and discover opportunities around them, building self-sufficiency and confidence in their abilities	Club programs reflect what children and youth are interested in Children and youth are aware of activities that appeal to them and that help them meet their own goals Activities promote academic skills, self-sufficiency and creative expression	Broader community values are reflected in the Club and its programs Decisions on programming incorporate input from community, parents and members The Club’s Board includes local members and engages participants’ families in its governance

Mid-term Outcomes

Children and youth are healthy, active and safe	Children and youth are connected to peers, parents, school and community	Children and youth have academic, vocational and recreational skills	Children and youth have confidence in their aspirations
Children and youth exercise regularly, eat well and are protected from injuries and harm Children and youth have a sense of well-being, choose safe activities, and are able to get the resources they need for good health	Children and youth have close friendships Children and youth have caring relationships with adults Children and youth are connected to their school and community	Children and youth have the academic skills to succeed in school, and interest in learning that will inspire them to achieve Children and youth have the creative, recreational and life skills needed for resilience	Children and youth have the ability to see potential in the world around them, and can take advantage of opportunities that present themselves Children and youth have confidence in their own goals and aspirations, and the leadership skills to make them happen

Adult Outcomes

Health and well-being	Positive and caring relationships	Educational attainment and ability to achieve dreams	Self-sufficiency and independence	Meaningful participation in community and civil society
Physical activity Healthy eating Healthy weights Sense of well-being Low incidence of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use Low incidence of illness, injury and disability	Healthy relationships with family and friends Active and supportive social networks Low incidence of crime among social networks	Academic achievement Vocational and recreational skills Self expression and creativity Lifelong learning Leadership and empowerment	Healthy autonomy from family Perceived control over life Financial independence and responsibility Satisfying employment	Voting and citizenship Volunteering Participation in political activities Participation in social groups and organizations

- e. **What is the impact of not addressing the issue?**
 The answer to this question has been captured throughout the above explanations.
- f. **How does your project/program plan to address the issue?**
 The answer to this question has been captured throughout the above explanations.
- g. **Describe specifically how you will measure the success of the program and your expected results.** (Examples: # of participants, # of surveys completed, survey feedback, program waiting list, etc.)
 BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds evaluates outcomes in the following ways through strategic, intentional, and annual measurements. Blackfalds FCSS can depend on BGC Wolf Creek to measure outcomes and convey those results in a timely manner to provide accountability to you as a funder.
- # of participants (overall and by program)
 - # of visits (overall and by program)
 - # of Town of Blackfalds and County of Lacombe participants
 - completion of BGC Canada Club member Learning and Impact Survey (annually)
 - completion of Parent/Guardian Survey (annually)
 - completion of Community Stakeholder Survey (annually)
 - letters of support
 - interviews
 - behavioural observations and anecdotal records
- h. **Are there similar programs offered in the community? If so, explain how they are different.**
 While Blackfalds does have other licensed child care centres and youth programming, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds differs in the following ways:
- BGC Wolf Creek is a non-profit agency and, as a member of BGC Canada, we follow their mandate. Part of the mandate is to provide a safe and supportive environment for **all** children and youth. No child will be turned away because of inability to pay. Our programs are also offered

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- 5 days/week which meets the needs of families who work and need regular child care.
- BGC Wolf Creek brings not only licensed Out of School Child Care to Blackfalds but will also provide more programs as we grow to cover a variety of free youth programs, as well. Once again, we would determine gaps in service delivery in this area and would not duplicate the good work that is already being done. Rather, we would seek out ways to partner and use our collective best in supporting children, youth, and families in the community.

i. Describe your organization's use of volunteers. Include the nature of volunteer services provided, the number of volunteers and the estimated total annual number of volunteer hours worked.

While volunteers may not necessarily be on-site every day during programming, there are opportunities made available for volunteers to attend programs periodically as helpers, special visitors, etc. In fact, we have welcomed 2 high school volunteers to our programs, 1 of whom has been nominated for a Leaders of Tomorrow award! We celebrate the heart of service of this individual and are grateful for the energy and life they bring to our Club members and program.

During our Summer Camp, there will be many opportunities for volunteers to be part of the action as the themed weeks unfold. In other communities, we have welcomed many individuals from a variety of sports teams, community groups, and individuals with specific skills or talents related to the theme of the week. This is always fun for both our Club members and the volunteers!

