

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome to the Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting – April 11, 2024
- 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 February 8 and March 14, 2024
- 4.2 New Award – Volun-Told Award – Information Item
- 4.3 2024 FCSS Grant Requests – Grant Funding Allocations
 - 4.3.1 Iron Ridge Elementary Campus Grant Application
 - 4.3.2 St. Gregory the Great Grant Application
 - 4.3.3 Beyond Food Community Hub Grant Application
 - 4.3.4 Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant Application
 - 4.3.5 Matrix Assessment Form
- 4.4 FCSS Managers Report – Verbal Update
- 4.5 Volunteer Programmer Report
- 4.6 Community Engagement Programmer Report
- 4.7 Youth Programmer Report
- 4.8 FCSS Client Statistics

5. **CONFIDENTIAL**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting Scheduled for: May 9th, 2024 at 7:00 pm

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board

Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Thursday, February 8, 2024 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
Annette Bugutsky	Public at Large

ATTENDING

Rick Kreklewich	Town of Blackfalds Director of Community Services
Sue Penner	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Asst

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

Sheila Giffin	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Melissa MacLeod	Public at Large
Cliff Soper	County of Lacombe Resident

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dena Thomas welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

Member Bugutsky 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

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board

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Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BUSINESS

- 4.1 Big Brothers Big Sisters – Annual Report
Director Kreklewich mentioned a few highlights from the Annual Report they submitted.
- There are 174 mentoring relationships in Blackfalds with 16 on a waiting list.
 - In 2023, mentoring programs in Blackfalds represented 42% of the overall BBBS mentoring programs.
 - Group mentoring programs saw an increase in the number of youths participating, with an additional 27 youth served compared to 2022.
 - The Kids & Kops Sumer Day Camp is a highly requested program and last summer 24 youth participated.
 - In 2023 they witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of volunteer mentors completing training.
- 4.2 Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant – Final Report
- They provided financial information on how their \$15,000 grant was distributed.
- 4.3 Iron Ridge Elementary Campus Grant – Final Report
- The \$8,500 grant was used for Social Emotional Programming. This programming is proactive in developing working relationships with parents, students, and staff including counseling and consultation programming skills. The program helps to develop skills that will enable students and families to overcome difficulties, cope with challenges and develop skills for long-term resilience which in turn benefits the community at large.
- 4.4 Iron Ridge Junior Campus Grant – Final Report
- They received \$7,706.51 which was directed towards the School Social Worker Program Funding.
 - This allowed the school social worker to increase their FTE and be available fulltime within the school. The school social worker is utilized by students, families, and teachers to help enhance the development of student's educational, social, emotional, and behavioral experiences. They are a referral source to a variety of community agencies and play a major role in advocating effectively in support of students and families.
- 4.5 Volunteer Appreciation Events
- Director Kreklewich presented the Volunteer Appreciation Event information.
 - The selection process will be carried out the same as in past years:
 - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award (Town Council)
 - Gloria House Mentor Award (FCSS Board)
 - Outstanding Group Awards (FCSS Board)
 - Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award (Town Council)
 - Leaders of Tomorrow Awards (The Mayor, FCSS Youth Programmer and a FCSS Board Representative)

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board

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MINUTES

- The Best of Blackfalds is scheduled to take place on the evening of April 18; awards presented will include:
 - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award,
 - Gloria House Mentor Award, and
 - Outstanding Group Award (adult category).
- Awards presentation during National Youth Week: Our Oscar themed Youth Recognition Night is scheduled to take place May 2. Awards presented will include:
 - Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award,
 - Leaders of Tomorrow (elementary, junior high and high school category), and
 - Outstanding Group Award (youth category).

4.6

Minutes

Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2024

Councillor Dennis moved That the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends that Council adopt the minutes from January 11th, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.7

FCSS Managers Report – Presented by Director Kreklewich

- Blackfalds Youth Crew's numbers are increasing.
- Home Alone Safety scheduled for January 17th was cancelled due to staff illness but make up classes were run on February 1st and 2nd.
- Youth Cooking Class is an 8-week program that started on January 31st. It is an Alberta Health Services program geared towards teaching youth about healthy eating, according to Canada's Food Guide.
- Mission Impossible is an obstacle course developed by the FCSS Youth Programmer to advance youth physical coordination and social skills and it had 15 youth registered.
- Christmas Bureau Program had 463 total users – 271 children, 127 women and 65 men. A total of 124 hampers were distributed to 103 families and 21 single or seniors' hampers.
- The Family Easter Event is on March 23 and the Blackfalds Community Centre from 12 – 2 pm.
- Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page has 655 followers as of the end of January.
- FCSS Manager position will be advertised this week.
- Tim Moorhouse of Moorhouse and Associates should have a final report to us next week as it is still with their graphic designer.



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams
Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Chair Thomas adjourned the the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Dena Thomas, Chair

Sue Penner, Admin Staff

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board

Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Thursday, March 14, 2024 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
Sheila Giffin	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Melissa MacLeod	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Annette Bugutsky	Public at Large

ATTENDING

Rick Kreklewich	Town of Blackfalds Director of Community Services
Sue Penner	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Asst

OTHERS ATTENDING

N/A

REGRETS

Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Melissa MacLeod	Public at Large
Cliff Soper	County of Lacombe Resident

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dena Thomas welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

Councillor Dennis 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

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board

Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BUSINESS

Minutes

February 8th minutes will be presented at the April 11th Family & Community Support Services Board meeting along with the March minutes as they were missed in the agenda package.

Leader of Tomorrow Awards Adjudicator

The current process is that the Mayor, FCSS Youth Programmer and one FCSS Board Representative review and adjudicate the Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Awards categories. Chairperson Thomas moved that Member Agrey be appointed to the Youth Awards Adjudication committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS Managers Update

Advertising for the new FCSS Manager closes on Friday, March 15, 2024, and many great applications have been received. The interview process will begin shortly.

Staff continue working with Moorhouse Consulting to have a final document for the FCSS Board to review before it is sent to Town Council.

Volunteer Programmer Report

Drop-in 50+ Walking Club attendance continues to increase. During the month of February 67 people participated. Participants distance is tracked, and the group walked 9744 laps in February which is a remarkable distance!

It's More Than Just a Movie (monthly event) – the February event showcased 'Sweet Home Alabama' and was attended by 24 participants.

Volunteer Recognition Planning has started. During National Volunteer Week April 16-22, 2024 the Best of Blackfalds 18+ event takes place on April 18th and the Youth Recognition Night on May 2nd.

Community Engagement Programmer Report

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program started on March 1st and has been extremely successful so far with approximately 40 tax related appointments made so far.

The Free Family Easter Event will be held on March 23rd from noon to 2:00 pm at the Community Centre. Confirmed partnerships with Kids Konnection, UBAKA, BBBS, FRN, and Bulldogs and in-kind donations secured from Boston Pizza, DQ and Mac Munchies. BBBS will run a BBQ on a donation basis.

FCSS Facebook Page had 679 followers at the close of February.



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
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Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Youth Programmer

BYC continues to see an increase in participants. Popular programs are Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety, Youth cooking Club, Mission Impossible. The Youth Crew youth ran bingo for Winterfest which was over 150.

Chair Thomas adjourned the the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Dena Thomas, Chair

Sue Penner, Admin Staff

MEETING DATE: April 11, 2024
PREPARED BY: Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services
PRESENTED BY:
SUBJECT: **NEW Volun-Told Award**

BACKGROUND

Cara Kroetsch is our FCSS Volunteer Programmer and on August 15th, 2023, her husband Gary passed away quite unexpectedly. Cara and Gary had a large friend group who like to refer to themselves as the “Framily”. Last fall Manager Bornn was approached by a couple of Framily members who asked if they could establish a new award to be presented this year along with the other awards at Best of Blackfalds. Their group is prepared to cover the cost to set up this award.

The intent of this award is:

Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award

Honours an individual who selflessly answers the call to volunteer without seeking recognition or anything in return. This award is dedicated to someone who is consistently reliable and hardworking, even when asked to volunteer without the option of saying “no”.

