

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome to the Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting – April 9, 2026
- 1.2 Call to Order
- 1.3 Approval of Agenda
Any Additions or Deletions
Consensus Approval of Agenda for April 9, 2026

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Town of Blackfalds acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, the ancestral lands of Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-status peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands since time immemorial.

We recognize the inherent relationships Indigenous communities have with this land and its creatures and commit to supporting reconciliation and healing. We honour the resilience, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples, past and present.

As we gather, we pledge to listen, learn, and take meaningful action toward a future based on mutual respect and understanding as we continue on our journey of truth and healing. We recognize that reconciliation is not a single act but a lifelong journey—one that requires accountability, humility, and the centering of Indigenous voices.

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

None

3. **BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2026
- 4.2 Approval of Amended Minutes from January 8, 2026
- 4.3 Resignation of Glorice Cayago
- 4.4 2026 FCSS Grant Requests- Grant Funding Allocations
 - 4.4.1 BGC Wolf Creek - Grant Application Request
 - 4.4.2 Big Brothers Big Sisters - Grant Application Request
 - 4.4.3 Iron Ridge Elementary - Grant Application Request
 - 4.4.4 Association of Central AB Youth for Christ - Grant Application Request
 - 4.4.5 Matrix Assessment Form
- 4.5 FCSS Managers Report – Verbal Update
- 4.6 Volunteer Programmer Report – March
- 4.7 Community Support Programmer Report – March
- 4.8 Youth Programmer Report – March
- 4.9 FCSS Client Statistics – March

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4. **CONFIDENTIAL**
None

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Ryan Brown	Town of Blackfalds Councilor
Cory Twerdoclib	Town of Blackfalds Councilor
Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large
Michelle Meadows	Public at Large

ATTENDING

Sawyer Hick	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Manager
Erin Dahl	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Assistant

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

Gloricel Cayago	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Heather Johnson	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas welcomed all attending, introduced Councilors Brown and Twerdoclib. The Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting was to order at 7:04 pm. Member Johnson moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board approved the agenda. Member Kimberly Burrell Seconded the motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

4.13 Empowering Minds/Light house Project Update
4.14 FCSSAA Board meeting Highlights

DELETIONS TO AGENDA

N/A

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

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territory.

PRESENTATIONS

N/A

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2026

Member Thomas moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from January 8, 2026, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2025

Member Ryan Brown approved the January 8, 2026 meeting minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS SUPPORT SERVICES FRAMEWORK

-Administration has discussed introducing framework policies across all divisions. These policies outline the key expectations, guiding principles, and decision-making parameters that shape how each division operates. By establishing this high-level direction, we create a consistent foundation that supports effective, efficient, and well-coordinated management practices. This Policy will ensure that Social Services policies and procedures are aligned with our broader organizational priorities and values.

-The purpose of this Policy is to establish clear guidelines for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of preventive and supportive social services within the Town of Blackfalds. This Policy aims to enhance the well-being of individuals and communities by providing equitable, accessible, and high-quality services that address the diverse needs of our population.

-Council is committed to fostering a resilient, inclusive, and supportive social environment that strengthens protective factors, reduces social risks, and builds community capacity. Through diverse, high-quality programs, the Town prioritizes equity, collaboration, and accountability to ensure long-term impact for current and future generations. Council provides strategic oversight and ensures resources are allocated to preventive social services that align with provincial legislation and community priorities.

Board members are happy with the name change from Social Services Framework to FCSS Support Services Framework and the policy being broad to allow flexibility.

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SCOPE

This Policy applies to social services including, but not limited to:

1. Community Supports: Programs that build resilience against housing insecurity, food insecurity and health challenges.
2. Capacity Building: Educational and vocational training, skill development, youth/family/senior supports.
3. Equity Initiatives: Programs addressing systemic barriers, culturally safe delivery, inclusion of marginalize groups.
4. Community Development: Partnerships, volunteerism, environmental sustainability, and resilience initiatives.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Council to:

1. Adopt and support this Policy by resolution.
2. Consider the allocation of resources for the successful implementation of this Policy in the annual budget.

Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Advise Council on the development, implementation, and amendment of this Policy.
2. Ensure Policy review occurs and verify the implementation of this Policy.

Administration to:

1. Implement programs in alignment with this Policy.
2. Report annually to Council on program outcomes, risk management, and resource allocation.

FCSS SUPPORT SERVICES FRAMWORK

By virtue of this Policy, the Town of Blackfalds Social Services strives to:

1. Ensure programs are accessible to all demographics, including marginalized or underserved groups.
2. Provide services in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all individuals.

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3. Build partnerships with local organizations, schools, health services, and businesses to maximize resources and impact.
4. Ensure services are culturally sensitive, responsive, and inclusive to the diverse needs of the community.
5. Promote sustainable delivery that respects environmental, economic, and social factors.
6. Maintain transparency in decision-making, service goals and outcomes.

The goals and objectives of Social Services in relation to this framework Policy are to:

Ensure equitable access to preventive social services for all residents.

Promote community well-being by strengthening protective factors and reducing social risks.

Foster resilience and self-reliance through skill-building, education, and empowerment initiatives.

Reduce isolation and enhance social connection through engagement, volunteerism, and participation.

Advance equity and inclusion by addressing systemic barriers and promoting culturally safe service delivery.

This Policy establishes the foundation for a responsive, sustainable, and preventive Social Services system that strengthens community well-being and promotes equity, inclusion, and resilience.

Guided by this Policy and related documents, Social Services commits to:

1. Deliver equitable and inclusive programs and support's that respond to identified community needs.
2. Develop guidelines for planning, delivering, and evaluating social services to ensure consistency and quality.
3. Establish transparent funding priorities, considering severity of needs, impact, efficiency, and external opportunities.
4. Maximize the use of available resources to ensure sustainability and growth of social service offerings.
5. Engage stakeholders through consultation, forums, and collaborations with agencies and governments.

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6. Set benchmarks and performance indicators to evaluate the success and impact of social service programs, supports and initiatives.
7. Identify potential risks in social service delivery (e.g., confidentiality, equity gaps, service duplication) and establish preventive measures that meet ethical and legal requirements.
8. Promote awareness of social services through outreach, advertising and social media platforms. Council Policy No- Social Services Framework Page
9. Keep the community informed about programs, services, policies, and changes through clear and consistent communication.
10. Foster collaboration and partnerships with local organizations, schools, health services, and business to maximize impact and reduce duplication.
11. Support volunteerism and community capacity building as a cornerstone of social service sustainability. 12. Embed continuous improvement practices using evaluation findings and community feedback to refine programs annually.

EXCLUSIONS

Direct Assistance: The Town of Blackfalds Social Services does not provide direct financial assistance, clinical treatment, or crisis intervention beyond preventive scope. Residents requiring such support's will be referred to appropriate provincial or community agencies.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- Services may be adapted during public health emergencies, natural disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances to ensure continuity of preventive support's.
- Partnerships may be prioritized in situations where community needs exceed municipal capacity.

BCG REPORT

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds launched programming in fall 2024 in direct response to a clearly identified community need: parents in Blackfalds required more Out of School Child Care options. The 2025 year marked the organization's first full year of operation, and the results demonstrate strong uptake, growing trust, and meaningful community impact.

By establishing consistent, reliable child and youth programming, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds not only met the immediate childcare gap but also contributed to addressing five priority areas identified in the Blackfalds Social Needs Assessment:

- Support for parents and families
- Mental health

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- Bullying and abuse
- Isolation and loneliness
- Collaboration among local agencies

The organization delivered three core programs for children ages 5–12—After School Program, School’s Out Day (S.O.D.) Program, and Summer Camp—while also expanding services to include targeted youth programs (ages 12–18) and free counselling for children, youth, and families. In 2025 alone, these programs generated **5,740 visits from 287 unique individuals**, demonstrating strong community engagement.

After School Program

Operating out of the Iron Ridge Secondary Campus, the After School Program provides a safe, engaging, and supportive environment each school day. Children participate in themed activities, physical play, quiet spaces, and receive a healthy snack. Transportation from three local schools removes barriers for families. **Program impact:**

- 61 days of programming
- 86 individual children
- Average of 20 children per day
- 56% of total program visits

School’s Out Day (S.O.D.) Program

This full-day program runs on non-school days such as PD days, Teacher’s Convention, and Spring Break. Demand has been high, often resulting in a waitlist, though most families are accommodated. **Program impact:**

- 35 days of programming
- 112 individual children
- Average of 26 children per day
- 16% of total program visits

Summer Camp

In 2025, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds delivered its first-ever Summer Camp, and it quickly became a highlight for families in the community. The program attracted many new participants and offered eight weeks of full-day care—an essential support for working parents during the summer months. Each week featured engaging themes, on-site and off-site activities, and opportunities for community members to share their skills with campers. Staff at field trip locations consistently praised the children’s behaviour, reflecting positively on the program’s culture and supervision.

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Program impact:

- 40 days of programming
- 109 individual children
- Average of 31 children per day
- 22% of total program visits

Youth Lunch Drop-In

Located within the Iron Ridge Secondary Campus, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds naturally became visible to local youth. As students grew more comfortable with staff, they expressed interest in having a space of their own. In response, the Club launched a weekly Youth Lunch Drop-In, offering games, snacks, conversation, and a welcoming environment. Attendance has steadily increased, and youth have contributed ideas for future programming. This momentum is now supporting the expansion of youth services, including the upcoming Lead Up leadership program at the Junior Campus.

Program impact:

- 12 days of programming
- 75 individual youth
- Average of 14 youth per day
- 3% of total program visits

Counselling Program

To further support children, youth, and families, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds expanded access to its no-cost counselling services. Initially offered for a half-day each week, demand quickly demonstrated the need for increased availability. The program now operates one full day per week, with additional after-school sessions for convenience. To reduce barriers, the counsellor also provides services directly within three local schools. This program has become an important resource for families seeking mental health support.

Program impact:

- 28 individuals served
- 162 counselling sessions
- 3% of total program visits

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BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds successfully advanced three of the five identified social sustainability goals through intentional, relationship-focused programming and expanded community supports.

- **1. Developing Independence, Coping Skills, and Resilience**
- Across all Club programs, activities are intentionally designed to help children build confidence, emotional regulation, and problem-solving skills. Choice-based programming encourages independence, while daily routines such as journaling, self-care practices, and access to calming spaces help children learn to manage emotions. Staff reinforce positive behaviour and teach strategies for handling bullying, navigating conflict, and practicing calm-down techniques. The Counselling Program strengthens this impact by supporting not only individual children but also their families, creating a ripple effect of improved coping skills and resilience throughout the community.
- **2. Building Interpersonal and Group Skills**
- Positive relationships are at the heart of Club culture. Staff model kindness, respect, and empathy, and children practice these skills through turn-taking games, group activities, and shared decision-making. Leadership opportunities are built into daily programming, allowing children to guide activities, mentor younger peers, and contribute to group expectations. The Counselling Program further supports healthy relationship development by helping families build stronger communication and relational skills that extend into the broader community.
- **3. Supporting Active Participation in the Community**
- BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds helps children and families stay engaged in community life by offering accessible, affordable, and reliable Out of School Child Care. Children participate in activities throughout Blackfalds—such as visits to the Abbey Centre, library, parks, and local agencies—which fosters pride, belonging, and awareness of community resources. By reducing childcare stress and financial barriers, the Club enables parents to work, participate in community life, and feel supported during a time of rising costs. Programming intentionally extends beyond the Club’s walls, encouraging children, youth, and families to be active contributors to their community.
- **Summary of Reach and Expansion**
- The program not only reached its intended population but expanded significantly. Out of School Child Care programs continue to grow, often reaching licensed capacity. Summer Camp opened the door to many new families. The Counselling Program doubled its availability due to demand and now includes after-school and in-school sessions to reduce barriers. Youth programming has also begun to take shape, extending the Club’s reach to ages 12–18. Continued growth is expected as awareness increases and programming expands.

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- **Summary of Program Impact**
- The impact on children, families, and the community is clear and measurable. Results from the national BGC Canada survey show positive movement across all 21 indicators related to relationships, healthy living, learning, and leadership. Children report feeling more supported, more confident, and more connected. Staff also observe strong engagement—so much so that many children are reluctant to leave at pick-up time. Families benefit from reduced stress, increased access to childcare and counselling, and stronger connections to community resources. The community benefits from the development of confident, engaged young citizens who are learning to contribute positively to their environment.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS REPORT

Financial Overview

- **FCSS Contribution:** \$9,000
- **Organization Contribution:** \$97,518
- **Total Revenue:** \$106,518
- **FCSS Eligible Expenditures:** \$91,645
- **Other Expenditures:** \$23,853
- **Total Expenditures:** \$115,498
- **Surplus/Deficit:** **-\$8,980**

Program Overview & Community Need

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District (BBBSLD) delivered a range of mentoring programs designed to support children and youth facing multiple risk factors and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The programs provide stable, caring relationships that strengthen mental health, resilience, and social connection.

In 2025, **219 mentoring relationships** were supported in Blackfalds—representing **51%** of all BBBSLD program participation—demonstrating strong and ongoing community need.