We also welcome and appreciate the many volunteers who assist us with our fundraising initiatives, sit on our board of directors or other sub-committees, or assist with special projects from time to time.

In our first 5 months of operations in Blackfalds, we are very grateful for 10 volunteers who have provided 76 hours of volunteer time.

j. Describe the need for this program in the community. Attach letters of support.

Please refer to the results of the 2024 Needs Assessment as shared above in Section B. Attached please find letters of support from the superintendent of Wolf Creek Public Schools and the principal of St. Gregory the Great Catholic School.

k. Describe the implications of not receiving (or receiving less than requested) grant funding for this program.

Not receiving grant funding from Blackfalds FCSS would impact our ability to offer programming that has clearly been needed, well-used, and made a difference for families. We are only in our first 6 months of program delivery, but in that time we have seen the necessity of programming such as ours (e.g. Out of School Care programming, Child and Family Counselling, more options for youth programming, benefits of building partnerships in supporting families through HUB).

If we were not to receive grant funding, we would continue to support the families that have become part of our "family," but it would no doubt be a much more challenging thing to do. We would be required to access financial support from other funding streams and commit more time to fundraising endeavours; however, as more and more funding of this nature is becoming more challenging to access, it can feel like a mountain to climb. BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds respectfully requests that Blackfalds FCSS consider our request for funding this year, as we partner in supporting the children, youth, and families of this community – "investing in people, our most valuable resource."

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue	2025
Fees:	\$146,460.00
Grants:	\$50,500.00
Community Donations:	\$5,000.00
Fundraising:	\$8,000.00
Total Revenue	\$209,960.00
Expenses	
2025	
Personnel:	\$147,779.00
Materials & Supplies:	\$26,250.00
Other Expenses:	\$38,900.00
Total Expenses	\$212,929.00
FCSS Funding Request	\$15,000.00

Part A – Community Group Information

Question #'s	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Part A 1	Organization Name:			
Part A 2-5	Org contact info			
Part A 8-10	Other financial assistance?			
Part A 11	List of Board members included?			
Part A 11	Organization bylaws included?			
Part A 12	Financials included?			
	Is the application signed?			
	Is this program primarily recreational in nature?			If yes, the application is ineligible
	Does the program offer direct assistance, including money, food, clothing or shelter?			If yes, the application is ineligible
	Is this program duplicating a current program?			If yes, the application is ineligible

Part B – Purpose & Need

Question #'s	Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
Part B 1	Demonstration of Need:			
	✓ Is there an identified service gap?			
Part B 1	✓ Does the organization strengthen & support social functioning in Blackfalds?			
Part B 2	Organization:			
	✓ Do you understand what the purpose of the organization is?			
Part B 2	✓ Do the goals and objectives align with FCSS mandated programming expectations?			
Part B 2	✓ Has other funding been explored?			
Part B 3a	✓ Which of the FCSS priorities are addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullying/ Conflict Resolution ○ Child & Youth Safety ○ Mental Health Supports ○ Parenting ○ Relationship Support ○ Family & Domestic Violence Support ○ Substance Abuse ○ Intergenerational Programming 			
Part B 3c	Is the target audience identified?			
Part B 3b	Which <u>Strategic Direction</u> is addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop an awareness of social needs <input type="checkbox"/> Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people <input type="checkbox"/> Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them <input type="checkbox"/> Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community. 			

The Project

Question #'s	Criteria	Comments	Rating
Part A 11 Part B 3j	Community Support Question #'s addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Did the application include client testimonials? ✓ Did the application include letters showing community support? ✓ Has this organization been one of the active community support groups in the area? 		
Part B 3b	Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Greatest investment, greatest impact ✓ Immediate, intermediate or long term benefits and outcomes? ✓ Which age groups will be most benefitted and how? ✓ Will it strengthen and support social functioning of Blackfalds residents? 		
Part B	Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The organization is a valued partner of FCSS ✓ The organization promotes FCSS as a funder ✓ Collaboration with other community groups and non-profit organizations ✓ Collective impact (community level, neighbourhood level, surrounding communities) ✓ Have other funding options been explored/utilized (sponsorships, fundraising, grants) ✓ Does the organization make use of volunteers? 		
Part B 3g	Performance Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What does success look like? ✓ How will it be measured? ✓ Measurement of outcomes (not just outputs): Are the goals & objectives attainable? ✓ What is the proposed timeline to achieve the goals? ✓ Are the measurement tools feasible and realistic? 		
Part B 3k	Impact / Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What is the risk of impact on the community if we do not provide the funding? ✓ What is the impact on FCSS if we do not provide the funding? ✓ What is the risk of not providing the funding? (How vulnerable is the proposed program without FCSS funding?) ✓ If FCSS cannot provide funding are there other potential funders in the area that we can refer them to? 		

Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Detailed budget specifies what the funding will be used for 			

Grant funding requested? _____

Amount approved: _____

FCSS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER UPDATE

Month of March:

- **Volunteer Recognition:** Our outstanding community volunteers will be celebrated and honored in April through our volunteer awards presentation, FCSS Volunteer Newsletter and social media.
 - National Volunteer Week April 27-May 3, 2025
 - Invitations for volunteer recognition events have been sent to awards nominees, community groups, organizations, and Town of Blackfalds volunteers. Event information below:
 - **Best of Blackfalds** (April 18) 18+ event with the evening to include local businesses supplying a variety of appetizers, live music, beer tasting, cash bar and the presentation of the Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award, Gloria House Mentor Award, Outstanding Group (adult) Award, and the Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award. RSVP by April 7.
 - **Youth Recognition Night** (May 2) Red-carpet youth event to include appetizers, performances and the presentation of the Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award, Leaders of Tomorrow Awards, and the Outstanding Group (youth) Award. RSVP by April 21.
 - **National Volunteer Week & Youth Week colouring contest**
Win a \$25 gift card, four age categories, drop off finished masterpieces to FCSS April 27 – May 7.
- Volunteer Programmer has booked some **Emergency Social Services (ESS)** training to ensure we're prepared for the LREMP full scale exercise scheduled for November 19.
 - On June 10-11 we will be offering a 2-day course for staff in charge of Emergency Management to include ESS Facilities Management Training and ESS Coordinator Training.
 - On September 22 we will offer a 1-Day Course for staff and volunteers would be helping at a Reception Centre. The course will include ESS Basics, Introduction to ESS, and Behaviour and Disasters.
- **Snow Angel Program:**
 - **Traditional Program:** We ended this year with 28 Snow Angels (including individuals and family members) paired with one of the 18 residents and 5 residents were on the waitlist to be paired with a Snow Angel.
 - *Feedback from participants: I am pleased to report that 13 participants in the Snow Angel Program who responded indicated that the program significantly contributed to their ability to remain in their homes. This positive feedback highlights the program's effectiveness in providing essential support and assistance to our community members.*
 - **New Initiative "Neighbourhood Snow Angel Program":** This initiative aims to enhance community support and interaction among residents. 5 participants in the program received a sign to display in their front window or door, indicating their approved of the program.
 - *Feedback from participants: Residents reported that they do not feel the program adequately supported them. Despite the concerns about its effectiveness, residents expressed a level of agreement that the program contributed to a greater sense of reliance on community support. This indicates a positive aspect of communal engagement, even if the primary goal of the program is not being fully met.*
 - Volunteer Programmer will develop strategies to encourage residents to look out for homes displaying the Neighbourhood Snow Angel sign. Additionally, efforts will be made to motivate more seniors to enroll in the program, thereby enhancing community awareness and participation.