Gary assisted with many Town related events for years as well as a Snow Angel Program and often mentioned there should be a Volun-Told Award. The Volun-Told Award will be presented to Gary’s sons Taylor and Trent on April 18th. At the Best of Blackfalds Volunteer Event.

Criteria details will be worked on this summer for next years recipient.

DISCUSSION

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: RICK KREKLEWICH
DIURECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

ISSUE: 2024 FCSS Grant Requests

BACKGROUND:

Annually the FCSS Board reviews grant applications from local organizations to support social preventative programming in Blackfalds.

DISCUSSION:

The funding allocations that have been awarded through the past years include:

Year	Total Available	Recipient	Amount allocated	% of total
2015	\$ 10,000.00			
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 7,000.00	70%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$ 3,000.00	30%
2016	\$ 30,621.43			
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 12,500.00	41%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$ 9,000.00	29%
		Iron Ridge Intermediate	\$ 571.43	2%
		Iron Ridge Junior	\$ 7,550.00	25%
		Block Parents	\$ 1,000.00	3%
2017	\$ 48,280.37			
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 17,000.00	35%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$ 20,055.37	42%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$ 1,700.00	4%
		Iron Ridge Intermediate	\$ 9,525.00	20%
2018	\$ 41,900.30			
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 21,500.00	51%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$ 12,133.95	29%
		Iron Ridge Intermediate	\$ 7,891.35	19%
		Iron Ridge Junior	\$ 375.00	1%
		St. Gregory the Great	\$ 699.00	2%
2019	\$ 30,000.00			
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 16,000.00	53%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$ 11,946.51	40%
		Iron Ridge Intermediate	\$ 1,350.00	5%
		St. Gregory the Great	\$ 703.49	2%
2020	\$33,000.00		Bfids FCSS / Lacombe County FCSS Funding	
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 5,000	15%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$ 5,600 / \$ 2,000	23%
		Iron Ridge Intermediate	\$ 3,800 / \$ 2,000	18%

		Iron Ridge Junior	\$ 3,800 / \$ 2,000	18%
		St. Gregory the Great	\$ 6,800 / \$ 2,000	27%
2021	\$23,500.00			
		ANAM	\$ 2,700.00	11%
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 9,812.40	42%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$ 6,505.00	28%
		Iron Ridge Intermediate	\$ 4,482.00	19%
2022	\$23,500.00			
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 14,900.00	63%
		St. Gregory the Great	\$2,000.00	9%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$6,600	28%
2023	\$31,206.51			
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$15,000	
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$8,500	
		Iron Ridge Junior	\$7,706.51	

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Requests	Total Available	Requestor	Amount Requested	
2024	\$23,775	Iron Ridge Elementary	\$8,750 \$34,000	
		Iron Ridge Intermediate	\$	
		Iron Ridge Junior	\$	
		St. Gregory the Great	\$3,500	
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$15,500	
		Beyond Food Comm Hub	\$27,711.25	
			\$85,650	

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

That the FCSS Board recommend that Council allocate 2024 Grant Funding as determined.

ALTERNATIVES

- A) That the FCSS Board refer this item back to Administration.

ATTACHMENTS:

Iron Ridge Elementary Campus 2024 Grant Request

St Gregory the Great Grant Request

Beyond Food Grant Request

Big Brothers Big Sisters Request

Grant Funding Matrix

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

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 22, 2024, 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 5016 Waghorn Street, Blackfalds, AB.

Successful applicants must adhere to reporting time-lines and information requirements. Annual reports and financial statements for groups awarded 2022 grants are due to FCSS office no later than December 31, 2024.

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.

Blackfalds Family & Community Support
Services

Community Group Grant Application
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**Part A - Community Group
Information**

1. Organization's Name: Iron Ridge Elementary Campus

2. Mailing Address: Box 160

Blackfalds, AB Postal Code: T0C 0Y0

3. President: Maureen Schlemko

Phone: (403) 885-4646 E-Mail: maureen.schlemko@wolfcreek.ab.ca

4. Treasurer: _____

Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

5. Primary Contact Person: Maureen Schlemko

Phone: (403) 885-4646 E-Mail: maureen.schlemko@wolfcreek.ab.ca

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

7. How long has your organization been operating in Blackfalds? Since 1904

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.

- 1. The total cost of this program for a 1.0 FTE position is \$65,563.00 per year. We receive approximately 0.9 FTE (\$56,813.00) from our District School Social Worker pool. At this time we would like to ask for the remainder that equals (.1 FTE) \$8750.00 from the FCSS for this very worthwhile position to support families in crisis.**

2. The amount of students and families that are in crisis and needing support is extremely high and we anticipate this continuing going into next year. We would also like to request an additional (.4 FTE) \$34,000 to address the sharp increase in amount of students and families needing supports as well as the increase in student population.

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, all of our funding is derived from the provincial government.

Blackfalds Family & Community Support
Services

Community Group Grant Application
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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
\$8750.00 + \$34,000=
\$42,750.00

Percent of total budget

13% of the SSW Budget

Declaration

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

Name: Maureen Schlemko

Name: Vicky Sahlin

Position: Principal

Position: Assistant Principal

Signature Maureen Schlemko Signature Vicky Sahlin

Blackfalds Family & Community Support
Services

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?

Our Social Work Services have been cut back to a 0.9 position from a 1.0 FTE position for the new school year. For many individuals, school is the natural initial point of access for making contact and referrals for these services. Many students can be served by the School Social Worker in our school if she has time to accommodate referrals. Our School Social Worker support keeps the outside referral rate down and supports the community. We believe we are “making a dent” in filling the high need of families in crisis with our current supports, however, next year this will be much more difficult with only a 0.9 position. The addition .5 FTE allows for the school to continue to build on existing relationships with families and the community. Mental health continues to rapidly increase and intensify due to the impact of the lasting effects of post COVID-19 and families are in need of this support to its fullest capacity. We know that early intervention and crisis response are key to family and children success in the area of mental health and resiliency. Our demographic age group (pre-K-grade 3) is an ideal place to build a strong foundation for families. This past year, we were not able to serve all the families due to lack of FTE. For the amount of student and family needs that we are experiencing, we know that an increase in support is definitely needed. Our need has also increased due to an increase in school population. We are close to 500 students and we are on track to reach 500 next year.

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

Our School Social Worker is very proactive in developing working relationships with parents, students, and staff in their counseling and consultation skills. It is the primary focus of the Social Worker to help children and families become positive, contributing members of society. The Social Worker not only counsels students and families, they also help their clients to develop skills that will enable them to overcome their difficulties, and this in turn benefits the community at large. Continuing our SSW program at its highest capacity will support families and will help the community get through the impacts of mental health and functioning as a happy, healthy more effectively.

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 Pre-K to Grade 3 School with about 470 students enrolled. Iron Ridge Elementary Campus has 6 half day kindergarten programs (3 classes in the am and 3 classes in the pm). We have 5 grade 1 classrooms, 5 grade 2 classrooms, 4 grade 3 classrooms and 4 Pre-K classrooms.

There are several "special needs" students enrolled in our classrooms which require the support of educational assistants.

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

Please click on this link to access our Education Plan.

[IREC ACE Plan 2324](#)

- 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 body of our school council and they are called "FIRES" (Friend of Iron Ridge Campus Society). Currently they are fundraising to enhance existing playground structures. One has been replaced in Fall 2020.

- 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 (1 time funding for 3 years) the above mentioned sources are the only sources of funding for our school. In the last three years, the government has not funded increased enrolments.

Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

Community Group Grant Application
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3. The Project

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

Our School Social Worker seeks to create healthy families by intervening with referrals, education and awareness to students and their families. This is done by providing individual services to the students and their families, as well as group services and programs, such as Roots of Empathy, Rainbows, URSTRONG, and Expressive Arts facilitation for students. The counseling services that can be offered to these students and their families can cover many areas, but are not limited to social skills and friendship issues, family violence issues, family conflict, suicide prevention, sexual abuse, substance abuse, self-esteem issues, etc. The School Social Worker also consults with other agencies i.e. our school RCMP resource officer, Mental Health, and Child and Family Services Authority on an as needed basis. Having this program in our school allows us the structure and ability to immediately intervene in new areas of concern, as well as supporting individuals with ongoing concerns. Intervening at an early age is something that we see as having immense benefit to the community, as individuals are taught healthy coping and life skills, tools which can be carried through life.

Our School Social Worker is very proactive in developing working relationships with parents, students, and staff in their counseling and consultation skills. It is the primary focus of the School Social Worker to help children and families become positive, contributing members of society. The School Social Worker not only counsels students and consults with families, they also help their clients to develop skills that will enable them to overcome their difficulties, and this in turn benefits the community at large. There has been a sharp increase in supporting the parents of our students as well. Our SSW spends large amounts of time supporting parents in need of support for existing mental health, behaviour, and other family dynamics that require ongoing intervention, support and crisis management.

b. In which of the following areas does this project/program impact on social sustainability in our community: **Bolded & underlined items apply.**

- **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.

- **Families and children who require support and direction when crisis arises in their lives. We are seeing more crises and mental health challenges like never before in families due to the lasting impact of COVID-19, on-going economic hardships and dysfunction within families including parenting skills. The number of students being raised by grandparents increases every year.**
- **It is our hope that through the work of our School Social Worker, families will be able to connect with the appropriate outside agencies as well as meet the needs of our families within our building.**

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

By not being able to employ a 1.0 FTE and an additional .4 FTE School Social Worker, we would greatly decrease our capacity to be able to serve our full population of students and families and meet their potential need to access services. SSW services will have to be trimmed back and many kids and families would receive no service if we only have a .9 FTE SSW.

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

By not being able to employ a 1.0 FTE and an additional .4 FTE School Social Worker, we would have to greatly decrease capacity to be able to serve and respond to family crisis to our full population of students and families and meet their potential need to access services.

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

By allowing us to keep and increase services for students and families we will be able to deal with crisis and critical issues more effectively so that the positive effects are long lasting. Early and crisis interventions are key and this will allow us to be proactive by supportive programming for students

and their families as they grow and learn with us at IREC.

Blackfalds Family & Community Support
Services

Community Group Grant Application
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- 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 use our School Social Worker Data:

How many families were serviced, how many referred out and how many still on the waiting list. As well as, the number of students that are able to be seen in group program sessions.

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

No, not at this level.

- 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.

We are fortunate to have parents and grandparents support our school by volunteering to

help on field trips, read with students, organize and deliver hot lunch, make sandwiches and snacks for our lunch program and to help out in the classroom. We also have a volunteer fundraising board that is raising money for enhancing our playgrounds called FIRES. We get 1 mentor a year on average from Big Brother and Big Sisters.

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

In Blackfalds there is a huge need for social, emotional and financial support in this community. Our School Social Worker would be willing to come to the board meeting to explain further.

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

By not being able to employ a 1.4 FTE School Social Worker program, we would have to greatly decrease capacity to be able to serve our full population of students and families and meet their potential need to access services and respond to crisis intervention.

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue Approved Projected Requested
Year End 2023

Fees: \$0

Grants \$0

District Social Worker Pool: **\$65,563.00**

Community Donations: \$0

Fundraising
: \$0

Total Revenue \$65,563.00

Expenses Approved Projected Requested
Year End 2024

Total Expenses \$135,563

FCSS Funding Request \$43,750.00



St. Gregory the Great Catholic School
105 Cottonwood Drive
Blackfalds, AB T4M 0M4
Phone: 403-885-1008

March 18, 2024

Dear Community Group Grant board,

Thank you for accepting St. Gregory the Great's (SGTG) grant application for the 2024 Community Group Grant. At St. Gregory the Great Catholic School we feel it is important to be able to support our students and families. We are blessed to be able to do so through working together with our Teachers, Educational Assistants, Family School Counsellor and School Counsellor, as well as the numerous parent and community volunteers.

As part of the Blackfalds community, SGTG staff strive to support our families to benefit the community as a whole through the extracurricular activities, social-emotional programming, and in conjunction with Red Deer Catholic School Division supports.

Facilitating the Rainbows program for the youth and families that attend SGTG, we will provide the community members with enhanced, strengthened, and stabilized family and community lives, promoting mental health, encouragement and facilitation of stronger relationships within the community. This will enable the participants to make healthier lifestyle choices and make meaningful contributions within the Blackfalds community.

I can be reached through email: sarah.wise@rdcrs.ca, by phone at 403-885-1008 ext. 352005, or on my cell phone at 403-877-9229 Monday to Friday to address any questions or concerns. Thank you so much for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest Blessings,

Sarah Wise
Family School Counsellor
St. Gregory the Great Catholic School

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 22, 2024 | 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, 2024.

Part A - Community Group Information

1. Organization's Name: St. Gregory the Great Catholic School (SGTG)
2. Mailing Address: 105 Cottonwood Drive, Blackfalds, Alberta
_____ Postal Code: T4M 0M4
3. President or Principal: Teresa Borchers
Phone: (403) 885-1008 E-Mail: teresa.borchers@rdcrs.ca
4. Treasurer: Lynn Bonneau
Phone: (403) 885-1008 E-Mail: lynn.bonneau@rdcrs.ca
5. Primary Contact Person: Sarah Wise
Phone: (403) 885-1008 E-Mail: sarah.wise@rdcrs.ca
6. Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable) _____
7. How long has your organization been operating in Blackfalds? Since 2017
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.

SGTG receives the Nutritional Grant from the Government of Alberta. This grant is used for the breakfast program at SGTG supporting the K-6 students.

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

12. Please provide the previous year audited financials.

Grant Funding Requested:

\$3,500

Declaration

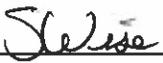
We, the undersigned officers of the organization, certify that this statement contains a full and accurate account of all matters stated herein:

Name: Sarah Wise

Name: Teresa Borchers

Position: Family School Counsellor

Position: 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?**

Within the community of Blackfalds there is a high need for grief and loss programming for the youth and their families, currently there is no specific support in place for this demographic. The Rainbows program provides this gap within the community. As employees of Red Deer Catholic Regional School, we recognize the strain of the high social emotional needs that our students can have on a school community. By implementing the Rainbows program and providing an extra level of support through the program we can help bridge that gap.

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

By providing support to this demographic (adults and youth) through these difficult times of grief and loss it helps to strengthen their communication skills and provides guidance for them to navigate through the difficult new changes and new feelings.

Having a resource like the Rainbows program available to the community, reduces the strain on the few counselling resources available in Blackfalds and allows those services to be available to others.

2. Organization

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

St. Gregory The Great is in the school division of Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools. SGTG is currently a Pre-K to 9 school and will be changing to a Pre-K to 6 school in September 2024 due to our student capacity. Our mission at St. Gregory the Great is to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment that recognizes and understands the unique gifts of each child. We also strive to extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom by building and developing relationships within the community and creating a positive, safe, and caring environment. Our school does this through faith filled academics, athletics, and social-emotional learning.

SGTG currently has a school guidance counsellor and a family school counsellor, both of whom are trained to facilitate the Rainbows programs to youth and their families. We currently have 20 students enrolled in the 12 week Rainbows program and could increase the number of students drastically if our financial budgeting allowed for it.

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

Our goals are to continue to provide the standards of excellence expected by our community and to provide as many programs to the students and families that need the support through their grief and loss.

As counsellors, our job is to support the academic, social, and emotional growth of students while providing the student with personal, group and/or career counseling. The goals are to continue building and expanding a counseling program that enhances all students growth and development. We strive to expand student growth by helping students interact effectively with others and helping students maximize their academic, social and emotional potential. We strive to provide our students with the skills to cope with personal problems and concerns that may impede educational achievement and personal/social growth. As counselors we work with teachers, students, and families to identify the personal, social and intellectual needs of students.