Program Delivery & Outcomes

Community-Based 1:1 Mentoring

- Matches youth with screened, trained adult mentors.

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- Matches meet 6–8 hours monthly for activities, community engagement, and skill-building.
- Supports confidence, life skills, and positive decision-making.
- Program demand increased in 2025.

In-School 1:1 Mentoring & Teen Mentoring

- Weekly one-hour sessions during the school year.
- Teen Mentoring launched successfully in Blackfalds, empowering youth 14+ to mentor younger peers.
- Benefits include leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills for both mentors and mentees.

Group Mentoring Programs

- **Game On** and **Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds** delivered to Grade 5 classes.
- Focus on emotional well-being, teamwork, physical activity, mindfulness, and self-care.
- Participation decreased but program quality and engagement remained strong.

Kids N Kops Summer Day Camp

- Delivered with Lacombe Police Service, Blackfalds RCMP, and Municipal Enforcement.
- Builds positive relationships between youth and law enforcement.
- 12 youth participated.

Adopt-a-Family Program

- Expanded support during the holiday season.
- Assisted **27 youth, 45 individuals, and 11 families**.

Impact on Independence, Coping Skills & Crisis Resilience

BBBSLD programs help youth:

- Build confidence and emotional regulation.
- Strengthen coping and communication skills.
- Develop independence through goal-setting and problem-solving.
- Reduce isolation by providing a consistent, trusted adult.

Survey results show:

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- **98% of youth** agreed: *“As a result of my mentor, I am better at handling whatever comes my way.”*

A mentor noted: *“I think my mentee has become more confident in himself, in his interests and with making connections or trying new things.”*

Participation & Community Engagement

Direct Program Participation

Program	Participants
Game On	102
Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds	77
Teen Mentoring	11
Community-Based Mentoring	12
In-School Mentoring	4
Kids N Kops	12
Site-Based Mentoring	1
Adopt-a-Family	27 youth / 45 individuals / 11 families
Waitlist	20

Community Awareness & Events

- Turn the Town Teal: 8 businesses
- 40 Mentors in 40 Days: 10 signs
- Easter BBQ: ~125 attendees
- Community Info & Expo Fair: ~150 attendees
- Festival of Wreaths: 15 wreaths
- Rubber Duck Drop Fundraiser: ~150 attendees
- Interagency meetings: 5

Volunteer Involvement

- Community-Based Mentors: 12
- In-School Mentors: 4
- Teen Mentors: 11

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- Board Members: 4
- Group Mentoring Volunteers: 4
- Kids N Kops Volunteers: 12
- Adopt-a-Family Volunteers: 6
- Fundraising Volunteers: 17

Staff Development

Training included: Developmental Relationships, Mental Health First Aid, Service Delivery, Child Safety, and Brain Story.

Geographic Area Served

Blackfalds, Lacombe, Bentley, Eckville, Alix, Clive, and Lacombe County.

Board members discussed the need for more mentor volunteers

IRON RIDGE REPORT

The Connection Club at Iron Ridge Elementary Campus operated from September 2025 to June 2026, providing daily morning support for at-risk students. The program created a safe, welcoming environment where students could build meaningful relationships with caring adults, develop social-emotional skills, and begin their day with a healthy snack. Research-aligned practices helped foster resilience, emotional regulation, and readiness to learn.

The program served approximately 40 students per day through the breakfast component and reached the broader school population through classroom bins and community education efforts. Staff, parents, and students consistently reported positive outcomes, including improved attendance, smoother morning transitions, and increased student engagement. Teachers observed stronger emotional regulation and improved learning readiness among participating students.

The Connection Club successfully reached its intended population while also supporting additional students who accessed the space as needed. The program strengthened relationships between the school and families, particularly those considered at-risk, and fostered a culture of care and connection within the school community. Partnerships with organizations such as Hope Mission and the Bulldogs hockey team further enriched the program.

Key successes included high breakfast participation (approximately 700 breakfasts per month), improved student regulation, strong staff involvement, and positive parent feedback. Challenges

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included unexpected equipment failures and the need to orient new students to program expectations.

Based on evaluation findings, the program was highly effective, and no changes are recommended. The school hopes to continue the program in future years due to its significant impact on student well-being and community connection.

AG SOCIETY REPORT

Chair Thomas reported she received email from the Light House Project, and the Blackfalds Ag Society was successful in receiving the funding. More details to come after the upcoming Ag Society Meeting. Light House Project/Empowering Minds is an initiative focused on mental health and resources aiming to help rural residents in Alberta.

FCSS MANAGERS VERBAL UPDATE

A brief discussion regarding the FCSS Social Services Framework Policy was discussed and reviewed. The goal is to provide a Framework that is inclusive, accessible and fosters an environment that builds community capacity, strengthens protective factors, reduces barriers, while also ensuring programs and services align with provincial legislation and community priorities. Name change of policy and brief explanation on the broadness of the policy were discussed.

Still awaiting on finalizing the 2026 budget, expected to be completed end of February. It would be disappointing if there was no funding for a seniors programmer, it is a real need of the aging community.

FCSS Grant applications are accepted until March 20,2026 and applications will be reviewed April 9/26 meeting. FCSS will provide a matrix to score applications. We are still awaiting applications currently. Board will meet again in April to discuss volunteer applications.

Save the date FCSSAA Nov.25-27 2026 in Edmonton.

A brief discussion with the board regarding the Affordable Housing need in Blackfalds.

ACTION ITEMS

N/A

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER REPORT

January 2026

Volunteer Recognition Planning

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- **National Volunteer Week:** April 19–25, 2026.
- **New Combined Event:** FCSS will merge its two annual volunteer events into one large community celebration.
 - **Blackfalds Volunteer Gala:** May 7, 2026 at the Eagle Builders Centre during Youth Week.
 - **Format:** Oscar-themed evening with red carpet, paparazzi, photo ops, light supper, youth performances, and awards for both adults and youth.
 - **Attendance:** Expected to bring together ~400 volunteers, families, and partners.
- **Nominations:** Now open until **March 1** at www.blackfalds.ca/volunteer..
- **Award Selection Committees:**
 - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year – Town Council
 - Gloria House Mentor Award – FCSS Board
 - Outstanding Group Awards – FCSS Board
 - Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award – Town Council
 - Leaders of Tomorrow – Mayor, FCSS Youth Programmer, FCSS Board Rep
 - Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award – FCSS Board Rep, family friend, past recipient
- **Process:** All nominee assessment forms submitted electronically to the Volunteer Programmer.

Snow Angel Program

- **21 residents** successfully paired with volunteers.
- **1 resident** currently being matched.
- **1 resident** remains on the waitlist.
- Program continues to see strong community engagement.

Emergency Social Services (ESS)

- **Jan 20 – CRESS Meeting:**
 - RCMP presented on mass casualty planning and reviewed St. Albert's 2024 Mass Victimization Exercise.
 - Key takeaways: improved interagency coordination, clearer roles, and the value of hands-on training.
- **Jan 27 – LREMP Debrief:**
 - Reviewed the Nov 19 live exercise.
 - Discussion highlighted that ESS functions more effectively as a **Branch under Operations** rather than its own ICS Section.
 - Reinforced the importance of participating in live exercises for skill development.

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Seniors Programming

- The Volunteer Programmer continues to act as liaison for the **Blackfalds Seniors Club**, supporting communication and bookings.
- The club has added **four new intergenerational events**.
- The liaison role will continue until a new appointee is selected.

Volunteer Utilization

- Volunteers supported programs including **Leaders in Training** and other community events.

Ongoing Initiatives

1. Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- Snow Angel Program (ongoing through winter)
- **Winterfest – February 16**
- **Easter Egg-stravaganza – March 2**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMER REPORT

January 2026

Social Media Reach

- **Facebook:** 1,662 followers
- **Instagram:** 213 followers

Christmas Bureau – Final Report

- **Total individuals supported:** 376
 - 227 children
 - 103 women
 - 46 men
- **Hampers distributed:** 126
 - 103 family hampers
 - 23 single/senior hampers

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

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- Re-applied to be a 2026 host site.
- Re-applied for 2006 EFILE numbers and passwords.
- Re-submitted 2025 COIN application.
- Began 2026 training.

Interagency Meeting – January 7

- Held at the Eagle Builders Centre.
- **27 attendees** representing **20 organizations**.

“Hot Seat” spotlight: **Blackfalds BGC**, showcasing their programs and contributions to the community.

50+ Walk & Talk Club

- **Average weekly walkers:** 32 (up 10 from December)
- **Unique walkers in January:** 53
- **Age representation:** 6 regular walkers are 75+
- **Where participants live:**
 - 68% Town of Blackfalds
 - 11% City of Lacombe
 - 21% Lacombe County
-
- Group officially renamed **50+ Walk & Talk Club** to reflect its social, connection-focused atmosphere. Activities and conversations continue to build belonging and wellness.

More Than a Movie

- **27 attendees** watched *Far and Away*.
- Attendance breakdown:
 - 24 from Blackfalds
 - 1 from Lacombe
 - 2 from Lacombe County
- The film sparked rich storytelling and shared memories, strengthening social connection and community bonding.

In-Office Support

- Assisted one local senior with creating sign-in sheets, prize table materials, and game rules (typing and document support).

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Abbey Centre Membership Assistance Program

- **1 application approved**, providing access for:
 - 1 adult
 - 3 children
- Pass valid for a two-month period.

External Collaboration

- Supporting **Red Deer Polytechnic’s Seniors Research Study** on technology use among older adults.
 - Hosted the research assistant at *More Than a Movie*.
 - Providing boardroom space for in-person interviews.

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page: 1628 followers December

Blackfalds Instagram Page: 214 followers in December

Abbey Centre Membership Assistance Program:

YOUTH PROGRAMMER REPORT January 2026

Blackfalds Youth Crew (BYC)

BYC continues to support youth in building friendships, leadership, and confidence through safe, engaging activities. Each session accommodates up to 15 participants.

Program Attendance

Activity	Gr. 4–6	Gr. 7–12	Homeschool	Total
Sledding & Hot Cocoa	12	3	9	24
Beat the Winter Blues	15	5	11	31
Fondue & Friends (Gr. 7+)	15	8	13	36
Total Youth Registered in January				91

Note: One BYC week was cancelled due to facilitator illness.

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Child Safe Canada – Home Alone Safety Course

- **Instructor:** Annette
- **Date:** January 30, 2:00–4:00 PM
- **Participants:** 15 (full)
- **Waitlist:** 10
- Monthly safety training for youth in Grades 4–6 continues to be in high demand.

Youth Cooking Club

- **Grades:** 5–7
- **Dates:** January 21–March 18 (no class Feb 14)
- **Time:** 5:00–7:15 PM
- **Registered:** 10 (full)
- **Waitlist:** 10
- Program remains at maximum capacity.

Leaders in Training (LiT)

- Youth volunteers are actively supporting BYC programs and demonstrating strong leadership, initiative, and teamwork.
- Participants received **new program T-shirts**, helping them stand out as ambassadors and role models.

Board members had questions on duplication of programs and wanted to know who all focuses on inclusion and equality. Talks about a possible revamp for the Grade 7-12 age group.

Youth Programmer Initiatives

Positive Ticketing Program

- Constable Hewitt continues distributing Positive Tickets to youth demonstrating positive or improved behaviour.
- Tickets remain popular due to the **Slurpee reward** redeemable at Blackfalds Convenience Store.

Spring & Summer Program Planning

- Work is underway to finalize program outlines and logistics for the upcoming seasons.
- All content is being prepared for the **Community Guide release in March 2026**

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Monthly Newsletters in January

Vibrant Living 50+ 271 sends with an open rate of 71%

Interagency 142 sends and an open rate of 55%

Beyond Lunchbox Program 285 sends with an open rate of 53%

Volunteer Newsletter 301 sends with an open rate of 51%

In-person visits & Calls to FCSS 148

The Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting ended at 8:52 p.m.

Dena Thomas, Chair

Erin Dahl, Admin Staff

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ryan Brown	Town of Blackfalds Councilor
Cory Twerdoelib	Town of Blackfalds Councilor
Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Heather Johnson	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large
Michelle Meadows	Public at Large

ATTENDING

Sawyer Hick	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Manager
Erin Dahl	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Assistant

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

Gloricel Cayago	Public at Large
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WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas welcomed all attending, introduced Councilors Brown and Twerdoelib. The Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting was to order at 7:02 pm. Member Johnson moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board approved the agenda. Member Glenda Brown Seconded the motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

N/A

DELETIONS TO AGENDA

N/A

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
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BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2025

Member Thomas moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from November 20, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Glenda nominated Dena Thomas as President, no other nominations, Dena accepted. Dena nominated Glenda Brown as Vice President, no other nominations, Glenda accepted.

Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2025

Member Jessalyn Parsons approved the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes.

CARRIED

UNANIMOUSLY

SOCIAL SERVICES FRAMEWORK

-Administration has discussed introducing framework policies across all divisions. These policies outline the key expectations, guiding principles, and decision-making parameters that shape how each division operates. By establishing this high-level direction, we create a consistent foundation that supports effective, efficient, and well-coordinated management practices. This Policy will ensure that Social Services policies and procedures are aligned with our broader organizational priorities and values.