- **Seniors:**
 - The Volunteer Programmer continues to serve as a liaison between the **Blackfalds Seniors Club** and the municipality, helping with their booking requirements and addressing any concerns they may have. Volunteer Programmer and the Mayor were invited to the clubs St Patrick Day's activities.
 - **Seniors Master Contact List:** Volunteer Programmer and FCSS Admin Assistant have been diligently working to update the contact listing, and we now have 200 addresses on file, and they aim to have this list finalized by mid-April. This significant increase in our contact list, coupled with the rise in inquiries regarding **Seniors Housing and Home Care Services**, indicates a growing demand in our community. Considering this, hopefully the board can discuss how to encourage and collaborate with Lacombe Foundation to distribute a new survey. This survey could help assess the current and near-future interest in seniors housing, as well as identify how many individuals are currently in need of housing. This information will be invaluable for securing grant funding and addressing the housing needs in Blackfalds.
 - **Seniors Information Sessions:** FCSS put the call out to businesses and skilled individuals to partner with us. This could include music therapy, art classes, dance workshops, or other specialty skills. We've received positive feedback and have made connections to be able to offer unique programming and activities. March senior sessions included:
 - **(Mar 18) Transitioning to Your Next Chapter: Selling your Home**
Attendees learned essential strategies for successfully selling their home, including pricing, staging, and marketing their property to attract buyers. As well as insights from the Lacombe Foundation regarding resources and support available to help them during this transition, ensuring a smooth and stress-free experience. **Attendees: 7**
Feedback from participants: When participants were asked if attending the session increased their optimism about the future, 86% reported yes.
 - **(Mar 25) Wills & Estate Planning Session** Expert tips from Servus Credit Union where attendees learned essential strategies for creating a Will, understanding Estate Planning, and ensuring their wishes are honored. **Attendees: 17**
Feedback from participants: When participants were asked if attending the session increased their optimism about the future, 88% reported yes. In addition, 94% reported they feel better about their ability to prepare for their future.
 - Additional springs sessions will include Medication & Supplements, Tenant Rights & Responsibilities, Nutritional Eating 3-week class and Empowering Seniors: A Session on Elder Abuse Awareness.

Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:

- Jim Hurley Free Skate on Sunday's (3 volunteers, rotating Sunday's)

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In March, the newsletter was emailed to 292 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 48%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Family Easter Event – April 12
 - b. Blackfalds Days – June 12-15

Community Engagement Programmer

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- We are up and running!
- We have three dedicated and talented volunteers who are filing tax returns on behalf of the Blackfalds FCSS Tax CVITP program
- The Program continues to be very busy and well received by our community members. 😊
- The change to the Climate Action Incentive program (or Canada Carbon Rebate) has created some unrest with our clients as many rely on this quarterly payment as a little income. To be eligible and to receive this final payment, individuals must file their 2024 income tax return by April 2, 2025. Time will tell how this change affects many of our community members. This change is out of our control, and we can only file a return based on when they make their appointment. We can not and WILL NOT “finagle” back-dated file dates.

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 1,017 followers at the close of March!!!
- We are thrilled to announce that we have reached over 1 thousand followers! One takeaway from the Social Needs Assessment was the need to “build awareness of FCSS programs, services, results and how to access them”. This is a strong example of how we have responded to that feedback. Social media content needs to be accurate, current and engaging. Content management is like the cookie monster “It is never full”. As a team we are committed to keeping our social media fresh, with a focus on highlighting all that FCSS and the Community have to offer.

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 165 followers at the close of March

Interagency Meeting:

- 25 people in attendance
- 19 unique community organizations were represented.

More than a Movie:

- As a group, we enjoyed the movie “Morning Glory”. It was a delightful, lighthearted movie that was enjoyed by all. Before the movie started, we took a few minutes to introduce ourselves to people that we didn’t know. I believe that this type of informal connection helps build a sense of community. We did the “rate the movie: video again, and the guests really got into it! Of the 20 guests that were in attendance, 15 of them

took a “program guide” home with them 😊!

20 guests attended

- 17 from the Town of Blackfalds
- 1 City of Lacombe
- 2 County of Lacombe

50+ Walking Club:

- What an amazing group of community members!
 - Average of 32 walkers per Tuesday.
 - 59% of the Walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds
 - 18% are from the City of Lacombe
 - 22% are from the County of Lacombe

The Blackfalds FCSS 50+ walking group continues to be a shining example of community connection and support. Each week, senior community members come together to walk, engage in meaningful conversations, and foster a sense of belonging. By promoting peer support, this group enhances both physical and mental well-being, offering a space where participants laugh, share stories about their day, and celebrate each other's milestones – like the excitement of new running shoes! This program is a perfect illustration of "soft mental health support," showing that mental wellness isn't just about formal therapy. It's about building connections, reducing feelings of loneliness, strengthening self-confidence and self-reliance, and cultivating lasting relationships that nourish emotional and mental health.

Abbey Center Membership Assistance Program:

- **3 applications were screened:**
 - 4 adults and 3 children approved

Outer duties:

- The Camp Curious Champion program is up and running – we have had 2 families apply for assistance, resulting in 4 Blackfalds Children thus far.
- Connected with the fine people at Dow Canada requesting financial assistance with the Back to School Program for our community. It sounds very positive; we have a few tasks to complete, but they seemed impressed and supportive of the request we presented.
- Started securing activities for the 2025 Seniors Week!
- Participated in the webinar Creating Community Connections hosted by the Rural Mental Health Network.
- Personal: We have started calving!