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

The student council fundraising committee funds goes towards academic and athletic programs within the school. There are no fees or dues to attend SGTG, student funding is provided by the provincial government.

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

No other funding has been applied for this school year.

3. The Project

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

Rainbows programming supports the youth and families in the community through the process of all kinds of grief, such as death, divorce, incarceration, abandonment, and many others through a facilitated peer group approach. This program helps children and youth heal and grow through difficult life transitions. Providing children with these targeted services helps to build confidence and self esteem as well as building new connections within the community.

- 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.**

The whole community is impacted by grief and loss in some capacity. By providing the proper programming to our youth and their families we are able to help mitigate the future burden on community resources.

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

Short-term implications: The Rainbows program helps youth and families understand their emotions and provides them with the skills to deal with the emotions associated with grief and loss. The purpose of the program is to provide children with an opportunity to meet new friends who have shared similar experiences; to have trained caring adults present for the children while they sort through and understand their grief; and to help the children come to a healthy acceptance of what has happened to their family.

Long-term implications: The Rainbows program provides the youth and families with the skills and knowledge on how to deal with difficult emotions and situations and how they can apply this knowledge to future situations to lessen the need of outside community resources. The lifelong effect of understanding and instilling the feeling that each change in one's life can become an occasion for a new beginning.

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

Not addressing the issue within our community now will put a future strain on the community resources as individuals within the community try to find ways to address their grief in other manners. Long term denial or disengagement from the significant change in one's life can be emotionally unhealthy and can later lead to more severe problems.

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

The Rainbows program is specifically designed to address the emotions associated with grief and loss. Both our school and family school counsellors are trained to facilitate the program and will be able to reach a large number of students and families over the next year.

- 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.)

The success of the Rainbows program will be measured by the number of students and parents that are engaged in the program.

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

Not to our knowledge.

- 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.

No volunteers are used for the Rainbows program.

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

Please see attached email of support from a foster parent in our community.

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

If the grant is not awarded or awarded in a lesser amount than requested SGTG would have to reduce the number of youth and not be able to support the families. This would cut off essential support for the needs of the youth and families that would be reached through the grant funding. Not addressing the emotional strain now within our community will cause future strain outside of the school and unsettlement in the community as our youth and families look elsewhere to meet their social emotional needs.

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue	2024
Fees:	\$0.00
Grants:	\$0.00
Community Donations:	\$0.00
Fundraising:	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$0.00
Expenses	2024
Personnel:	\$0.00
Materials & Supplies:	\$3,500.00
Other Expenses:	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$3,500.00
FCSS Funding Request	\$3,500.00

Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

Community Group Grant Application
Page 7 of 7

3/12/24, 2:57 PM

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools Mail - Request for supports



Sarah Wise <sarah.wise@rdcrs.ca>

Request for supports

linda murrell <linda-murrell@hotmail.com>
To: Sarah Wise <sarah.wise@rdcrs.ca>

Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 2:56 PM

Hello there, this is Linda Murrell- Maki. Our family is recently dealing with the death of my husband. My children have obviously been affected by this. I have reached out to the school for some therapy and any kind of grief programs that they have to help assist my children in this very trying time. I am requesting support so that Saint Gregory's can remain assisting in this help for my children. If they could have the funds to continue this very important work, it would be very beneficial and greatly appreciated.

Thank you kindly
Linda Murrell-Maki

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

Commitment Certificate	\$	0.75	\$	-
Training Day Participant Guide	\$	3.25	\$	-
Training Day Facilitator Certificate	\$	1.00	\$	-
USB with Forms & Training Day Presentation	\$	30.00	\$	-
ADMINISTRATION				
Name Tag	\$	0.25	\$	-
Logo Sticker	\$	0.25	\$	-
Parent Brochure	\$	0.60	\$	-
Sunbeams Poster	\$	3.00	\$	-
Rainbows Poster	\$	3.00	\$	-
Spectrum Poster	\$	3.00	\$	-
Policy & Guideline Handbook	\$	3.25	\$	-
Site Support Handbook	\$	5.25	\$	-
COMMUNITY RESOURCES				
Make a Difference with the Power of Compassion - Book & DVD	\$	20.00	\$	-
Healing the Hurt, Restoring the Hope - Suzy Yehl Marta	\$	20.00	\$	-
Compassionate Companion	\$	5.00	\$	-
Silver Linings Community Crisis Support Program Ages 5-8	\$	10.00	\$	-
Silver Linings Community Crisis Support Program Ages 9-13	\$	10.00	\$	-
Silver Linings Community Crisis Support Program Adolescents	\$	10.00	\$	-
COORDINATOR MANUALS				
SunBeams Pre-School Edition	\$	14.00	\$	-
Rainbows Elementary Edition - Religious	\$	14.00	\$	-
Rainbows Elementary Edition - Secular	\$	14.00	\$	-
Spectrum Adolescent Edition - Religious	\$	14.00	\$	-
Spectrum Adolescent Edition - Secular	\$	14.00	\$	-
Kaleidoscope/Prism Adult Edition	\$	14.00	\$	-
FACILITATOR MATERIALS (Listening & Component Module)				

SunBeams		\$	12.25	\$	-
Consolodated Facilitator/Coordinator Manual Hard Copy		\$	65.00	\$	-
Consolodated Facilitator/Coordinator Manual Electronic Copy		\$	30.00	\$	-
Rainbows - Print copy		\$	25.00	\$	-
Rainbows - Electronic copy		\$	20.00	\$	-
Rainbows Religious Supplement		\$	5.00	\$	-
Rainbows Religious Supplement - Electronic Copy		\$	5.00	\$	-
Spectrum Adolescent Edition - Religious		\$	20.00	\$	-
Spectrum Adolescent Edition - Secular		\$	20.00	\$	-
Kaleidoscope		\$	23.00	\$	-
Prism		\$	23.00	\$	-
SUNBEAMS MATERIALS					
SunBeams Parent Guide		\$	6.00	\$	-
SunBeams Bingo Activity		\$	15.00	\$	-
Family Tree Activity		\$	3.50	\$	-
Puppet Activity		\$	6.00	\$	-
SunBeams Bear		\$	9.50	\$	-
Ferdinand the Eagle Activity Book		\$	4.50	\$	-
SunBeams Childs Tote Bag		\$	7.00	\$	-
SunBeams Completion Certificate		\$	1.00	\$	-
JOURNALS					
Rainbows Lv. 1 Journal Gr 1-2		\$	12.00	\$	-
Rainbows Lv. 2 Journal Gr 3-4		\$	12.00	\$	-
Rainbows Lv. 3 Journal Gr 5-6		\$	12.00	\$	-
Rainbows Lv. 4 Journal Gr 7-8		\$	12.00	\$	-
Spectrum Lv. ONE Gr 9-10 - Religious		\$	13.50	\$	-
Spectrum Lv. ONE Gr 9-10 - Secular		\$	13.50	\$	-

