

2026 FCSS Framework

FCSS Reporting Resources





Provincial Prevention Priorities Overview



Homelessness and Housing Insecurity

Homelessness and housing insecurity in Alberta are complex and growing challenges driven by factors such as rising housing costs, economic instability, mental health and addiction issues and systemic barriers to support services. Many individuals and families struggle to access stable, affordable housing, leaving them at risk of eviction, temporary shelter reliance or living in unsafe conditions.



Mental Health and Addictions

Many Albertans experience challenges related to mental health and addictions. The province also continues to face an opioid crisis, with alarming rates of drug poisoning and overdoses. These issues have profound impacts on the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.



Employment

Unemployment remains a challenge in Alberta, affecting individuals and families across the province. Job losses and economic uncertainty contribute to financial instability and can create barriers to long-term employment. Fluctuations in the job market impact many Albertans, highlighting the ongoing issue of unemployment and its broader effects on communities.



Family and Sexual Violence

Family and sexual violence are critical concerns that can lead to significant and lasting physical, emotional, and psychological effects. These impacts can create substantial barriers to safety, well-being and stability. Survivors often encounter difficulties in obtaining necessary support and the repercussions can extend beyond individuals to affect families, workplaces, and the wider community.



Aging Well in Community

Alignment of health, housing, and community-based services can create safe and supportive environments for Albertans to age well in the community. It is estimated that 22% of people in long term care could be avoided with the right community-based supports in place. Approaches to integrate healthcare and community-based supports are essential to enable Albertans to age in their homes and communities and lower their risk of seeking hospitalization and/or long-term care.



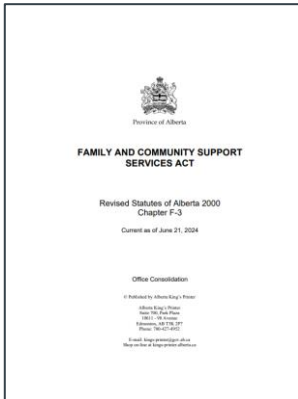
Provincial Prevention Strategies Overview

Provincial Prevention Strategies are the things FCSS programs can do to **enhance protective factors**.

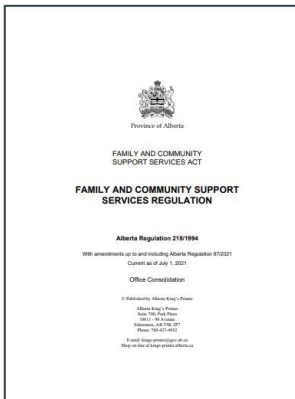
Prevention Strategy #1	Promote and encourage active engagement in the community
Prevention Strategy #2	Foster a sense of belonging
Prevention Strategy #3	Promote social inclusion
Prevention Strategy #4	Develop and maintain healthy relationships
Prevention Strategy #5	Enhance access to social supports
Prevention Strategy #6	Develop and strengthen skills that build resilience



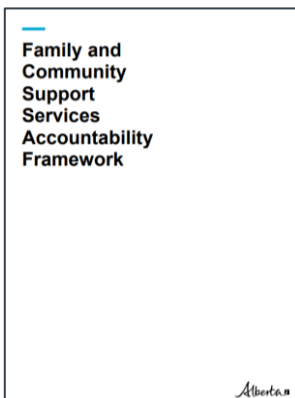
FCSS Act, Regulation & Accountability Framework



The *Family and Community Support Services Act* is the legal basis for a municipal/provincial funding partnership through which municipalities may design and develop preventive social services, provided at the earliest opportunity, to promote and enhance well-being among individuals, families and communities. The Act governs the creation of funding agreements between the Minister and the municipality/Metis Settlement; outlines the requirement for an 80/20 split in funding; grants a representative of the Minister the ability to examine documentations related to local programs; and outlines the responsibility of the municipality/Settlement to provide audited financial statements.



The *Family and Community Support Services Regulation* outlines the responsibility of municipalities/Metis Settlements in designing/developing preventive social services and identifies the service requirements of the programs to be provided. The Regulation also provides guidance on what costs are eligible expenses; outlines the level of assurance required for reporting revenues and expenditures based on the amount of funding given; and indicates the level of assurance for program accountability.



The *Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Accountability Framework* provides a common definition of prevention, identifies key provincial prevention priorities and increases accountability through an outcomes model that will demonstrate the impact and value of FCSS. The Framework will help guide local programming to better address the pressing social challenges Albertans are facing today.



Glossary of Definitions

This glossary provides a list of definitions relevant to the new reporting process. The definitions in this section are derived from the FCSS Act, Regulation, the Accountability Framework, and insights gathered through participatory engagement with FCSS stakeholders.

2SLGBTQIA+

The acronym stands for “Two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual, and all other sexual orientations and genders.”

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Appropriate

Programs and services are flexible, adaptable, individualized and available when needed.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

BIPOC

The acronym stands for “Black, Indigenous and People of Colour.”

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Civil Society

Civil society includes non-profit and voluntary organizations, registered charities, informal groups or movements pursuing shared interests or values, and private-sector organizations and individuals pursuing social good.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Community Partnership

Collaborative working relationships, either formal (i.e., written) or informal, between local FCSS programs and other organizations, such as local non-profits, schools, health services, community centers and helplines. These partnerships may focus on a shared vision, aligning efforts, sharing resources, and enhancing community capacity. They go beyond information sharing and funding to include joint programming, co-hosted events, and shared service delivery.