-The purpose of this Policy is to establish clear guidelines for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of preventive and supportive social services within the Town of Blackfalds. This Policy aims to enhance the well-being of individuals and communities by providing equitable, accessible, and high-quality services that address the diverse needs of our population.

-Council is committed to fostering a resilient, inclusive, and supportive social environment that strengthens protective factors, reduces social risks, and builds community capacity. Through diverse, high-quality programs, the Town prioritizes equity, collaboration, and accountability to ensure long-term impact for current and future generations. Council provides strategic oversight and ensures resources are allocated to preventive social services that align with provincial legislation and community priorities.

Questions from the board members and the councilor's regarding draft copy of Social Services Framework included: why the framework policy is so broad, where people go to for information and community referrals, wanting to look at the affordable housing needs of Blackfalds, would other agencies partner with FCSS to join and expand, survey for community needs in due 2027 would this survey beneficial, Bolt expansion or affordable transportation. Members would like a list of Social Services are not available and what services are being outsourced.

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
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SCOPE

This Policy applies to social services including, but not limited to:

1. Community Supports: Programs that build resilience against housing insecurity, food insecurity and health challenges.
2. Capacity Building: Educational and vocational training, skill development, youth/family/senior supports.
3. Equity Initiatives: Programs addressing systemic barriers, culturally safe delivery, inclusion of marginalized groups.
4. Community Development: Partnerships, volunteerism, environmental sustainability, and resilience initiatives.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Council to:

1. Adopt and support this Policy by resolution.
2. Consider the allocation of resources for the successful implementation of this Policy in the annual budget.

Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Advise Council on the development, implementation, and amendment of this Policy.
2. Ensure Policy review occurs and verify the implementation of this Policy.

Administration to:

1. Implement programs in alignment with this Policy.
2. Report annually to Council on program outcomes, risk management, and resource allocation.

SOCIAL SERVICES FRAMEWORK

By virtue of this Policy, the Town of Blackfalds Social Services strives to:

1. Ensure programs are accessible to all demographics, including marginalized or underserved groups.
2. Provide services in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all individuals.
3. Build partnerships with local organizations, schools, health services, and businesses to maximize resources and impact.

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4. Ensure services are culturally sensitive, responsive, and inclusive to the diverse needs of the community.

5. Promote sustainable delivery that respects environmental, economic, and social factors.

6. Maintain transparency in decision-making, service goals and outcomes.

The goals and objectives of Social Services in relation to this framework Policy are to:

Ensure equitable access to preventive social services for all residents.

Promote community well-being by strengthening protective factors and reducing social risks.

Foster resilience and self-reliance through skill-building, education, and empowerment initiatives.

Reduce isolation and enhance social connection through engagement, volunteerism, and participation.

Advance equity and inclusion by addressing systemic barriers and promoting culturally safe service delivery.

This Policy establishes the foundation for a responsive, sustainable, and preventive Social Services system that strengthens community well-being and promotes equity, inclusion, and resilience.

Guided by this Policy and related documents, Social Services commits to:

1. Deliver equitable and inclusive programs and supports that respond to identified community needs.

2. Develop guidelines for planning, delivering, and evaluating social services to ensure consistency and quality.

3. Establish transparent funding priorities, considering severity of needs, impact, efficiency, and external opportunities.

4. Maximize the use of available resources to ensure sustainability and growth of social service offerings.

5. Engage stakeholders through consultation, forums, and collaborations with agencies and governments.

6. Set benchmarks and performance indicators to evaluate the success and impact of social service programs, supports and initiatives.

7. Identify potential risks in social service delivery (e.g., confidentiality, equity gaps, service duplication) and establish preventive measures that meet ethical and legal requirements.

8. Promote awareness of social services through outreach, advertising and social media platforms. Council Policy No- Social Services Framework Page

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9. Keep the community informed about programs, services, policies, and changes through clear and consistent communication.

10. Foster collaboration and partnerships with local organizations, schools, health services, and business to maximize impact and reduce duplication.

11. Support volunteerism and community capacity building as a cornerstone of social service sustainability. 12. Embed continuous improvement practices using evaluation findings and community feedback to refine programs annually.

EXCLUSIONS

Direct Assistance: The Town of Blackfalds Social Services does not provide direct financial assistance, clinical treatment, or crisis intervention beyond preventive scope. Residents requiring such support's will be referred to appropriate provincial or community agencies.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

-Services may be adapted during public health emergencies, natural disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances to ensure continuity of preventive support's.

-Partnerships may be prioritized in situations where community needs exceed municipal capacity.

AG SOCIETY REPORT

Chair Thomas reported a meeting with Manager Hick and Ian from the Light House Project via online to discuss the project and the application from the Blackfalds Ag Society. Expecting an answer very soon on whether Blackfalds Ag Society was one of the 60 successful candidates. Light House Project is an initiative focused on mental health and resources aiming to help rural residents in Alberta.

FCSS MANAGERS VERBAL UPDATE

A draft copy of the Social Services Framework Policy was discussed and reviewed. The goal is to provide a Social Services Framework that is inclusive, accessible and fosters an environment that builds community capacity, strengthens protective factors, reduces barriers, while also ensuring programs and services align with provincial legislation and community priorities.

Manager Hick also talked about the Alberta government wanting FCSS managers to assess their FCSS programs to ensure they are following the provincial mandate. The programming is to be Prevention Focused in nature. These assessments will be completed later in the year. Manager Hicks feels confident after completing training on how to do proper evaluations at FCSSAA conference.

FCSS Grant applications are accepted until March 20,2026 and applications will be reviewed April 9/26 meeting. FCSS will provide a matrix to score applications.

ACTION ITEMS

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Board members and council would like a list of Social Services that are not available and what services are being outsourced.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER REPORT

December 2025

VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

To commemorate International Volunteer Day and thank volunteers/community groups. Drop-in event with hot chocolate pouch craft, pizza, hot chocolate bar, socializing, door prizes, and photo booth.

Attendance: 70 people, including 2 FCSS staff, 2 Councillors, Mayor Svab, and representatives from 11 organizations: Blackfalds Figure Skating Club, Friends of the Library, Heart of Blackfalds Society, Blackfalds Ag Society, Blackfalds Seniors Club, Blackfalds Food Bank, Optimist Club of Blackfalds, Ubaka, Care for Newcomers, BGC Wolf Creek.

Cross-department collaboration was essential due to short turnaround after Seniors Club booking.

BUSINESS CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Outcome: Collected **2,072.5 lbs of food** for Blackfalds Food Bank.

Participants: 14 businesses including Ash Tyndall Photography, Blackfalds Nutter's, Jade's Virtual Office Inc, Panache Compounding Pharmacy, Blackfalds Physiotherapy, Neighborhood Dental, Stride Physiotherapy, The Hitchin Post Blackfalds, Blackfalds Boston Pizza, Blackfalds Smiles, Little Star Playschool, Blackfalds Ag Society, Faith Community Church, Heart of Blackfalds Society.

Volunteer Pairings: 19 residents have been successfully paired with a Snow Angel volunteer.

IN PROGRESS: 1 resident is currently in the process of being paired, with volunteer coordination underway.

WAITLIST: 3 residents remain on the waitlist; 2 have been provided with a Snow Angel window sign through the expanded Neighborhood Snow Angel Program.

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

Cooking Club: 2 volunteers, Leaders in Training: 6 volunteers

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

Monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**

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In December, 301 sends with an open rate of 53%

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY'S

- Snow Angel Program for the winter months
- Winterfest February 16,2026

2025 VOLUNTEER POSITIONS & HOUR STATS:

Total Volunteer positions filled: 241

Programs: 74

Event/Fundraisers: 129

Board, Committee, Commissions: 38

Total Town of Blackfalds Volunteer Hours: 1858

Programs: 1031.5 hours

Event/Fundraisers: 400 hours

Board, Committee, Commissions: 426.5 hours

TOWN VOLUNTEER SUPPORTING PROGRAMMING 2025:

CVITP: 3 volunteers & 35 hours

Reception Centre: 9 volunteers & 154.5 hours

Blackfalds Bike Rodeo: 5 volunteers & 12.5 hours

Abbey Centre Programming:

Jr. Lifeguard Volunteer Program: 6 volunteers & 209.25 hours

Camp Curious: 8 volunteers & 213.75 hours

Basketball Camp Facilitator: 1 volunteer & 30 hours

FCSS Youth Programming:

Youth Week: 3 volunteers & 8 hours

BYC & Cooking Club: 5 volunteers & 18 hours

Leaders in Training: 6 volunteers & 70.5 hours

Snow Angel Program: 28 volunteers are supporting 18 locations & approx. 280 hours

SENIOR 2025 FITNESS PROGRAMMING

Five program sessions were offered in 2025, totaling 20 individual classes.

Registration grew by 161% compared to 2024, with 361 registered participants and 4 drop-ins attending. the free classes supported by Lacombe County grant funding and the Blackfalds Ag Society.

70% of participants were Blackfalds residents, while 29.6% came from outside Blackfalds and Lacombe County.

Program capacity highlights:

Friday Chair Yoga: 100% full Monday/Wednesday Yoga: 83% full Tuesday Fit & Functional: 95% full

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NEW SENIOR SESSIONS 2025 **Seniors Educational & Engagement Sessions**

Throughout the year, FCSS partnered with various organizations to deliver practical information, skill-building opportunities, and community connection for seniors. Attendance and partnerships included:

- **Transitioning to Your Next Chapter: Selling Your Home**
Partner: T. Kroetsch (Royal LePage) & Lacombe Foundation Attendance: 7
- **Wills & Estate Planning**
Partner: Servus Credit Union Attendance: 17
- **Medication & Supplements: What Every Senior Needs to Know**
Partner: Blackfalds Shoppers Drug Mart Attendance: 7
- **Tenant Rights & Responsibilities**
Partner: Community Legal Clinic Attendance: 11
- **Nutritional Eating Classes with Cooking Opportunities**
Partner: Alberta Health Services (AHS) Attendance: 12
- **Empowering Seniors: Elder Abuse Awareness**
Partner: Law Enforcement, AHS, Sylvan Lake FCSS Attendance: 7
- **Watercolor Painting Classes**
Hired Instructor Attendance: 9 (first class) & 8 (second class)
- **Aging in Place: Tips for Staying in Your Home Longer** Attendance: 25
- **Falls Prevention**
Partners: Abbey Centre Fitness Staff, Lifeline Canada, Primary Care Network Attendance: 24

Sessions provided seniors with practical knowledge, creative outlets, and social engagement. Partnerships strengthened community collaboration and resource sharing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMER REPORT **December 2025**

- Continued focus on **keeping the brain playful and engaged** during walks.
- Activities included: **“Name That Smell” Challenge**: Participants identified scents (lemon, cinnamon, peppermint, vanilla) to stimulate memory and sensory recognition.
Festive Dance Corner: Christmas music encouraged walkers to dance; popular songs included Elvis’ *Blue Christmas* and *Rock Around the Christmas Tree*. Inflatable Christmas tree costume added fun and photo opportunities.

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Special Year-End Activity

Final December meeting featured a **draw for ten \$20 grocery gift cards** (donated by Blackfalds Save-On-Foods and Blackfalds IGA).

Community Connection

Group continues to grow in numbers and social bonds. Heartwarming moment: A participant shared handmade ornaments created by his late wife, fostering connection and remembrance.

Impact: Program successfully promotes physical activity, mental engagement, and social connection for seniors.

Average of 23 walkers every Tuesday in December

We had 31 unique walkers during the month of December 77% of the walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds, 6% are from the City of Lacombe, 20% are from the County of Lacombe.

MORE THAN A MOVIE:

29 movie guests Enjoyed the movie: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.
26 Blackfalds residents, 1 resident of the City of Lacombe 2 residents from the County of Lacombe

Activity: Screening of a Christmas-themed movie about performing the Christmas Story at a local church.

Impact: Highly emotional and nostalgic; guests were moved to tears. The film reinforced the importance of community and tradition during the holiday season.

Social Component: Pizza lunch followed the movie; the hall was lively with conversation and joy.

Severe weather and a travel advisory caused multiple cancellations, especially from out-of-town seniors. Despite conditions, local seniors attended, demonstrating strong commitment to the program and desire for social connection. Seniors expressed the importance of gathering in a safe, welcoming space.

The event highlighted the value of programs that foster community engagement and reduce isolation.

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CHRISTMAS BUREAU

December 8 Activities

Assembly, labeling, and organization of hamper boxes.
Hampers categorized into *family hampers* and *single/senior hampers*.
Heavy” non-perishable food items were added to all hampers in the afternoon.

December 9 Activities

Volunteers, under FCSS supervision, added age-appropriate “little somethings” and gift cards to family hampers. In the afternoon, single/senior hampers were completed with comfort items (mugs, blankets, candles) based on household composition and gender.

December 10 Activities

Delivery-designated hampers were organized by community location.
Heavy, perishable, and frozen items were added. The Blackfalds Fire Department delivered the hampers. Delivery process went extremely well; only two hampers required follow-up adjustments, which were resolved the same afternoon.

December 11 Activities

Hamper pick-ups occurred at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Only one hamper remained unclaimed despite multiple contact attempts. Program operations concluded for the year.