Spectrum Lv. TWO Gr 11-12 - Religious	\$	13.50	\$	-
Spectrum Lv. TWO Gr 11-12 - Secular	\$	13.50	\$	-
Kaleidoscope Journal	\$	23.00	\$	-
Prism Journal	\$	23.00	\$	-
STORYBOOKS				
About Death - Level 1 & 2	\$	7.00	\$	-
Being a Family - Level 1 & 2	\$	7.00	\$	-
Feelings - Level 1 & 2	\$	7.00	\$	-
It Takes Time - Level 1 & 2	\$	7.00	\$	-
We're Doing It - Level 1 & 2	\$	7.00	\$	-
Kristopher Finds a Rainbow (Supplemental Level 1 & 2)	\$	7.00	\$	-
ACTIVITIES				
Park It Here - Level 2	\$	30.00	\$	-
A Way To Go - Level 4	\$	25.00	\$	-
Feelings Toss (Rainbows Level 4 & Spectrum Level 1)	\$	20.00	\$	-
Feelings Toss Score Pads (set of 2 pads)	\$	4.50	\$	-
Peaks & Pits - Level 3 & 4	\$	22.50	\$	-
Crossword Puzzle Board - Level 3 (set of 5 sheets)	\$	2.00	\$	-
Spectrum of Fears (Spectrum Level One)	\$	30.00	\$	-
Spectrum of Fears Score Pads (set of 2)	\$	4.50	\$	-
Whirlybird Activity	\$	3.50	\$	-
KEEPSAKES				
I'm Thumbody Card - Rainbows Level 1 & 2	\$	2.00	\$	-
I Celebrate Me Card - Rainbows Level 3 & 4	\$	2.00	\$	-
Declaration of Self Esteem - Spectrum Level 1&2	\$	2.00	\$	-
My Choice Cards - Kaleidoscope & Prism	\$	2.00	\$	-
RAINBOWS Lite	\$	4.00	\$	-

	RAINBOWS Pencil - 5 Pak	\$	5.00	\$	-
	RAINBOWS Notecards - (Pack of 4 blank cards)	\$	5.00	\$	-
	RAINBOWS Pen	\$	3.00	\$	-
	RAINBOWS Bookmark	\$	2.00	\$	-
	RAINBOWS Foam Puzzle	\$	4.00	\$	-
	TOTAL			\$	-

incl. shipping & handling (at left)	#N/A
Applicable Taxes	
GRAND TOTAL	#N/A

We do our best to turn orders around as quickly as possible.

Please help us by ensuring that you order form has been filled out completely and correctly

Part A - Community Group Information

1. Organization's Name: Beyond Food Community Hub, Blackfalds
2. Mailing Address: Box 220, Blackfalds, AB
Postal Code: T0M0J0
3. President or Principal: Tammie Drewes
Phone: 403.318.7388 E-Mail: tammiedrewes@gmail.com
4. Treasurer: Jennifer Hartigh
Phone: () 403.318.921 E-Mail: jenhartigh@gmail.com
5. Primary Contact Person: Karie Ackermann or Chris Keim
Phone: () 403.600.176 E-Mail: beyondfoodhub@gmail.com
6. Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable) 763781895RR00
7. How long has your organization been operating in Blackfalds? 19 years
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.

Gov. of AB, CIP project based grant and the CIP Operating grant two years &
10. Does your organization qualify for any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.

n/a



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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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, 2024.

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 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 “In the Kitchen” project will address three pillars of need:

Pillar one: Seniors Cooking Together program: Currently, there are no programs in the community that addresses the need for seniors to come together to cook and socialize together. The Seniors Cooking Together program will provide monthly programming that addresses isolation, connection, socialization and other skills in the kitchen that supports seniors in numerous ways that include improving on mental health, encouraging socialization, improving proper nutrition and aging healthy.

Pillar two: Bridging Diversity to Build Community program: There is a need in our community to embrace diversity. The Bridging Diversity to Build Community program will provide a program for newcomers to help foster a sense of community, belonging and mutual respect while promoting socialization with those who are new to Canada. It will provide space for building community and connection while celebrating and discovering the diverse cultures through food and personal stories. Monthly dinners focusing on welcoming newcomers in our community to strengthen community and come together to learn about other cultures.

Pillar three: Collective Kitchen program: The need for a collective kitchen programming is to provide an opportunity for people who live with food insecurity an alternative model from emergency food relief.

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

All three programs will serve to strengthen and support social functioning of the residents of Blackfalds by creating programming that promotes socialization and connection. It will reduce social isolation and facilitate the development of a strong connected community.

2. Organization

Describe your organization including the type, the purpose, and number of members.

Beyond Food Community Hub operates the Blackfalds Food Bank and provides programming based on the needs of the community. We currently have over 50 volunteers, including a volunteer board, and two paid staff.

Describe the type of program(s) and/or services offered

Our programs are:

Food Hamper program, Emergency Food Hamper program, Lunchbox program, Senior Good Food Box & Good Food Box program, Affordable Market, Baby Bank, Pet Food Bank, Changing the Cycle program, Giving Gowns, Snack Attack program in partnership with the Blackfalds Library, and the Christmas Bureau program in partnership with Blackfalds FCSS.

Blackfalds Food Bank Appendix A

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

Goals for 2024:

- Comply with the Standards of Excellence with Food Banks Canada
- Strengthen programming in the Community Kitchen
- Start the process for a thrift store.

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

We do not have membership dues or fees.

We do have a fundraising committee.

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

New Horizons for Seniors

3. The Project

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

The In the Kitchen Project will have three pillars that will address the following priority areas:

- promote the well-being and increase the quality of life of community members
- reduce vulnerabilities and empower community members to better meet the challenges in life
- Enhance and strengthen community
- promote volunteerism

c. Who is impacted by this issue? Please describe

Target group: Seniors, newcomers, and low-income food insecure community members will be impacted by this project.

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

The target group are impacted by social isolation, nutritional concerns and limited access to programming. Short- and long-term implications is it will provide a model that addresses food security for our community. Nutritional and social health will be impacted as the project addresses food related issues in the community by providing a solution to improve food security.

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

By not addressing the issue there will be a negative impact to the target group. There will be a decrease in opportunities to strengthen community through programming that will build and enhance the well-being of community members.

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

The In the Kitchen project will address the issues through three pillars of programming that will address the need for community members to have access to programming that promotes social interaction, and builds connections. It will encourage healthy food skill development and improve food and cooking skills. It will address food related issues in the community.

Blackfalds Food Bank Appendix A

Revenue	2024	
Fees:	N/A	
Grants:	\$167,745.00	
Community Donations:	\$113,473.93	
Fundraising:	\$940.38	
Total Revenue	\$282,159.31	
Expenses	2024	
Materials & Supplies: needed to operate any program collectively or independently.	Laptop	\$1,549.99
	Monitor	\$199.99
	Dual Monitor/Laptop mount	\$86.00
	Electric hand mixer (x2)	\$166.00
	Food processor	\$1,654.52
	Sanitary knife rack (x2)	\$333.98
	Ingredient bin (x2)	\$844.10
	Aluminum bun pan (x10)	\$126.00
	Measuring cup set (x 4)	\$28.76
	Measuring spoon set (x10)	\$14.80
	Aluminum Colander (x2)	\$125.46
	8" fry pan (x2)	\$43.70
	10" fry pan (x4)	\$91.12
	12" fry pan (x4)	\$129.76
	16" wok (x2)	\$53.90
	Roasting pan (x2)	\$101.02
	1lb loaf pan (x6)	\$121.08
	Piano whip 18" (x6)	\$42.00
	Piano whip 14" (x6)	\$37.02
	Food storage containers	\$588.00
Rice cooker	\$314.05	
	Total Material Costs: \$6,651.25	
Program Expenses:	Chef rate: \$35/hr Assistant rate: \$25/hr Session cost (supplies, admin, transportation, packaging): \$18/person	
Pillar one: Seniors Cooking Together	10 sessions 3 hours each session (1 hour prep/2 hour event) 30 hours of sessions total Chef: \$1,050.00 Assistant: \$ 750.00 Session cost (max 15 people/session): \$2,700.00 Pillar one total: \$4,500.00	
Pillar two: Bridging Diversity to Build Community	9 sessions	

Blackfalds Food Bank Appendix A

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.)

Increased access to programming and social opportunities increases sense of wellbeing and belonging in community.

Measurement:

- interviews
- survey data
- Program stats tracked
- attendance tracked in 2024
- increase in interest / registration for 2025, if funds are raised to continue programming

Increased organizational capacity

Measurement:

- increased programming enables the hub to fulfill its mission
- needs are met within the community, shown by # of participants

h. Are there similar programs offered in the community? If so, explain how they are different.
There are no similar programs offered 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.