Youth Programmer March Report

Blackfalds Youth Crew (BYC)

Instructor: *Annette*

Blackfalds Youth Crew fosters positive peer relationships, offers mentoring and leadership opportunities, and enhances social support in the community. Staff and volunteers create a safe environment for youth to feel empowered and valued while building social skills, positive values, and self-esteem through various activities.

BYC Schedule: **BYC Mondays:** Grades 4-6 | Grades 7-12

BCY Homeschool Thursdays: Grades 4-9

Date, Time, and Details (max 15)	Grades 4-6	Grades 7-12	Homeschool	Total Youth
March 3/6 <i>Video Games & Drawing Wars</i>	15	5	10	25
	Waitlist			Waitlist
	2			2
March 10/13 <i>Painting on Canvas</i>	15	5	10	25
March 17/20 <i>St. Patty's Day Shenanigans</i>	15	7	10	32
March 24-28	No BYC due to March Break			
March 31/April 3 <i>Chill & Grill Cheese</i>				
	Waitlist			
Total Youth Registered				

Inspiring Virtues:

Instructor: *Corrie*

Girl Code and Boy Code: March saw the completion of this program.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered/Attended (max 15)
Girl Code: <i>Grade 4-6</i> Feb 27-March 20	9
Boy Code: <i>Grade 4-6</i> Feb 27-March 20	6

Youth Cooking Club

Instructor: *Annette*

The Youth Cooking Club ended on March 19 with a celebration dinner for the young chefs and their guests. They made chicken stir fry with rice, healthy cookies, and a fizzy fruit drink. Everyone enjoyed the meal together at tables decorated with spring floral centerpieces. The chefs received certificates of completion and a recipe book with healthy recipes to try at home.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered/Attended (max 10)	Waitlist (max 10)
January 30-March 19 4:30-6:30 pm Grade 5-7	10	6

Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety

Instructor: *Annette*

Home Alone is an interactive safety training program for youth. Safety, first aid, and comfort skills are covered in this course through interactive games and role-playing. The class continues to be offered nearly monthly for youth in grades 4 – 6.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered / Attended (max 15)
March 28, 2:00-4:00 PM Grade 4-6	13

Youth Programmer Initiatives

Positive Ticketing Program	Early stages of looking into a collaboration between the local schools, Jeff Hewitt, the RCMP Resource officers, and FCSS. We hope that this program will be launched during Youth Week in May. More details and information to come later.
Family Easter Event April 12, 12:00-2:00	We invite families to enjoy a barrier-free Easter event featuring activities, crafts, a charity BBQ, and prizes. Special guests will include the Easter Bunny and Mayor Jamie Hoover. We are preparing for approximately 250 participants.
Youth Week May 1-7	Finalizing Youth Week activities
Blackfalds Days-Youth Night Out (YNO) June 13	Facilitating a fun and engaging barrier-free opportunity for community youth to gather and enjoy the spirit of Blackfalds days.
Continuing Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating Life Literacy Camp programs for July and August• Make connections with local schools

Blackfalds Youth Crew



Youth Cooking Club



Client Statistics for March

Referrals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
FCSS Sawyer	2	0	8	
FCSS Cara	5	13	13	
Snow Angel Program	3	2	0	
FCSS Jan	9	10	13	
FCSS Annette	2	5	3	
Income Tax Return Inquiries	0	10	166	
Employment Support	1	0	0	
FCSS Event Movie	5	0	1	
FCSS Subsidized Programs	1	1	0	
Back to School	0	0	0	
Winter Wear	0	0	0	
Christmas Bureau	0	0	0	
Abbey Assistance Program	2	5	6	
Food Bank	5	3	4	
Low Income Inquiries	3	6	7	
Housing	1	5	0	
Fax	21	9	22	
Printing/Photocopying	23	18	14	
Seniors Assistance Programs	5	15	13	
Telephone	1	1	1	
BOLT	1	1	0	
Golden Circle	16	2	3	
General Inquiries	36	46	58	
Number of Clients	142	152	332	

Job posting updated weekly. Beyond Food Lunchbox Program emails sent weekly.

Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for:

April - 255 sends with an open rate of 57%