The partnership between FCSS and Beyond Community Hub is extraordinary. We handle all the screening, admin and organization of the hamper delivery and pick up, and they organize and coordinate all the volunteers, gift items, gift cards and food items that are given. We enjoy this partnership and know that it makes a difference in so many community members' lives. The Beyond Food Community Hub does the majority of the fundraising for this program and send out the Charitable tax receipts. This is an excellent and important partnership for the community.

89 Family Hampers (homes with at least one adult and one child within the home)
14 Single/Seniors Hampers (homes with only adults within the home)
103 Blackfalds Homes received Christmas Bureau Hampers
376 total individuals received – 227 children, 103 women, 46 men
(26 adults from single/senior homes)

OUTER DUTIES:

Assisted a community member with an AGLC/gaming application.

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Coordinated the TOB staff Reindeer games (Foodbank donation challenge) – 441 lbs. of food was donated from TOB staff.

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page: 1628 followers December

Blackfalds Instagram Page: 214 followers in December

Abbey Centre Membership Assistance Program:

YOUTH PROGRAMMER REPORT December 2025

YOUTH COOKING CLUB

- The final Cooking Club session of the year was held on December 10
- Youth participants prepared a chicken and vegetable stir fry celebration dinner for 24 guests, demonstrating the culinary skills developed throughout the program.
- Mayor Svab and her partner, Ray, attended as special guests.
- The event was supported by two community volunteers and a Grade 9 Leader in Training volunteer, contributing to smooth operations.
- The dinner was well received, and youth participants were recognized with certificates of completion and a recipe booklet containing all dishes prepared during the year.
- The recipe booklet is intended to support continued skill development beyond the program.

LEADERS IN TRAINING

- Leaders in Training program has had a strong start.
- Three Grade 9 students from Iron Ridge Secondary Campus are participating.
- Two students from Lacombe Composite High School (one in Grade 12 and one in Grade 10) have also joined.
- One grade 10 participant is completing the program for work experience and high school credits.

COMMUNITY HELPERS PROGRAM

Unfortunately, I do not have the capacity to collaborate on this initiative currently, despite recognizing its value to our community. I am hopeful that another community organization will be able to support and move this important work forward.

ACTION ITEMS

Councilor Brown would like more information regarding Community Helpers program for the upcoming meeting.

OUTER DUTIES:

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

Positive Ticketing Program: FCSS continues to partner with Constable Hewitt to distribute positive tickets to youth in the community and schools. These tickets recognize and

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encourage positive or improved behavior, reinforcing a culture of respect and responsibility among local youth.

Youth Interagency Meetings: On September 3, we hosted our very first 'Youth Program Providers: Blackfalds Meet-Up' to bring together local organizations that offer youth programming in

our community. This gathering created a valuable space for connection, information sharing, and collaboration, with the shared goal of supporting youth in Blackfalds.

School Engagement: Participated in Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus on September 4 to engage youth and their families

MONTHLY FCSS NEWSLETTERS

Vibrant Living 50+ 261 sends with an open rate of 70%

Interagency 139 sends and an open rate of 39%

Beyond Lunchbox Program 285 sends and an open rate of 53%

The Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting ended at 8:42 p.m.

Dena Thomas, Chair

Erin Dahl, Admin Staff

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

4.3 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: RESIGNATION OF GLORICEL CAYAGO

BACKGROUND:

The FCSS Board will review and formally acknowledge the resignation submitted by Gloricel Cayago. The resignation letter is attached, and the Board will discuss any immediate implications for governance, continuity, and committee assignments.

Sawyer Hick

From: gc cayago <gccayago1977@gmail.com>
Sent: February 19, 2026 6:16 PM
To: Erin Dahl; Sawyer Hick
Subject: Letter of Resignation

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#) | [Block sender](#) | [Report](#)

Hi Erin and Sawyer,

With regret, I am letting you know that I am resigning as a volunteer board member of FCSS. I was hoping to attend the meeting today, but after my medical appointment this afternoon, I found out that I need to focus on my health. Thank you for the opportunity and I wish you all the best.

Kind regards,
Gloricel Cayago

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4.4 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
 FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: GRANT APPLICATION 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
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%

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		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		Bfds 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	48%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$8,500	27%
		Iron Ridge Junior	\$7,706.51	25%
2024	\$23,775			
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$8750	37%
		St. Gregory the Great	\$3500	15%
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$15,500	65%
		BGC Wolf Creek	\$10,000	42%
		Beyond Food Community Hub	\$27,711.25	117%

Requests	Total Available	Requestor	Amount Requested	
2025	\$23,775	Mindy Body Bliss	\$10,000	42%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$8,000	34%
		Iron Ridge Junior	\$10,000	42%
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$16,325	69%
		BGC Wolf Creek	\$15,000	63%

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
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Requests	Total Available	Requestor	Amount Requested	
2026	\$23,775	Assoc of Central AB Youth for Christ	\$16,740	70%
		Iron Ridge Elementary	\$8,000	34%
		Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$16,825	71%
		BCG Wolf Creek	\$17,000	72%
			\$58,565	

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

That the FCSS Board recommend that Council allocate 2026 Grant Funding as determined.

ALTERNATIVES

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Association of Central Alberta Youth for Christ Request*
- Iron Ridge Elementary Campus Grant Request*
- Iron Ridge Junior Campus Grant Request*
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant Request*
- BGS Wolf Creek Blackfalds Grant Request*
- Grant Funding Matrix*



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 20, 2026 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 2026 grants are due to FCSS office no later than December 31st, 2026.**

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

Part A - Community Group Information

1. **Organization's Name:** BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds

2. **Mailing Address:** Box 4115 Ponoka, AB T4J 1R5

3. **President or Principal:** Grant Jorgenson

Phone: (403) 783-6497 **E-Mail:** grant@jorgensonhomes.ca

4. **Treasurer:** Kelly Sperber

Phone: (403) 963-2720 **E-Mail:** kellysperber@ponokacounty.com

5. **Primary Contact Person:** Beth Reitz

Phone: (403) 783-3112 **E-Mail:** beth@bgcwolfcreek.com

6. **Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable):** 879767515RR0001

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

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds has been building our presence in the community for approximately 2 years. Actual program delivery began in September 2024.

8. **Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from the Town of Blackfalds? If so, please specify.**

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is currently receiving no financial assistance or subsidy from the Town of Blackfalds.

9. **Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.**

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds currently receives financial support via various BGC Canada grant funding opportunities. In addition, our agency also accesses Child Care Subsidy from the province of Alberta.

10. **Does your organization qualify for any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.**

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



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

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

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

Grant Funding Requested:

\$17,000.00

Declaration

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

Name: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Part B – Purpose and Need

1. Demonstration of need:

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

The following have been identified that show the need for our programs in Blackfalds.

- The 2024 Needs Assessment by our agency and Wolf Creek Public Schools showed a clear demand for Out of School Child Care covering after school, Professional Development days, and summer. In response, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds launched the After School Program, S.O.D (School's Out Day) Program, and Summer Camp.
- Our Club site at Iron Ridge Secondary Campus enabled frequent interactions with students. Many expressed interest in a noon-hour drop-in option, so we started opening our room weekly for youth to socialize, participate in activities, and build relationships.
- It was determined to launch Lead Up, a weekly leadership program at Iron Ridge Junior Campus, by connecting with local youth. It emphasizes service, teamwork, healthy choices, leadership, and learning. Participants complete community service projects and develop leadership skills.
- BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds offers free Child and Family Counsellor services to address community counselling needs. Sessions are held at local schools, with our counsellor also making times available outside regular hours - reducing barriers such as cost, inconvenient appointment times, and transportation. Due to increased demand, more hours are now available for children, youth, and families in Blackfalds.

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

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds provides preventative programs and services for children, youth, and families who reside and work in Blackfalds. Our programs help build a vibrant community through offering timely and key supports - strengthening social functioning of those who call this community home.

Programming such as ours brings many benefits to the communities in which they are delivered – for **program participants, their families, and the broader community**. Our agency is pleased to play a role in building a stronger community in the following ways – as outlined broadly, as well as most clearly expressed through the voices of those who know us best and with whom we have built trusted relationships over the last 2 years of service delivery in this community.

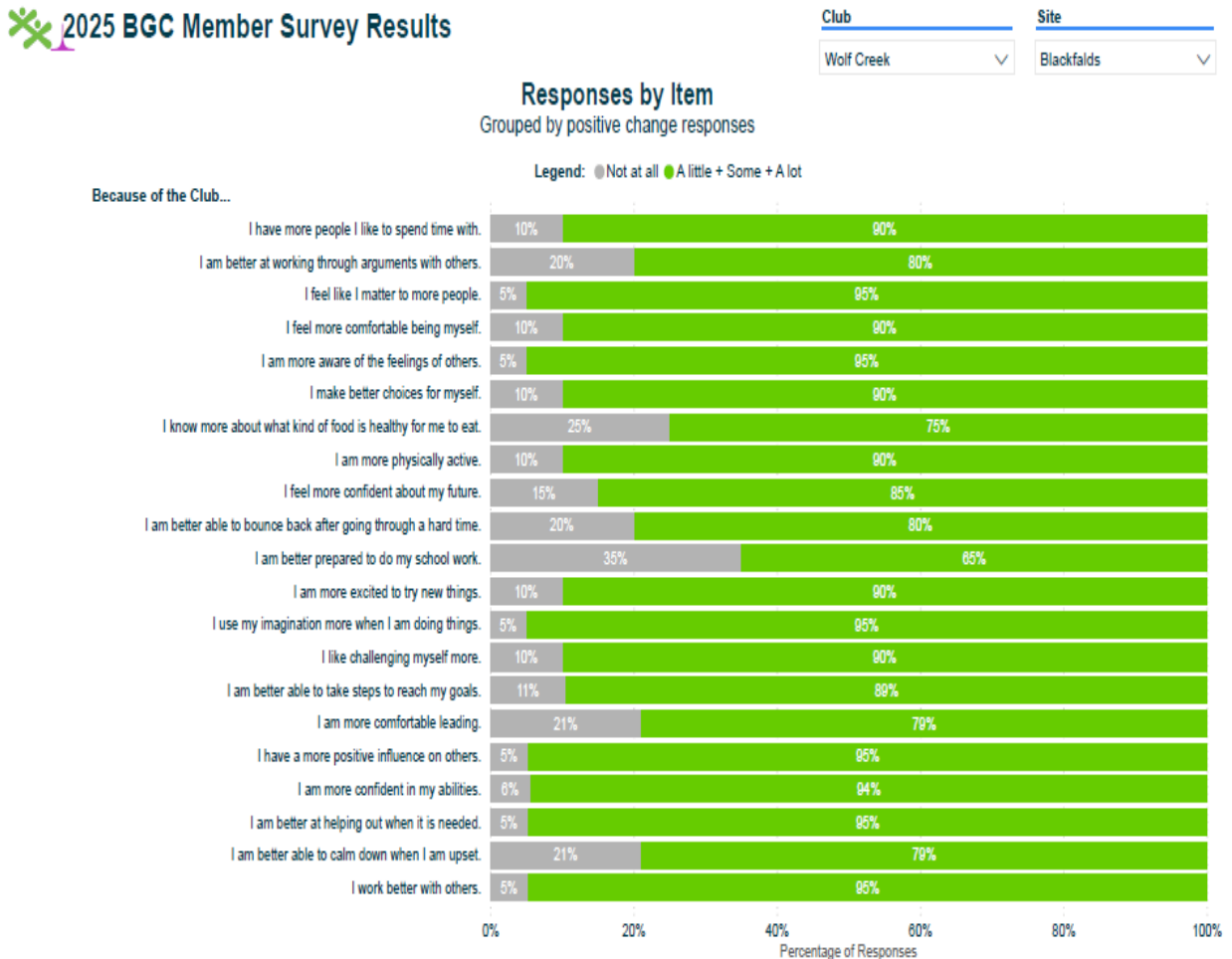
• Beneficial to Children and Youth

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

Please reference the following regarding benefits to children and youth.

a. Results of the 2025 BGC Canada Learning & Impact Survey

The chart below indicates 21 areas (under the 4 domains of positive relationships, healthy living, lifelong learning and leadership) where our Club members in Blackfalds were surveyed regarding the impact of our programs. These results show how our programs are strengthening and supporting social functioning of our Club members.



b. Parent Comments

- “(Child) loved attending programs this year and is always excited to go after school. Everything seems well structured and fun for the kids.”
- “My daughter has loved the after school and SOD programs. She always has great things to say about her day, every day.”
- “My kids really enjoy the programs. My son is a handful, and they are so great and patient with him.”
- “I feel that (staff) and her team are working hard to meet families where they are and work on solutions. They are excellent communicators and have compassion and are eager to grow with the kids and learn more about how they can support kids with diverse needs and challenges of their own. I recognize the challenges of being a child care giver and educator and appreciate their hard work and compassion I am excited to see how they grow and are supported by the program.”

c. Supportive Research

“Caring adults characterize successful youth programs. They provide youth with a sense of belonging, acceptance, empowerment and connection.”