The Beyond Food Community Hub has a strong volunteer base with a committed, loyal group of volunteers who help run all programs at the hub. The annual total of volunteer hours are 3010 hours. The In the Kitchen Project will continue to utilize volunteers to support the operation of the programming with each of the pillars of the project.

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

The need for this project is seen with the increase in usage at the hub. We seen 18.4% increase from January 2023 to January 2024, a 26.6% increase from February 2023 to 2024 and 44.3% increase in March 2023 to 2024. We have more seniors and newcomers needing support. Thus, providing additional programming is a proactive process that strengthens the protective factors of the residents of our community.

Letters of support are provided from Food Banks Alberta, and Blackfalds Seniors Club

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

The implications of not receiving (or less than requested) grant funding is a delay in services as we source other funding to implement the project.

Part C – Program Budget

Blackfalds Food Bank Appendix A

	4 hours each session (2 hour prep/2 hour event) 36 hours of sessions total Chef: \$1,260.00 Assistant: \$900.00 Session cost (max 50 people/session): \$ 8,100.00 Pillar two total: \$10,260.00
Pillar three: Collective Kitchen	10 sessions 6 hours each session (3 hours prep/3 hour event) 60 hours of sessions total Chef: \$ 2,100.00 Assistant: \$1,500.00 Session cost (max 15 people/session): \$2,700.00 Pillar three total: \$6,300.00
Total Expenses	\$27,711.25

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:

\$27,711.25

Declaration

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

Name: Chris Keim

Position: Executive Director

Signature: 

Name: Tammie Drew

Position: Chair

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?

see appendix

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

see appendix

2. Organization

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

see appendix

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

see appendix

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

see appendix

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

see appendix

3. The Project

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

see appendix

- 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.

see appendix

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

see appendix

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

see appendix

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

see appendix

- 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.)

see appendix

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

see appendix

- 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.

see appendix

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

see appendix

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

see appendix

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue	2024
Fees:	see appendix
Grants:	
Community Donations:	
Fundraising:	
Total Revenue	
Expenses	2024
Personnel:	
Materials & Supplies:	
Other Expenses:	
Total Expenses	
FCSS Funding Request	\$27,711.25



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 22nd, 2024 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, 2024.**

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: Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District
2. Mailing Address: 5103 49th Street Lacombe AB

Postal Code: T4L 1J4
3. President or Principal: Beverly Bachelder

Phone: (403) 877-3428 E-Mail: 1bbachelder@gmail.com
4. Treasurer: Joey Ingram

Phone: (403) 318 - 8970 E-Mail: joey.ingram@mnp.com
5. Primary Contact Person: Jen Harty

Phone: (403) 782-7870 E-Mail: jen.harty@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
6. Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable) 88659 5396 RR 0001
7. How long has your organization been operating in Blackfalds? 14 Years
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.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District (BBBSLD) receives financial support from Lacombe County Family and Community Support Services, United Way Central Alberta, Lacombe and District Family and Community Support Services, and Canada Summer Jobs Grants.
10. Does your organization qualify for any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.

BBBSLD qualifies for financial assistance from Lacombe County Family and Community Support Services, United Way Central Alberta, Lacombe and District Family and Community Support Services, AGLC, and Canada Summer Jobs Grants.

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:

\$15,500

Declaration

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

Name: Jen Hart

Name: Gracie Whitfield

Position: Interim Executive Director

Position: Mentoring Coordinator

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?

The Town of Blackfalds continues to see growth in the child and youth population. Meaning more services are needed to meet the needs of this growing population. Mentoring is an essential service and BBBSLD offers a variety of mentoring programs built to meet the needs of children and youth in the community. Research conducted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada states that neuroscience has proven that a nurturing, caring relationship with a stable adult is critical for buffering the impact of toxic stress on a child's brain. The common denominator of successful adults who experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) is the presence of a mentor. Nurturing resilient, supportive relationships between children and caregivers, as well as facilitating the development of essential life skills in both children and adults, can serve to shield children from the adverse impacts of toxic stress (Center on the Developing Child). When we provide young people facing adversity with a committed mentor, we are decreasing their risk factors and igniting their potential. BBBSLD tracks ACE scores during intake to ensure awareness of the population being served and to identify areas where further support may be needed.

Mentoring relationships built through BBBSLD are developmental. The Search Institute states that the developmental relationships framework identifies five strategies to strengthen and deepen relationships that help young people grow and thrive. After decades of research, it is evident that young people's development is rooted in their community and in their relationships. When relationships with parents, teachers, mentors, and peers are high-quality and positive, they are better equipped to develop resilience in the face of challenges, learn, grow, and develop social-emotional skills. The five strategies include expressing care, challenging growth, providing support, sharing power, and expanding possibilities. When youth build developmental relationships through BBBSLD's mentoring programs, they discover who they are, cultivate abilities to shape their own lives, and learn how to engage with and contribute to the world around them.

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

When youth receive mentorship that nurtures their growth into resilient individuals and equipping them with the necessary skills to confront life's challenges, the social functioning of Blackfalds residents stands to gain. This support enables youth to develop stronger and healthier relationships, bolsters their confidence, and enhances overall happiness. Additionally, it promotes social inclusion, encourages civic engagement, fosters physical and mental wellness, and contributes to academic and employment success. In turn, these positive outcomes will empower youth to become valuable contributors to their community.

BBBSLD's mentoring programs serve as a vital link, connecting residents of Blackfalds with essential resources. When volunteer mentors join BBBSLD, they undergo trainings which include pre-match training and developmental relationship training to deepen their understanding of community needs and learn how they can best help a child or youth realize their full potential. Through BBBSLD's mentoring programs, youth and their families develop a relationship with our organization and provide support in areas needed. BBBSLD's mentoring programs facilitate connections across the entire Town of Blackfalds, creating links between residents. These connections extend to schools for referrals, community organizations, businesses, as well as youth and families, fostering a network of support and collaboration within 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.

BBBSLD has been dedicated to strengthening the community through youth mentoring programs since 1989. With the support of a mentor, risks of societal barriers and adversities that negatively impact youth development can be reduced or even avoided. Our mission is to serve the youth (6 to 17) of Lacombe and District through the provision of quality one-on-one volunteer relationships, and other related programs by partnering with community organizations, businesses, individuals, and families. Mentored youth experience growth in resiliency, social competencies, positive identity, commitment to learning, and empowerment. Mentoring opportunities build a foundation that strengthens core life skills and creates a healthier community. Big Brothers Big Sisters provides youth the opportunity to reach their full potential.

BBBSLD offers a diverse range of programs tailored to meet the varying needs of youth. Our community-Based Mentoring program connects volunteer mentors with youth, fostering relationships where they engage in like-minded activities within the community for approximately 6-8 hours a month. Additionally, our Site-Based Mentoring program allows the opportunity for mentors and mentees to meet at a school or at the Bamford House for one hour a week. These mentoring relationships focus on activities set outside of the classroom setting. Our Site-Based Mentoring programs empower youth aged 14 and older to begin mentoring and take on a mentoring role. Teen mentoring not only offers the opportunity for teens to build their resumes but also provides them access to scholarships which can significantly support them in shaping their educational future. The impact of mentoring is felt not only by the mentees, but also by the mentors themselves. BBBSLD offers Group Mentoring programs – Game On and Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds. These programs encourage youth to make informed choices regarding healthy lifestyle practices while nurturing life skills, communication, emotional well-being, positive self-image, and more.

Furthermore, our summer day camp mentoring program, Kids & Kops, is available to youth living in Blackfalds, Lacombe, and Lacombe County. Kids & Kops is a collaborative effort with the Lacombe Police, Town of Blackfalds, and the Blackfalds RCMP. Throughout this camp, youth are granted exclusive access to activities centered around crime solving, forensic science, team building, and various police scenarios. It offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage in behind-the-scenes experiences with local law enforcement officers, fostering an understanding of their roles and humanizing their presence within the community.

Additionally, BBBSLD collaborates with the community each year for our Adopt-a-Family program. This program helps families that may need extra assistance during the holiday season. This is done by matching families up with a donor from the community who then tries to address their wish list.