(Engagement Process, 2024)

Easy to Access

Programs and services are available to Albertans through a variety of mediums and are simple to navigate. Furthermore, information regarding FCSS programs and services is readily available to all residents through multiple channels that cater to physical, developmental, digital, geographical, and other potential barriers. Access to these programs is designed to be straightforward and user-friendly, ensuring that all community members can easily obtain the information and services they need.

(Engagement Process, 2024)

Evidence-Informed Practice

An ongoing process that incorporates client values/perspectives, staff expertise and research to inform decisions.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Key Performance Measures

In the context of FCSS, Key Performance Measures (KPMs) serve as indicators that reflect progress towards the intended outcomes as established in the FCSS Accountability Framework. A total of 13 key performance measures are outlined in the Accountability Framework, with two (2) being tracked by the Ministry and 11 at the local FCSS level. KPMs are used by the Ministry to understand how prevention strategies are being applied and how FCSS programs are meeting objectives.

(Engagement Process, 2024)

Municipality

A “municipality” means:

- a city, town, village, summer village, municipal district, specialized municipality or Metis settlement;
- in respect of an improvement district, the Minister responsible for the Municipal Government Act,
- in respect of a special area, the Minister responsible for the Special Areas Act
- a school board, a hospital board or a provincial health agency or regional health authority under the Provincial Health Agencies Act in respect of a national park of Canada, or
- the Government of Canada in respect of an Indian reserve;

(Family and Community Support Services Act, 2024)

Objectives

In the FCSS context, there are five (5) overarching objectives for the FCSS program, as outlined in the FCSS Accountability Framework. These program objectives align with, and create a link between, the definition of prevention, provincial prevention priorities and strategies. They are the starting point for the development of program outcomes and the 13 Key Performance Measures.

(FCSS Accountability Framework; Engagement Process, 2024)

Outcomes

Outcomes are changes that can be expected to take place as a result of a program’s activities. Outcomes may be at individual, family, or community levels. In the FCSS context, immediate, intermediate, and long-term outcomes link to Objectives. The Outcomes describe the expected changes in development of protective factors, increased connection, meeting community needs, accessibility, appropriateness, and partnership development.

(Engagement Process, 2024)

Participant

A participant is an individual who engages in an FCSS program or community event. In a program context, this includes anyone who formally or informally benefits from an FCSS activity, service, or program, such as service recipients, registrants, and drop-in users. In a community event context, a participant is any individual who attends or engages with the event, commonly referred to as attendees.

(Engagement Process, 2024)

Positive Change

Refers to a measurable improvement in participant responses on pre/post survey questions in the desired improvement of a self-reported reflection of improvement in a single survey question assessing change since participation. It serves as one of the 13 key performance measures, directly linked to the six prevention strategies, and reflects meaningful process towards program goals and intended outcomes.

(Engagement Process, 2024)

Prevention

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

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Prevention Strategies

Approaches that local FCSS programs can implement to strengthen protective factors for individuals, families, and communities. These strategies can be customized to meet the specific needs of each community. When effectively utilized, the Prevention Strategies contribute to addressing the Provincial Prevention Priorities.

(Engagement Process, 2024)

Primary Prevention

Primary prevention focuses on the general population or on subsets of the population who may be at higher risk, with the intent of promoting protective factors in the physical or social environment.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Program

“Program” means a family and community support services program determined in accordance with section 7(a) [of the *Family and Community Support Services Act*].

(Family and Community Support Services Act, 2024)

Promising Practices

A program, service or strategy that shows potential for developing into a best practice.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Protective Factors

Factors that prevent or mitigate the effects of exposure to risk factors and stressful life events.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Provincial Prevention Priorities

Within the context of FCSS, "Prevention Priorities" identify five significant social issues impacting Albertans. These priorities provide essential guidance for local FCSS programs as they develop community initiatives with a focus on prevention.

(Engagement Process, 2024)

Risk Factor

Any attribute, characteristic or exposure of an individual that increases the likelihood of negative outcomes.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Risk Management

Risk is the uncertainty around future events and their potential to affect the achievement of objectives and outcomes. Risk management looks to improve decision-making under uncertainty to maximize the benefits and minimize the costs.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Secondary Prevention

Secondary prevention focuses on specific groups or at-risk populations to address issues at an early stage.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Social Inclusion

The act of making all groups of people within a society feel valued and included.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Survey Question

Are structured inquiries used to gather participant insights and assess program impact. In the context of FCSS, they play a key role in tracking three (3) Key Performance Measures (KPMs) by measuring changes in knowledges, behaviours or experiences.

(Engagement Process, 2024)

Tertiary Prevention

Tertiary prevention focuses on addressing immediate needs with the intent to prevent long-term impacts.

(Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework, 2022)

Volunteer

A "Volunteer" is someone who contributes to the program without receiving ongoing monetary compensation for their time. Students who are receiving a school credit or community service hours for their time are included as volunteers. Community organization employees who dedicate time above and beyond their paid roles, including 'corporate volunteers' (e.g., municipality staff who volunteer to support a program) count as volunteers.

(Engagement Process, 2024)