(Scott, D. Witt, P.A. & Foss M. (1996) “Evaluation of the impact of the Doherty Arts Centre’s Creativity Club on children and risk.” Journal of Parks and Recreation. 14 (3), 41-60, Halpern, R. (1992). “Rebuilding the Inner City: A History of Neighbourhood...Initiatives to Address Poverty”. New

York. Columbia University Press. Whalen, S.P. and Wynn, J.R. (1995). "Enhancing Primary Services for Youth Through an Infrastructure of Social Services". Journal of Adolescent Research. 10(1). 88-110.)

- **Beneficial to Families**

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

Please reference the following regarding benefits to families.

- a. **Results of 2025 Parent Survey**

- **96%** Parents would recommend the program to other parents and their children.
- **96%** Parents indicate staff communicate with families in an open and respectful manner.
- **91%** Parents indicate staff are friendly, caring, and supportive.
- **91%** Parents indicate the programs at BGC Wolf Creek are affordable.
- **86%** Parents indicate staff encourage positive and healthy social interactions.

- b. **Parent Comments**

- "Our family has loved being a part of the BGC Blackfalds program. We love having the option to choose set days with a cancelation process that brings peace of mind, along with transportation from both the elementary and intermediate campuses. The kids have loved the theme days and activities that set BGC apart from other organizations/daycares. Keep up the great work!"
- "With one of my children, they have struggled with behavioral issues, and I have seen positive change in them as a result of attending BGC. The staff has worked closely with our family and has offered different approaches in how to manage their ADHD within the program, which has been so helpful."
- "The Blackfalds program was a new introduction to the town and with limited options for subsidized care with well trained staff, we jumped on the opportunity."
- "BGC offers transportation from school, which is a huge help for working parents. They make it easy and I know my child is in good hands at BGC."

- c. **School Staff Comments**

- "In school counselling support for students and families has been an amazing layer of support for families in need. We have been very grateful to be a part of this. Thank you!! As well, helping support the child care gap after school. This was a big concern for our school community with our middle school students now being bussed to Red Deer and older siblings unable to watch younger family members. Thank you!"
- "We are grateful for the partnership with BGC this year. Our students and families have benefited from the after school program to support with child care, PD day activities and in school counselling supports for students and families. Thank you!! We look forward to continuing the partnership and working together on next steps!"

- **Beneficial to the Community**

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

desirable location for young families, as they determine where to put down roots.

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

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

Please reference the following regarding benefits to the community.

a. Results of 2025 Community Stakeholders Survey

- **96%** - Community stakeholders indicate BGC Wolf Creek offers a wide range of safe, fun, affordable, and relevant programs that meet the needs of children and youth in the community.
- **100%** - Community stakeholders indicate BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is visible in the community and has a positive reputation.
- **100%** - Community stakeholders indicate BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds actively seeks opportunities to collaborate with other stakeholders in the community and fosters the development of positive working relationships.
- **100%** - Community stakeholders indicate they would recommend BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds to families in the community.

b. Community Stakeholder Comments

- “BGC joining the Blackfalds community this year has been a huge asset! I truly appreciate that BGC is always willing to collaborate and offer support wherever needed. The staff are phenomenal!! I am very appreciative of the opportunities they offer our youth that are looking to volunteer and gain experience. I honestly feel that BGC has come in and offered support wherever it has been needed - collaboration and community building is truly at the forefront with this agency.” (Community Stakeholder Comment)
- “For a newer program to the community, I see immense potential in its growth and to provide a much-needed service to the community. The staff try hard and provide care and compassion to the kids. I am excited to see how this program evolves in Blackfalds and can see so many great things on the way for the kids and the staff.”
- “The program does an amazing job engaging and collaborating with the community. They are always willing to work for the best interests of children and families in the community. Go over and above to help families in need.”
- “Appreciate that BGC has only been within Blackfalds a short time but has offered an abundance of programs to all ages. Continue what you are doing - your ability to collaborate and bring agencies together has already had a huge impact.”

c. School Staff Comments

- “I know the positive impact BGC has had in our community, and we are deeply grateful to the staff and the support they have offered our schools and families during this first year. Your involvement in our community was well overdue, and it is fabulous to finally have you here. Thank you!”

d. Supportive Research

- “Supervised, high-quality, challenging after-school programs have been shown to be an effective buffer against delinquency and victimizations and to benefit children greatly by improving their social skills, confidence, grades, range of interests and peer networks, as well as preventing the negative influences that lead to risky behaviours.”
(Chettleburgh, Michael, (2007) Young Thugs: Inside the Dangerous World of Canadian Gangs)

2. Organization

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

a. Type of Organization

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is a satellite of BGC Wolf Creek, a non-profit agency that is a member Club of BGC (formerly Boys and Girls Club) Canada. **BGC Canada** has **90 clubs** across Canada, **servicing over 600 locations**. We are a part of movement that celebrated its **125th anniversary in 2025** – “*marking 125 years of BGC Club impact and the BGC movement’s creation of opportunities for Canadian kids and teens.*” What an honor and privilege it is to be a member organization of something that has had a profound impact on literally thousands and thousands of lives over such a long period of time. BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is a part of something big!

b. Purpose

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

- **Mission Statement**

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

- **Vision Statement**

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

- **Core Values**

- Belonging

We welcome everyone in a safe, accepting environment based on belonging and positive relationships.

- Respect

We ensure that everyone - children, youth, families, volunteers, staff - is heard, valued, and treated fairly.

- Encouragement and Support

We encourage and support every child and youth to play, learn, and grow to achieve their dreams.

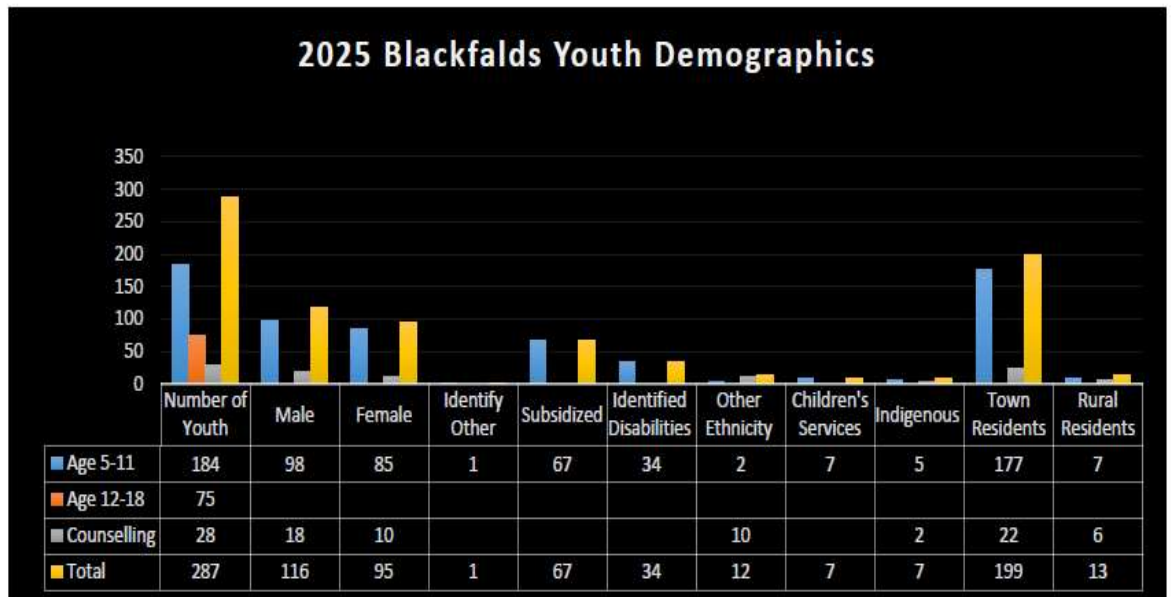
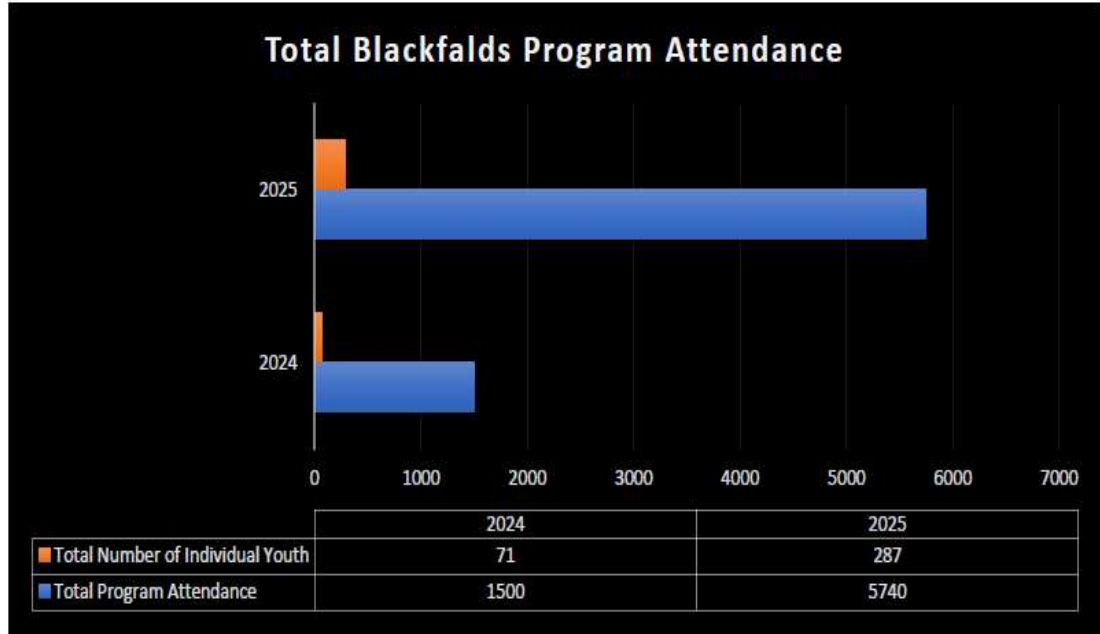
- Working Together

We work together with young people, families, volunteers, our communities, and government.

- Speaking Out

We speak out for children, youth, and families so that we can make our world better.

c. Number of Members



d. Types of Programs and Services Offered

The following is a complete list of programs that BGC Wolf Creek offers to give a sense of the wide range of needs that are being met by Club programming. Because our programs are tailored to meet the needs expressed by each community, not all programs are delivered at each Club at all times. There is a fluidity for programs to come and go, based on need.

**** The programs currently operating at our BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds location are highlighted in green. ****

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

GRADES K - 6 PROGRAMS

<p>After School Program Monday - Friday 3:15p.m. - 5:30p.m.</p>	<p>The After School Program offers a diversity of experiences that provide opportunities for adventure, play, and discovery. It includes open-ended activities that support social, emotional, and physical development through connecting with children and their families in a caring, positive, and supportive way. This program operates during the school year and includes indoor and outdoor active play, arts and crafts, imagination stations, life-skills instruction, leadership training, recreation, and a nutritional snack.</p>
<p>S.O.D. (School's Out Day) Program Professional Development Days 8:30a.m. - 5:30p.m.</p>	<p>The S.O.D. Program is a full-day program of engaging experiences organized in a similar manner to the After School Program. The S.O.D. Program operates during the school year during Professional Development Days and In Lieu Days for schools.</p>
<p>Summer Camp Monday - Friday 8:30a.m. - 5:30p.m.</p>	<p>Summer Camp is a full-day program that offers a wide range of enjoyable experiences and opportunities both on and off-site organized in a similar manner to the After School Program. Summer Camp operates daily during the summer months of July and August.</p>
<p>ReWild Wednesday 9:00a.m. - 11:30a.m.</p>	<p>ReWild is a nature program offered to children ages 3-6 and their caregivers. Children lead their own nature-filled adventures – growing wild, curious, and free through hands-on exploration, creativity, and discovery.</p>