Through these varied programs, BBBSLD is dedicated to impacting the lives of youth, fostering growth, and resilience within our community.

BBBSLD has the privilege to serve Alix, Bentley, Blackfalds, Clive, Eckville, Lacombe, and all the rural areas within Lacombe County. Our organization offers programs at no cost and in locations where youth reside, aiming to remove barriers. Each year, BBBSLD aims to serve 250 youth and in 2023, our organization facilitated a total of 412 mentoring relationships with 174 of those specifically in Blackfalds.

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

The overall goal is to provide children and youth with mentorship that fosters their development into resilient individuals, equipping them with the skills needed to effectively navigate life's challenges. Mentoring offers a unique combination of critical support, opportunities for new and positive experiences, and intergenerational skill exchange that provides the foundation of resilience. Young people will have stronger and healthier relationships, have confidence, experience more happiness, self-management skills, social inclusion, civic engagement, experience physical and mental wellness, and academic and employment success.

Focus will be directed towards strengthening the In-School 1:1 Mentoring program, with efforts aimed at recruiting volunteers specifically for this program. The Group Mentoring pilot program conducted at Iron Ridge Junior Campus received positive feedback, highlighting its impact. Efforts are underway to have this program continue, exploring strategies to ensure it continues and has long-term success.

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

BBBSLD utilizes the support of both our Board of Directors and community members to organize large-scale fundraisers. To ensure accessibility, our organization does not impose any membership dues or user fees, thereby keeping our programs barrier free.

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

\$5000 for three-year cycle funding confirmed from Central Alberta United Way.

3. The Project

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

BBBSLD's mentoring programs will address enhanced executive function in children and youth. Youth who receive mentorship will evolve into resilient individuals, better equipped to navigate through life's adversities. Research displays that mentoring is an important way to empower youth and support them to develop into healthy young people who are better able to deal with and overcome life's challenges. Youth who receive mentorship will experience enhancements in their relationship skills, responsible decision-making abilities, and self-awareness. By participating in mentoring programs, children and youth receive the necessary support to cultivate a positive identity, enhance their social awareness, and promote mental wellness, which contributes to healthy development. These skills create a healthier community.

- 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.

This issue impacts the entire community. Without mentoring programs, there is a risk of losing essential skills crucial for the growth and development of youth, which could lead to increased challenges within the community, as highlighted by The Canadian Institute of Health Research. When children and youth grow into happy, healthy, and confident adults, the entire community benefits. Boston Consulting Group's 2013 study of Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Programs underscores that investing in childhood mentoring is an investment in the future of everyone. For every dollar invested in childhood mentoring, there is a \$23 return to society through positive outcomes.

The National Human Services Assembly has identified mentoring as a crucial support mechanism to break the cycle of poverty. Assisting children in their mental development not only fosters their active participation in the community but also steers them away from crime, laying the groundwork for successful careers.

The Boston Consulting Group conducted a multi-stage study in 2019 comparing outcomes of children engaged in mentoring programs with those who were not. The results showed that participants were 87% more likely to have strong social networks, 50% more inclined to volunteer (and dedicated 30% more time), and 13% more likely to donate (with a 20% increase in the amount donated)

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

Research has demonstrated that youth mentoring programs have both positive short-term and long-term impacts on the participating youth.

Short-term impacts include simple shifts in perspective and behaviors that positively impact a youth's day-to-day life. Short-term impacts encompass youth feeling a sense of connection to their community, which contributes to an overall increase in happiness, laying the groundwork for more detailed outcomes.

Long-term effects may influence a youth's educational aspirations and their desire to continue mentoring for future generations. Additionally, parents of mentored children reported statistically significant improvements in family functioning, such as communication and problem-solving skills, over time compared to parents of non-mentored children.

The Boston Consulting Group conducted a multi-stage study in 2019 and results displayed that 81% of mentored youth report financial literacy. 98% believe they make good life choices. 80% pursue healthy lifestyles.

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

Mentoring plays a pivotal role in creating positive impacts and fostering healthy relationships, aiding children and youth in their growth journey, promoting inclusivity, and enhancing mental well-being. Particularly for youth, mentoring can significantly influence academic performance, participation in extracurricular activities, and a reduction in behavioral issues. Mentors act as positive role models, embodying qualities like resilience, perseverance, integrity, and empathy, which youth can follow and learn from. However, when young people encounter adversities such as violence, poverty, or mental health challenges in their homes or communities, they risk being unable to realize their full potential, as highlighted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada. Prolonged exposure to such adversities can lead to toxic stress, potentially affecting childhood brain development. This not only affects the youth but also affects the community.

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

BBBSLD's mentoring programs will address enhanced executive function in children and youth. Youth who receive mentorship will evolve into resilient individuals, better equipped to navigate through life's adversities. Through BBBSLD mentoring programs, life-changing mentoring relationships are enabled when the family and youth, the volunteer mentor, and the organization work together to support the youth in realizing their full potential.

The youth and their family along with the volunteer mentor all go through an intake process. The intake process is a critical step in fostering meaningful and impactful connections. Throughout the intake, BBBSLD learns about the interests, skills, experiences, and aspirations of all parties. When creating mentoring matches, compatibility is the guiding principle. The approach maximizes the potential for positive outcomes as it aligns the goals, values, and personalities of mentors and mentees. By carefully considering these factors, we aim to create mentoring matches that are not only beneficial on the short term, but in the long term as well.

The mentoring programs provided are barrier free making them easily accessible. Necessary steps are taken to ensure children and youth are matched in the program that best meets their needs. During the enrollment process, all parties – mentee, parent/guardian, and mentor go through a pre-match training. Pre-match training plays a vital role and encompasses the key stages of relationships that contribute to the success within relationships. The key stages include healthy relationships, voices and choices, circle of support, and boundaries. Once a mentoring relationship has been created, check-ins are completed to ensure the relationship is developing in all aspects. This is done through evaluating the matches intentions on challenging growth, expressing care, providing support, expanding possibilities, and sharing power.

Throughout the entire mentoring journey, every step is carefully executed to ensure the success of mentoring relationships.

- 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.)

Mentoring relationships within BBBSLD will actively contribute to their growth and effectiveness by engaging in yearly surveys aligned with the Family & Community Support Services Provincial Priority Measures, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada Theory of Change, and the Search Institutes Developmental Relationship. These surveys play a crucial role in measuring the outcomes of mentorship programs and strengthening mentoring practices. Additionally, success will be measured through staff observation, match check-in conversations, and feedback from program participants.

The Provincial priority measures that will indicate success include:

- Youth experience well-being
- Youth connect with others
- Youth develop positively
- Families have social supports
- Communities are connected and engaged
- Communities identify and address social issues

BBBSLD's program projections are based on the program numbers from 2023. Community-Based mentoring aims to serve 22 matches. Group mentoring – Game On and Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds anticipates 125 youth will participate. In-School mentoring aims to serve 6 matches. Kids & Kops 5 and Adopt-a-Family 10 families. BBBSLD will carry a waitlist of 16 youth and will continue to offer opportunities for waitlist participants to be included through match activities, community events, and referrals when needed.

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

BBBSLD is not aware of any similar programs being offered 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.

Volunteers are the backbone of BBBSLD and all mentors dedicate their time on a voluntary basis. The commitment varies across different programs: community-based mentors invest approximately 6 to 8 hours a month, while site-based (in-school) contribute 1 hour per week. BBBSLD's Board of Directors volunteer an average of 4 hours per month throughout ten months of the year. Additionally, volunteers play a vital role in organizing special events and fundraisers.

In 2023, a total of 4997 volunteer hours were dedicated to supporting mentoring and BBBSLD.

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

Mentored youth see positive results in different aspects of their development. These areas include growth in social emotional competence, mental health and wellbeing, and educational engagement and employment readiness. See all above answers. Letters of Support attached to 'Additional Documentation' document.

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

To deliver the intended outcomes, it is essential to maintain a strength-based approach throughout all stages, from intake to closure. Without funding from the FCSS Blackfalds Community Grant, mentoring programs offered in Blackfalds will need to be reduced or limited.

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue	2024
Fees:	0
Grants:	\$5000 - Central Alberta United Way \$15500 - FCSS Blackfalds Community Group Grant (pending)
Community Donations:	\$650 - General Donations
Fundraising:	\$2200 - Festival of Wreaths \$700 - Easter Charity Barbeque \$9500 - Walk for Kids' Sake \$5000 A Night Among Stars
Total Revenue	\$38550
Expenses	2024
Personnel:	\$30,650 - Salary/Wages & Benefits
Materials & Supplies:	\$2800 - Program Supplies \$200 - Office Supplies
Other Expenses:	\$2900 - Insurance \$800 - Advertising/Promotions \$900 - Membership Fees (BBBSC) \$300 - Telephone/Communication
Total Expenses	\$38550
FCSS Funding Request	\$15500

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: _____

Volunteer Programmer:

- **Seniors Active Programming:**
 - **Drop-In 50+ Walking Club:** FCSS staff facilitates the 50+ Walking Club on Tuesday and Thursdays at the Abbey Centre. During the month of March 67 people participated (including: 22% were Lacombe County residents), 8 dates offered, 241 track admissions were purchased = \$482, and the Seniors Plus (75+) admission was utilized 39 times. Participants tracked their distance walked and as a group they walked 10272 laps in March.
- **It's More Than Just a Movie** (monthly event) – The March event showcasing 'Moneyball' was attended by 24 individuals.
- **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 14-20, 2024
 - 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, and the Outstanding Group (adult) Award. RSVP by April 8.
 - 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 22.
 - National Volunteer Week colouring contest. Win a \$25 gift card, four age categories, drop off finished masterpieces to FCSS April 14-20.
- **Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:**
 - Mar 23: Family Easter Event (15 volunteers, totaling 30 volunteer hours)
 - Snow Angel Program
 - 34 volunteers are supporting 23 locations
 - 5 locations on the waitlist
 - 6 volunteers are hoping to be paired with a resident close to their home

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In March, the newsletter was emailed to 280 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 54%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Blackfalds Health Professional Attraction & Retention Committee
 - b. Clean Up Blackfalds – April 22-May 4
 - c. Blackfalds Days – June 13-16
 - d. Super Kids Triathlon – July 6

FCSS Board Update: March 2024

Interagency

- 12 attendees from 11 unique organizations.
- Blackfalds FCSS, CARE for Newcomers, Youth Unlimited Blackfalds, Alberta Health Service- Health Promotions, Care Givers Connections, Blackfalds Public Library, St Gregory the Great Catholic School, Catholic Social Services, Red Deer Polytechnic, Career Assistance Network, Albert Health Services- Dietician.

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- Actively screening each client to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements.
- Coordinating with admin assistant to book appointments for intake.
- Coordinating tax volunteers with office space and approved tax intake envelopes.
- Update the 2024 CVITP UFile program as needed.
- Calling all completed tax returns to arrange pick-up.
- 40 returns have been e-filed since March 4th, 2024 (24 returns at this time in 2023 this is a significant increase!

Family Easter Event:

- **213 people in attendance**
- Coordinated with Kids Konnection, UBAKA, BB/BS, FRN, Bulldogs, and Blackfalds Public Library for station name, station set-up and activity expectations.
- Donation secured from Blackfalds and District Agriculture Society.
- All documents have been created for the event in partnership with Marketing/ Communication and FCSS Admin Support (canteen menu, outcome measure question, passport, thank you tent cards, colouring pages, door prizes markers)
- Confirmed BBQ for the BB/BS canteen.
- Collected all in-kind donations (root beer suckers- A&W, Cookies-Boston Pizza, Chips – MacMunchies, Slurpee coupons -7-11, Ice cream coupons- Dairy Queen).

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 695 followers at the close of March.

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 68 followers at the close of March.

BLACKFALDS FCSS

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES

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Jan Pocock, Community Engagement Programmer

Outer duties:

- Tuesday 50+ Walking Club.
- It's More Than a Movie event.
- Spring/Summer guide submissions & review.
- Helped set up for the Women's Day celebration on March 9th with the Soroptimist Club.
- Completed application to be considered as the Cosmos (bottle depot) charity of the month for the Back to School Program.
- Working with colleagues to manage the lack of an FCSS Manager.
- Continue to connect with the Beyond Food Community Hub and support their endeavours.

Youth Programmer:

Blackfalds Youth Crew

Offered Mondays from 3:45 - 5:45pm for youth grades 4 -6, Tuesdays from 5:00 - 7:00pm for youth grades 7 – 12, and now Thursdays from 1 – 2:30pm for homeschooled youth grades 4 - 9.

- March 4 saw 17 youth in attendance, March 5 saw 10, and March 7 saw 10,
- March 11 saw 15 youth in attendance, March 12 saw 13, and March 14 saw 9,
- March 18 saw 17 youth in attendance, March 19 saw 12, and March 21 saw 9,
- March 25 saw 13 youth in attendance, March 26 saw 11, and March 28 saw 12.

Youth participated in a variety of scheduled activities, including a movie & popcorn, watercolor painting, cupcake decorating, and Easter egg hunt & crafts. Unscheduled activities, such as plasma cars and board games, are available to youth once the scheduled activity has been completed.

Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety was scheduled for March 15th. The class was full and continues to be offered on a nearly monthly basis throughout the school year for youth grades 4 – 6. The next regular course is scheduled for April 26th.

Youth Cooking Club is an Alberta Health Services program geared towards teaching youth about healthy eating, according to the Canada's Food Guide. Youth learn how to cook/bake while staying safe in the kitchen. This 8-week program started January 31st, wrapping up March 20th.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring: FCSS Youth Programmer is mentoring a young student at one of the Blackfalds community schools. Mentoring takes place once a week for one hour. Mentee and youth programmer are engaged throughout the whole meet time and have developed a solid relationship. FCSS Youth Programmer has seen positive change in the mentee regarding school.

Mission Impossible is an obstacle course developed by FCSS Youth Programmer to advance youth physical coordination and social skills. Obstacle courses will get progressively harder to allow for youth skill development. The program has 15 registered youth, with full attendance and engagement. Youth requests for program to come back.

Young Artists is a workshop for youth who are interested in learning to express themselves through art. Full registration and participation of 12 youth.

Skills To Survive is a program offered through Kerrywood Nature Centre. This program guides youth through nature, teaching them survival skills along the way. All 26 registered youth were bussed to the program and shared positive feedback.

FCSS Youth Programmer initiatives during the month of March:

Youth Resource Guide creation for the Youth Action Coalition

Creating FCSS Summer Camp – connecting with local businesses

Nominating & assessing youth for the volunteer awards

Client Statistics for March 2024

Referrals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
FCSS	7		0	0								
FCSS Cara	3		13	13								
FCSS Jan	3		5	10								
FCSS Sierra	16		3	6								
Income Tax Return												
Inquiries	1		13	129								
Employment Support	1		2	1								
FCSS Event Easter	4		10	10								
FCSS Subsidized Programs	0		0	2								
Tools for Schools	0		0	0								
Winter Wear	0		0	0								
Christmas Bureau	0		0	0								
Food Bank	4		6	7								
Low Income Inquiries	5		8	3								
Housing	0		7	3								
Fax	13		12	18								
Printing/Photocopying	13		18	11								
Seniors Assistance Programs	7		2	4								
Telephone	0		0	0								
BBBS	0		0	0								
BOLT	2		0	1								
Golden Circle	3		2	0								
General Inquiries	52		46	63								
Reaching Home												
Mental Health Therapist												
Affordability Grant Help												
Number of Clients	134		147	281								

Job posting updated weekly. Lunchbox emails sent weekly.

Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for February - 206 sends with an open rate of 43%