GRADES 7 - 12 PROGRAMS

<p>Lead Up Thursday (September – June) 11:30a.m. – 12:15p.m.</p>	<p>Lead Up is a leadership program that focuses on five core elements: service to Club and community, teamwork, healthy choices, leadership, and learning. Youth engage in service initiatives and give back to their community while learning valuable leadership skills. Lead Up meets once a week and is mentored by an adult staff member.</p>
<p>Level Up Tuesday 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.</p>	<p>Level Up (Torch) is a junior leadership program for youth in Grades 6-8. It focuses on five core elements: service to Club and community, teamwork, healthy choices, leadership, and learning. Youth are encouraged to get involved and give back to their community while learning valuable leadership skills. Level Up (Torch) meets once a week and is mentored by adult staff members. It bridges the gap and helps younger youth transition from our child programming into youth programming.</p>
<p>Thrive Tuesday 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.</p>	<p>Thrive is a drop in program that helps youth experience personal growth and empowerment as they explore new hobbies, learn new life skills, and increase their knowledge and understanding of mental health and healthy relationships.</p>
<p>Chess Club Wednesday 3:30p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Chess Club is a recreational program that brings together youth who have an interest in learning or enhancing their skills at playing chess. Youth engage in learning the fundamentals of game play, fair play, and recreational play.</p>
<p>Dinner and Drop In Thursday 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.</p>	<p>Dinner and Drop In is a program offering a family-style meal that encourages youth to gather around tables with adult mentors, enjoy a nutritious dinner, and engage in discussions about daily life issues in a positive manner. Youth are then encouraged to remain for the regular Drop In Program.</p>
<p>Game Café Friday 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.</p>	<p>Game Café is a program that allows youth to spend time socializing with each other, free from screen time - learning critical thinking and logic skills during game play. While there are many board games available for youth, Dungeons and Dragons is one of the most popular games we play! Volunteers/mentors and staff members participate in the games alongside</p>

	youth, creating opportunities to build positive relationships, teach leadership skills, and interact in a supportive way.
Learn On Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 2:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.	Learn On is a free tutoring program. It allows youth to receive homework support, connect with tutors/mentors, interact with peers, explore their personal interests, increase digital literacy, and plan for post-secondary education.
All Shook Up Tuesday & Thursday 8:00a.m. - 8:30a.m.	All Shook Up is a breakfast smoothie program offered to students at the Ponoka Secondary Campus. This program provides youth with a nutritious start to the day, as well as an opportunity to connect and develop relationships with BGC Wolf Creek staff.
Drop In Wednesday (September - June) 11:30a.m. – 12:10p.m.	The teen Drop In offers youth a safe and supervised place to spend time with their peers. Youth are welcome to visit our Club site during lunch time to relax and spend time with friends or take advantage of the many activities that are available. Staff engage with the youth and build positive mentoring relationships.
SUPPORT PROGRAMS	
Mentoring Program Monday - Friday (September - June)	<p>The BGC Mentoring Program runs during the school year and involves both adult and teen volunteer mentors. Matches meet in the school setting for one hour each week to assist in strengthening self-esteem and social development through participating in crafts, games, sports, or other activities of interest to the mentees.</p> <p>The Teen Mentoring Program provides high school students with the opportunity to mentor elementary school-aged children while gaining valuable experience and receiving high school credits for their involvement.</p>
Youth Justice Committee (January - December)	The Youth Justice program provides first time young offenders with an alternative to the formal court process by resolving legal conflicts through alternative measures, community service, and meeting with victims and community members.
Child and Family Counselling (January - December)	BGC Wolf Creek offers free counselling services by a licensed and registered therapist. The service is available to all children, youth, and families with no referrals necessary. Individual, group, and/or family sessions are offered.
KidSport Ponoka (January – December)	KidSport provides financial support for families who need assistance covering sport registration fees and costs of equipment.

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

a. Goals

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds has the following goals for 2026. We will:

- continue to offer the After School Program, S.O.D. Program, and Summer Camp
- continue to build on the momentum of Out of School Child Care program delivery that will result in increased usership/capacity and community impact
- expand our youth life skills and leadership programs (without duplicating other programs already functioning in the community) that will result in increased usership/capacity and community impact
- continue to work toward sustainability in program delivery
- maintain the very strong staff contingent that we currently have
- begin searching for a new location for our Club site, as we will need to find a new home in the fall of 2027. The Iron Ridge Secondary Campus has indicated that they will no longer have available space for our agency by that time.
- continue leadership role and support of the Blackfalds HUB. HUB has been very effective in drawing together community agencies in an effort to collaborate in keeping those most vulnerable in the community on our collective radars. HUB has seen much meaningful impact among participants in the past year in identifying those at-risk, providing timely and targeted support – resulting in a community collaboration that has come together to offer preventative services.

- continue to address key areas of priority in the Town of Blackfalds' Social Needs Assessment Plan where we are in a position to provide support (i.e. support for parents and families, connections and collaborations amongst local agencies, mental health, bullying and abuse, isolation and loneliness)

b. Objectives

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

- increased feelings of safety and support
- increased development in positive relational skills
- increased access to new opportunities
- increased ability to overcome barriers
- improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem
- increased understanding of choices for healthy living
- increased engagement in lifelong learning
- increased leadership skills
- expanded development of life skills

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

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

BGC Wolf Creek has no user fees for our Child and Family Counselling Program or youth programs. We do, however, charge fees for cost-recovery or licensed child care programs only, which vary by community and program.

Having said that, we ensure that fees are never an obstacle for a child to attend our programs. If a parent is struggling in their ability to pay program fees, the Club provides several options to assist the parent through discreet and compassionate measures. It is always our intention to support our families through challenges – financial being one that rises to the surface more and more frequently during this time. Accessing our own financial support is absolutely critical in assisting us to then turn around and support our families in covering these costs.

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

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

- BGC Canada
- Red Deer Community Foundation
- TELUS
- Wolf Creek Public Schools (in-kind)
- St. Gregory the Great Catholic School (in-kind)
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Optimist Club of Blackfalds
- Starbucks Blackfalds
- Boston Pizza Blackfalds
- Community businesses and individuals (e.g. Santa's Bids for Kids online auction participants)

3. The Project

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

As outlined above, the following are the issues/needs our programs propose to address.

- BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is responding to the **need** among families in Blackfalds and area for safe, fun, accessible, and affordable **Out of School Child Care Programming** that is convenient and available after school, on Professional Development days, and during the summer.
- We are developing relationships with the youth of the community and are responding to their needs. As a result, we are offering a teen Drop In one day/week, as well as introducing a leadership program – also one day/week. As need, resources, and funding allow, we anticipate **expanding our teen programming** in the future.
- We are also responding to the increased need for **Child and Family Counselling** that has been observed over our first full year of programming delivery in this community.
- Finally, we are invested in partnering with other community stakeholders in bringing together our collective resources through the initiation of **HUB** to best provide wrap around supports and services with potential for meaningful impact among those most vulnerable in the community.

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

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

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

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

• **Impact on Children and Youth**

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

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

• **Impact on Families**

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

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

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

• **Impact on the Community**

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

We support and encourage the active participation of our Club members in the community

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

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

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

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds offers the following short-term, mid-term and adult outcomes that reflect the ways our programming impacts our Club members as per BGC Canada's most recent Model for Success.

Short Term Outcomes

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

Mid-term Outcomes

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

Adult Outcomes

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

- e. **What is the impact of not addressing the issue?**
The answer to this question has been captured throughout the above explanations.
- f. **How does your project/program plan to address the issue?**
The answer to this question has been captured throughout the above explanations.
- g. **Describe specifically how you will measure the success of the program and your expected results.** (Examples: # of participants, # of surveys completed, survey feedback, program waiting list, etc.)
BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds evaluates outcomes in the following ways through strategic, intentional, and annual measurements. Blackfalds FCSS can depend on BGC Wolf Creek to measure outcomes and convey those results in a timely manner to provide accountability to you as a funder.
- # of participants (overall and by program)
 - # of visits (overall and by program)
 - # of Town of Blackfalds and County of Lacombe participants
 - completion of BGC Canada Club member Learning and Impact Survey (annually)
 - completion of Parent/Guardian Survey (annually)
 - completion of Community Stakeholder Survey (annually)
 - use of Jane software program to track counselling outcomes
 - letters of support
 - interviews
 - behavioural observations and anecdotal records
- h. **Are there similar programs offered in the community? If so, explain how they are different.**
While Blackfalds does have other licensed child care centres and youth programming, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds differs in the following ways:
- BGC Wolf Creek is a non-profit agency and, as a member of BGC Canada, we follow their mandate. Part of the mandate is to provide a safe and supportive environment for **all** children and youth. No child will be turned away because of inability to pay. Our programs are also offered 5 days/week which meets the needs of families who work and need regular child care.
 - BGC Wolf Creek brings not only licensed Out of School Child Care to Blackfalds but will also provide more programs as we grow to cover a greater variety of free youth programs, as well.

Once again, we would determine gaps in service delivery in this area and would not duplicate the good work that is already being done. Rather, we would seek out ways to partner and use our collective best in supporting children, youth, and families in the community.

- i. Describe your organization's use of volunteers. Include the nature of volunteer services provided, the number of volunteers and the estimated total annual number of volunteer hours worked.
- While volunteers may not necessarily be on-site every day during programming, there are opportunities made available for volunteers to attend programs periodically as helpers, special visitors, etc. In the past, we have welcomed 2 high school volunteers to our programs, 1 of whom was nominated for a Leaders of Tomorrow award! Currently, we are in the process of welcoming another potential youth volunteer to assist with our Out of School Care programs.
 - During our Summer Camp, several volunteers were part of the action – either as special guests that supported our specific themes (e.g. sports teams, community groups, individuals with specific skills or talents related to the theme of the week), or as assistants that supported our staff with programming. This is always fun for both our Club members and the volunteers!
 - We also welcome and appreciate the many volunteers who assist BGC Wolf Creek with our fundraising initiatives, sit on our board of directors or other sub-committees, or assist with special projects from time to time.
 - Over our first full year of program delivery in Blackfalds, we are very grateful for 17 volunteers who have provided 158.5 hours of volunteer time.

- j. Describe the need for this program in the community. Attach letters of support.
The need for BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds programs has been shared above. Please also reference the attached letters of support.

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

If our agency was either not to receive funding or received less funding than requested from Blackfalds FCSS, it would impact our ability to offer programming that has clearly been needed, has seen increased usership, and has made a difference for families. Over the course of our first full year of program delivery, we have seen the value of programming such as ours (i.e. Out of School Care programming, Child and Family Counselling, more options for youth programming, and benefits of building partnerships in supporting families through HUB) in supporting families and meeting the needs of this community.

If this grant funding was not available, we would continue to support the families that have become part of our BGC Wolf Creek "family" to the best of our ability, but it would no doubt be a much more challenging thing to do. An option that we would have to consider very carefully is whether a reduction in programming and services would need to take place. While this is not something we would desire to do, that would be the reality of the situation. A reduction in funding may lead to a reduction in the programs and services our agency can offer.

Our agency would be required to access financial support from other funding streams and commit more time to fundraising endeavours; however, as more and more funding of this nature is becoming more challenging to access, it can feel like a mountain to climb. BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds respectfully requests that Blackfalds FCSS consider our request for funding this year, as we partner

in supporting the children, youth, and families of this community – "investing in people, our most valuable resource."

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue	2026
Fees:	\$136,730.00
Grants:	\$35,000.00
Community Donations:	\$5,000.00
Fundraising:	\$8,000.00
Misc.: (interest, government retention wages, etc.)	\$15,500.00
Total Revenue	\$200,230.00
Expenses	2026
Personnel:	\$147,476.00
Materials & Supplies:	\$27,700.00
Other Expenses:	\$40,610.00
Total Expenses	\$215,786.00
FCSS Funding Request	\$17,000.00

Part A – Community Group Information

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

Part B – Purpose & Need

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

The Project

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

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

Grant funding requested? _____

Amount approved: _____



Blackfalds 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 20, 2026 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 2026 grants are due to FCSS office no later than December 31st, 2026.

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 Protection of Privacy Act. 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 on this form will be used strictly for obtaining the prescribed consent. This information is collected under the authority of Section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act and will be protected under Part 1 of the Act. Questions regarding the collection and use of this information may be directed to the Information Governance Coordinator at access@blackfalds.ca or by phone 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, Alberta
Postal Code: T4L 1J4
3. President or Principal: Travis Marcott
Phone: _____ E-Mail: tmarcott@lacombe.ca
4. Treasurer: Joey Ingram
Phone: (403) 318-8970 E-Mail: joey.ingram@mnp.ca
5. Primary Contact Person: Jen Harty
Phone: (403) 782-7870 E-Mail: jen.harty@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
6. Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable) 886595396 RR0001
7. How long has your organization been operating in Blackfalds? 16 Years
8. Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from the Town of Blackfalds? If so, please specify.

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

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

Yes, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District is eligible for financial support from multiple levels of government and public agencies. We have applied for funding through the Government of Canada's Canada Summer Jobs program, which helps fund seasonal staffing. At the provincial level, we are eligible for grants from the Government of Alberta, including the Community Initiatives Program and other funding opportunities. Locally, we can access support through Family and Community Support Services in the communities we serve, including Lacombe and Lacombe County. As a registered charity, we are also eligible to apply for gaming licenses and conduct fundraising activities such as 50/50 draws and casinos, under the regulations of Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis.

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:

\$16,825

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 Harty

Name: Travis Marcott

Position: Interim Executive Director

Position: Board President

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 Social Needs Assessment for Blackfalds identifies key priorities including youth mental health, social isolation, and the need for preventative supports for children and youth. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District (BBBSLD) directly addresses these needs by providing consistent, positive mentoring relationships that build resilience, improve mental well-being, and foster a strong sense of belonging. BBBSLD mentoring programs actively reduce risk factors while strengthening the overall health of the community, directly supporting local FCSS priorities focused on strengthening families, promoting volunteerism, and enhancing community collaboration.

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

BBBSLD mentoring programs strengthen and support the social functioning of the residents in Blackfalds by building meaningful, consistent relationships that enhance youths' ability to connect, communicate, and thrive within their community. Through one-to-one and group mentoring programs, children and youth develop critical social and emotional skills such as confidence, problem-solving, and positive peer interaction. By matching young people with caring mentors and positive role models participants gain a trusted support system that improves their sense of belonging. These supports extend beyond the children and youth. Strengthening youth resilience and well-being reduces stress on families and contributes to healthier family dynamics. This fosters a more connected community overall, enhancing social functioning by increasing connection, strengthening relationships, and supporting long-term community well-being.

2. Organization

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

BBBSLD is a non-profit organization committed to creating impactful mentoring relationships that empower young people to reach their full potential. We offer a diverse range of mentoring programs designed to meet the diverse needs of children and youth. These programs include: Community-Based 1:1 mentoring, In-School 1:1 mentoring, Teen mentoring, and group programs such as Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds, Game On, and our Kids N Kops Summer Day Camp mentoring program. These programs provide youth with consistent, positive role models and safe, structured environments. Through these programs, BBBSLD supports children, youth, and families by fostering resilience, promoting healthy relationships, and contributing to stronger, more connected communities. In 2025, BBBSLD supported over 440 youth through mentoring, with 51% of participants from Blackfalds. Additionally, there was 5000+ volunteer hours dedicated to our organization.

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

Our goals and objectives for this year focus on expanding and strengthening our mentoring programs to better serve youth in Blackfalds. We aim to grow our Teen Mentoring program, giving teens the opportunity to serve as mentors while developing leadership skills, confidence, and problem-solving abilities. We also plan to expand our Community-Based, In-School, and Group programs, ensuring more children and youth have access to consistent, supportive relationships. To support this growth, we will continue our efforts to recruit and engage new volunteers, strengthening our mentor network and increasing community involvement. We will enhance community collaboration by continuing to work with schools, organizations, and partners to create additional opportunities and resources for youth and families.

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

BBBSLD partners with local businesses and community sponsors to support fundraising initiatives such as the Duck Drop, Walk for Kids' Sake, and Festival of Wreaths. These efforts help cover program costs and ensure our mentorship programs remain accessible to all youth. As a registered charity, we do not charge user fees or membership dues and rely on donations, sponsorships, and grants to maintain and expand our services.

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

We have applied for funding from the following sources to support the delivery of our mentoring programs and services: United Way of Central Alberta, which provides funding for various components of our mentoring programs. Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) Program, which supports seasonal staff positions essential to program delivery.

3. The Project

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

BBBSLD mentoring programs address the critical need for positive mentorship and supportive relationships among children and youth in Blackfalds. By providing consistent one-to-one and group mentoring, we aim to build resilience, strengthen social and emotional skills, and foster positive connections. Additionally, our programs empower youth to develop the skills and confidence needed to overcome challenges and thrive within their 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.

Research shows that youth who have access to mentoring are more likely to experience stronger social skills, greater confidence, and fewer behavioural and emotional challenges than those without mentors, suggesting that mentoring can directly improve mental health and social functioning. The Canadian Mental Health Association highlights the importance of mentors in supporting youth mental health and well-being, noting that youth benefit when trusted adults engage with them to foster positive development. Children and youth who struggle with social isolation, low self-confidence, and peer relationship challenges are among those most affected by these issues. Mentoring relationships help bridge these gaps by providing consistent support, reinforcing social and emotional skills, and encouraging connectedness and resilience. Research completed by Mentor Canada revealed that structured mentoring has been shown to increase youth belonging, self-esteem, and overall mental well-being. By supporting youth through our mentoring programs, the benefits extend beyond the individual. Stronger, more resilient youth contribute to a healthier, more connected, and thriving community.

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

Children and youth are impacted through increased access to supportive mentoring relationships that enhance their social and emotional well-being. In the short term, mentoring helps build confidence, improve communication skills, and foster a sense of belonging and connection. Youth develop stronger peer relationships and feel more supported in navigating everyday challenges. Over the long term, these impacts contribute to increased resilience, improved mental well-being, and stronger interpersonal skills. Youth are better equipped to form healthy relationships, succeed in school, and actively engage in their community. These positive outcomes support lifelong well-being and contribute to a more connected and thriving community overall.

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

Without access to consistent, positive mentorship, children and youth may experience short-term impacts such as social isolation, low self-confidence, difficulty forming healthy relationships, and challenges with emotional regulation. These factors can also affect school engagement, behaviour, and overall well-being. Over the long term, these challenges can contribute to more significant outcomes, including ongoing mental health concerns, disengagement from school or community, and increased vulnerability to negative peer influences. Without early support, youth may face barriers in developing the skills needed for healthy relationships, employment, and active participation in their community. Providing early, preventative mentoring helps mitigate these risks by building resilience, strengthening social and emotional skills, and supporting positive developmental outcomes that extend into adulthood.

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

BBBSLD mentoring programs address this issue by providing structured, evidence-based mentoring that connect children and youth with positive role models. Through Community-Based, In-School, Teen, and Group mentoring programs, participants are matched in safe, supported environments where they can build trusting relationships and develop essential social and emotional skills. Our programs focus on consistency and connection, ensuring youth have regular interactions with mentors who provide guidance, encouragement, and positive reinforcement. Trained staff support each match, monitor progress, and provide ongoing resources to ensure relationships are safe, effective, and impactful. Additionally, we collaborate with local schools, businesses, and community organizations to align our mentoring efforts with broader community priorities and ensure our programs remain responsive to emerging needs. By creating opportunities for meaningful connection and skill development, our mentoring programs reduce social isolation, strengthen confidence and resilience, and support positive outcomes for youth within the community.

- 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.)

Program success will be evaluated through a combination of data tracking and feedback collection. From a quantitative perspective, we will monitor key indicators such as the number of active mentoring matches, volunteer inquiries, and waitlist numbers to understand program reach and demand. From a qualitative perspective, we will gather insights through annual surveys completed by mentors, mentees, and families, along with ongoing match supports and input from staff and school liaisons. These approaches will help us assess the impact, identify areas for growth, and ensure programs continue to meet the needs of the participants.

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

In Blackfalds, there are no similar programs offering both group mentoring and/or long-term one-on-one support. BBBSLD mentoring programs stand out through our individualized approach, fostering long-term relationships that support the unique needs and growth of each youth.

- 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.

BBBSLD is supported by a committed network of volunteers who play a vital role in delivering our mentoring programs. Volunteers serve as one-to-one and group mentors, offering consistent support, encouragement, and positive role modeling to children and youth in Blackfalds. In addition, they contribute to fundraising efforts such as Walk for Kids' Sake and the Duck Drop, and assist with events and program operations. In 2025 more than 130 volunteers collectively contributed 5000+ hours across our organization. In Blackfalds alone, we expect over 75 volunteers to contribute more than 1500 hours in 2026. Their ongoing involvement is essential to the strength, reach, and long-term sustainability of our mentoring programs.

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

There is a clear and ongoing need for mentoring programs in Blackfalds. Local youth face challenges such as social isolation, limited access to positive role models, and pressures affecting their mental health and emotional well-being. The Blackfalds Social Needs Assessment identifies youth mental health, social connection, and preventative supports as key community priorities, highlighting the importance of mentoring programs that foster resilience, confidence, and positive social skills. BBBSLD addresses this need by providing consistent, one-to-one and group mentoring opportunities, giving children and youth the guidance, support, and relationships they need to thrive. Our programs also strengthen community engagement by connecting youth with caring adults and local organizations, ensuring mentoring supports align with broader community priorities. Letters of support from community partners and schools further demonstrate the recognized value and demand for this program in Blackfalds.

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

Without the requested grant funding, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District would face limitations in maintaining and expanding our mentoring programs in Blackfalds. Reduced funding could result in fewer one-to-one and group mentoring opportunities, longer waitlists, and limited access to teen mentoring programs that build leadership, confidence, and problem-solving skills. A funding shortfall would also restrict our ability to recruit and support volunteers effectively, deliver training, and host community events that strengthen connections between youth and positive role models. To prevent this, we have increased sponsorships and fundraising, demonstrating our commitment to sustainability. Ultimately, without adequate funding, the program's capacity to address key community priorities would be reduced, limiting opportunities for youth to build lasting relationships, develop critical skills, and thrive within their community.

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue	2026
<hr/>	
Fees:	
Grants:	FCSS Community Grant - \$16,825 United Way of Central Alberta - \$11,985 Other Grants - \$11,300
Community Donations:	Donations - \$16,620 Sponsorships - \$8,920
Fundraising:	\$29,900
Total Revenue	\$95,550
<hr/>	
Expenses	2026
<hr/>	
Personnel:	Salary/Wages - \$55,500
Materials & Supplies:	Program Supplies - \$4,900 Travel - \$3,100 Advertising & Promotion - \$1,300 Volunteer Recognition - \$500 BBBS Membership Fees - \$4,850 Mentoring Program Database - \$460
Other Expenses:	Mortgage - \$5,600 Utilities - \$2,600 Insurance Administrative & Program - \$5,520 Accounting, Audit Fees & Legal - \$3,000 Bookkeeping - \$800 Telephone/Communication - \$1,070 Office Supplies - \$1,100 Office Maintenance - \$650 Fundraising expenses - \$4,600
Total Expenses	\$95,550
<hr/>	
FCSS Funding Request	\$16,825

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?			
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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? 		
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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: _____



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

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



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

Part A - Community Group Information

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

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

3. Principal: Vicky Sahlin

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

5. Primary Contact Person: Katelin Fesyk

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

6. Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable) 139975718-RR0001

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Declaration

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

Name: Vicky Sahlin
Position: Principal

Name: Katelin Fesyk
Position: Assistant Principal

Signature: *Vicky Sahlin*

Signature: *Katelin Fesyk*



Part B – Purpose and Need

1. Demonstration of need:

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

1. Connection with our most vulnerable students: Our school community has observed a noticeable gap in students' social and emotional skills upon entering school, particularly in forming deep connections with trusting adults. Since the introduction of the Connection Club in the 2024-2025 school year, we have noticed a significant impact, particularly for some of our most vulnerable students. This program has provided our School Social Worker, teachers, educational assistants and administrators with valuable time and the opportunity to connect with students in the morning before the school day begins. These interactions help regulate students, allowing them to check in on their social and emotional well-being and set a positive tone for the day ahead. The Connection Club provided immediate, barrier-free morning interventions each day. The Connection Club helps close the regulation gap during the critical transition from home to a structured learning environment, allowing students time in between to regulate, connect and nourish their bodies.
2. Focus on Resilience. This program is designed to help children regulate their bodies, minds, and emotions through connection. Studies have shown a profound connection between strong relationships and a sense of belonging with relevant people. We aim to build resilience in our students by creating meaningful, strong connections. Werner and Smith (2001) stated that “the presence of at least one caring, consistent adult is considered the most critical factor in building resilience”. This is one of the aims of the Connection Club: to build caring, consistent adults in these students' lives.
3. Explicitly teaching self-regulation skills: Students are taught these skills as a group and can practice them in a safe, controlled environment. Skills taught include waiting your turn, breathing techniques, calming techniques, positive self-talk, starting conversations and emotional regulation. This group of students are susceptible to struggling with emotional regulation, and this program provides a platform for students to learn these skills in a small, safe setting.
4. Provide opportunities for guided conversations: Students are taught how to converse with peers and adults. This includes asking how their day is,



checking in on their feelings, taking turns, asking to sit at the same table and using their manners. Often times, this population of students struggle to make friends and have positive peer interactions. The Conneciton Club gives them a safe, structured space to foster these relationships.

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

The Connection Club gives students a sense of belonging and safety within the Blackfalds community. Each day, students are warmly welcomed by a staff member and given a light snack, creating a consistent, positive start to their day. They also engage in meaningful conversations with peers at a table, fostering connections and friendships. During this time, students develop essential social skills such as saying please and thank you, starting and maintaining conversations, building healthy relationships, creating positive mindsets, handling conflict, and practicing self-regulation. These valuable skills help students build relationships, enhance their social interactions, and deepen their sense of connection with both students and adults in the Blackfalds community. By reaching out at risk youth early, they feel seen and valued by their community, which decreases the likelihood of antisocial behaviour in the future.

2. Organization

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

Iron Ridge Elementary Campus offers Pre-K to Grade Three programs for a projected student population of 500 students for the 2026-2027 school year. We are located in the town of Blackfalds, and operate within the Wolf Creek Public Schools division. Students with special needs are successfully included in regular classrooms. IREC offers pre-Kindergarten, full-day and half-day kindergarten programs.

Our Mission: Empowering Learners to Lead and Succeed

- Creating a safe and caring community

Our school website:

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

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

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

- Teacher-Parent Relationships: Strengthening communication and collaboration between teachers and parents to support student success.



- [Blackfalds Bulldogs Reading Program](#): Encouraging literacy and a love of reading within the community.
- [Bear Cub Clan](#): Partnering with local Elders to share cultural knowledge and wisdom, fostering respect and understanding.
- [Partnering with Hope Mission](#): Working together to support local families in need, creating a sense of community and service.
- [SEL Programming with the School Division](#): Offering Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs through a grant, which will conclude this year, to help students build emotional resilience and positive social skills.
- [Roots of Empathy](#):
- [our partnership with Big Brothers and Big Sisters In-School Mentoring partnership with IRSC](#).
- [Family Resource Network and the Rainbows program](#).
- [Boys and Girls Clubs with our Parent Teacher interview nights](#).
- [Blackfalds Public Library and Parent Teacher Interview nights](#).

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

[IREC ACE PLAN](#)

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

Our school council raises a few thousand dollars each year to help buy classroom books, ipads, makerspace material, etc. We also have a fundraising leg of our school council and they are called "FIRES" (Friend of Iron Ridge Campus Society). Currently, they are fundraising to replace existing playground structures.

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

The Connection Club's current funding is limited to per-pupil allocations from the government. We have not secured any additional grants for the upcoming year. However, we have established a partnership with Zero Hungry Kids, which began in January of this year, to provide donated milk for the program and for any student in need. The program has also benefited from several private donations used to purchase supplementary food items.

3. The Project

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

Our primary objective is to cultivate a supportive space that empowers students to forge strong, meaningful connections both within our school and throughout the broader community. A cornerstone of this effort is the deliberate strengthening of positive, reliable adult-student relationships, recognizing these bonds as crucial anchors for student well-being and success.



We implement structured, guided conversation sessions led by a dedicated team that includes teachers, school administrators, School Support Workers (SSWs), and peer mentors (other students). These sessions are not merely informal talks; they are targeted interventions designed to provide students with a comprehensive toolkit for emotional and social growth.

The core components of these sessions are:

1. **Emotional Regulation Instruction:** We actively teach students practical, evidence-based strategies for identifying, understanding, and managing their emotional responses, particularly in stressful or challenging situations. This competency is vital for constructive social interaction and academic focus.
2. **Self-Esteem Enhancement:** Through positive reinforcement, skill-building activities, and recognition of individual strengths, we work to boost students' self-worth and confidence. We foster a belief in their own capabilities, which is essential for risk-taking and perseverance. The staff's high expectations for students while they are in the space contribute to increased self-esteem.
3. **Resilience Promotion:** We help students develop the mental and emotional grit required to bounce back from adversity. By reframing challenges as opportunities for growth, we equip them with effective coping mechanisms and a 'growth mindset.'

Crucially, we prioritize creating a consistently safe, non-judgmental space for students identified as at-risk. This secure environment allows them to openly explore their feelings, practice newly acquired coping skills without fear of failure, and receive targeted, individualized support.

By systematically fostering these strong connections and cultivating essential life skills—emotional regulation, self-esteem, and resilience—we are actively transforming the school environment. Our goal is to create a dynamic, inclusive culture where every student feels profoundly valued, unconditionally supported, and genuinely empowered to not only overcome obstacles but to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

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

- Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis;
- Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;
- Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people.
- Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them;



- Provide support that helps sustain people as active participants in the community

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

Vulnerable Youth: The primary beneficiaries are students navigating complex socio-economic barriers, including food insecurity, trauma, and a lack of consistent adult mentorship. For these students, the Connections Club provides a vital "soft landing" that bridges the gap between a potentially chaotic morning and the demands of the classroom.

The Classroom: The impact extends to the entire classroom community. A single dysregulated student can create a ripple effect that disrupts the learning environment for 25+ peers and their educators. By prioritizing early-morning regulation, we safeguard the instructional time and emotional well-being of the entire school population.

Family Wellness: We provide essential "wraparound" support for parents facing their own systemic barriers. When a family knows their child is safe, fed, and emotionally grounded before they get to class, it reduces overall household stress and fosters a stronger partnership between the home and the community.

Long-Term Community Resilience: We believe that resilience and social skills must be taught through diverse, repetitive, and safe interactions. By fostering these connections early, we are investing in the future of Blackfalds—developing youth who are independent, empathetic, and deeply connected to our town's social fabric.

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

Throughout the **2025-2026 school year**, we have seen an unprecedented demand for this intervention, with **more teachers than ever before referring students** to the Connections Club due to identified social-emotional needs. Despite this increased volume, the program's impact has been profound: we have observed a significant decrease in problematic behaviors and emotional dysregulation among the participating students. These youth are arriving in their classrooms more 'settled' and are demonstrating a vastly improved ability to regulate their emotions independently. By proactively checking in with these at-risk students the moment they enter the building, we foster a safe, predictable, and supportive environment that directly encourages regular school attendance and fosters positive engagement with the school community.

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

Failure to address the critical need for fostering deep connections with a supported adult, alongside proper nutrition, poses a risk that these students will become marginalized. Without sustained instruction in vital social skills and dedicated time with a trusted, connected adult at school, we anticipate a rise in concerning behaviors and emotional dysregulation. This lack of support also threatens to diminish their self-esteem, social-emotional skills, resilience, and their



overall sense of belonging within the community. The existing relationships are fundamental to our school's sense of community and the students' vital sense of belonging.

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

By connecting with students each morning before their school day starts, we help them feel part of our school community immediately. It also offers a way to ease into the day, which helps many of our students with self-regulation. Our main plan to address the issue is to build meaningful connections among at-risk students, staff, other students, administrators, and our School Social Worker. The Connections Club uses a two-pronged approach:

1. **Physiological Regulation:** Providing a nutritious breakfast to stabilize blood sugar and meet basic physical needs.
2. **Relational Regulation:** A strong supportive adult greets each student, providing a predictable, safe social anchor. This combination allows students to down-regulate their nervous systems, enabling them to enter the classroom ready to learn and socialize appropriately.

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

We will measure success through a multi-faceted approach, combining quantitative data with qualitative feedback to demonstrate the program's impact on student well-being and the classroom environment. We anticipate that the Connections Club will continue to serve 40-45 students daily, with high teacher support (as evidenced by increased referrals). The primary expected outcome is that students will arrive in class regulated and ready to learn, demonstrated by an increase in positive feelings of belonging (student survey data) and a measurable decrease in problematic behaviours and dysregulation incidents in the morning (teacher feedback and administrative data).

Measurement Methods

Metric	Measurement Tool/Method	Expected Result
Student Engagement & Belonging	Student Survey: Administer a end of year survey to all participating students (currently 40-45 participants), focusing on feelings of safety, connection to adults, and self-esteem.	85% positive responses on key survey items related to sense of belonging and connection.



Metric	Measurement Tool/Method	Expected Result
Social-Emotional Competence	Teacher Feedback Survey: Administer a short survey to all referring and non-referring homeroom teachers (approximately 25 staff) to assess student-observed improvements in self-regulation, conflict resolution, and social skills in the classroom.	90% of participating students' teachers report observable improvement in the student's ability to self-regulate and manage emotions during the morning transition.
Attendance & Punctuality	Administrative Data: Monitor and track the attendance and punctuality records of all Connection Club participants.	95% of regular participants maintain or improve their school attendance rate and punctuality compared to the first month of school.
Program Demand	Referral Tracking: Maintain a log of teacher and administrative referrals for the Connections Club.	The program maintains a high level of demand, demonstrated by an ongoing teacher referral rate that matches or exceeds the current rate, validating its perceived value by school staff.

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

Not that we are aware of.

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

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

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



Please see the attached letters of support.

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

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

Part C – Program Budget

Revenue Approved Projected Requested

Revenue	2025
	\$0
Fees:	
Grants:	
Community Donations:	
Fundraising:	
Total Revenue	
Expenses	2026
Personnel:	\$8000(0.2 EA staff support to facilitate the Connection Club space)

Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

Community Group Grant Application



Materials & Supplies:	n/a
Other Expenses:	n/a
Total Expenses	\$8000
FCSS Funding Request	\$8000



APPENDIX A- Letters of Support

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

Part A – Community Group Information

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

Part B – Purpose & Need

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

The Project

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

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

Grant funding requested? _____

Amount approved: _____

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

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

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

Community Group Grant Application

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The personal information provided as part of this application is collected under the authority of the Family and Community Support Services Act (FCSSA) R.218-294, the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and the Protection of Privacy Act. 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 on this form will be used strictly for obtaining the prescribed consent. This information is collected under the authority of Section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act and will be protected under Part 1 of the Act. Questions regarding the collection and use of this information may be directed to the Information Governance Coordinator at access@blackfalds.ca or by phone at 403.885.6370.

Part A - Community Group Information

1. Organization's Name: Association of Central Alberta Youth for Christ
2. Mailing Address: 5025-50 Street
Lacombe Postal Code: T4L 1X9
3. President or Principal: Jerel Peters
Phone: 403-789-2298 E-Mail: jerelp@cayu.ca
4. Treasurer: Teresa Clark
Phone: 403-789-2298 E-Mail: teclark84@outlook.c
5. Primary Contact Person: Shenoa Gislason
Phone: 403-789-2298 E-Mail: granting@cayu.ca
6. Registered Society / Charity Number (if applicable) 5012707641
7. How long has your organization been operating in Blackfalds? 2023
8. Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from the Town of Blackfalds? If so, please specify.
No
9. Is your organization presently receiving any financial assistance or subsidy from other levels of government or from public agencies? If so, please specify.
No, our funding comes from individual donors
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:

\$16,740.00

Declaration

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

Name: Jerel Peters

Position: Executive Director

Signature: 

Name: Shenoa Gislason

Position: Personnel Director

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 Attached

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

See Attached

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 Attached

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

See Attached Strategic Plan

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

We do not have a sponsorship or a committee for fundraising. We do not charge user or membership fees.

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

None

3. The Project

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

Our largest priority area our program addresses is the need for youth mentoring and recreation within Blackfalds. Specifically older youth ages 11-18.

- 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.

Youth ages 11-18.

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

Youth have greater confidence, stronger social skills, learn to volunteer and give back to their community. Youth make wiser choices and have more than just their parents or teachers speaking into their life.

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

See attached

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

We offer safe spaces where youth can be themselves and build relationships with positive adult mentors.

- 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.)

To measure the success of our program we will assess the impact on the youth through tracking attendance, and volunteer involvement over the course of the program. End of season feedback survey for participants will be utilized.

- h. Are there similar programs offered in the community? If so, explain how they are different.
Not that we are aware of

- i. Describe your 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 currently utilize 9 adult volunteers and 3 youth volunteers

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

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

We will be restricted in the impact we can make on the youth in Blackfalds and the community as a whole.



Part C – Program Budget

Revenue	2025
Fees:	
Grants:	\$16,740.00
Community Donations:	\$1250 (Crossroads Church)
Fundraising:	\$82,814.00
Total Revenue	\$100,804.00
Expenses	2025
Personnel:	\$82,764.00
Materials & Supplies:	\$9,245.00
Other Expenses:	Mentorship - \$550.00 Prof. Development \$5,295.00 Special Events \$1,150.00 Travel \$700.00 Volunteer Appreciation \$500.00 Telecommunication \$600.00
Total Expenses	\$100,804.00
FCSS Funding Request	\$16,740.00

Part A – Community Group Information

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

Part B – Purpose & Need

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

The Project

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

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

Grant funding requested? _____

Amount approved: _____

FCSS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER UPDATE

Month of March:

- **Volunteer Recognition Planning:**
 - **Blackfalds Volunteer Gala:** FCSS will merge its two annual volunteer events into one community-wide celebration in 2026, bringing together roughly 400 volunteers, families, and partners. The Blackfalds Volunteer Gala will take place May 7 during Youth Week at the Eagle Builders Centre and will continue the popular Oscar-themed format. The evening will feature a red-carpet entrance, paparazzi, photo opportunities, a light supper (refreshments, appetizers & wraps), performances by local youth singers and dancers, and award presentations for both adult and youth categories.
 - **Adjudication:** Recognizing that the current process is time-consuming, the Volunteer Programmer is developing a more efficient assessment submission system for judging panels. In addition, a feedback survey will be distributed to this year's judges to help identify opportunities for improvement for next year.
 - **RSVP Process:** This is our first year combining the events. With an anticipated attendance of roughly 400 people, we have introduced an online RSVP system to help manage capacity effectively. Some confusion has risen regarding how groups should RSVP and whether group members may bring guests. Due to financial constraints, it has been determined that attendance this year will be limited to group members only.
- **National Volunteer Week Schedule:** taking place (April 19 – April 25) Finalizing details for daily Facebook posts:
 - **Colouring Contest:** Residents will be invited to submit their masterpieces to the FCSS Office
 - **JustServe** Promote ways nonprofits can promote themselves and how you can look for ways to volunteer on the JustServe website
 - **Staff Volunteer Spotlights** Showcase staff who volunteer in their personal time and why it matters to them.
 - **Earth Day & Clean Up Blackfalds** Promote Earth Day and Clean Up Blackfalds
 - **Snow Angel Milestone Recognition** Acknowledge 4 longtime Snow Angel volunteers
 - **Local Volunteer Opportunities:** Promote ways to volunteer and get involved
 - **Appreciation for Volunteer Award Nominees** Build excitement for the May recognition event by spotlighting nominees.
- **Snow Angel Program:** We ended this year with 27 Snow Angels including individuals and family members, paired with one of the 21 residents and 2 residents on the waitlist to be paired with a Snow Angel. Resident support and volunteer engagement remained steady.
 - *Feedback from participants: I am pleased to report that 92% (11 participants) in the Snow Angel Program who responded indicated that the program significantly contributed to their ability to remain in their homes. This positive feedback highlights the program's effectiveness in providing essential support and assistance to our community members.*
- **Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:**
 - Easter Egg-stravaganza: 10 volunteers
 - Leaders in Training volunteers
 - Cooking Club: 3 volunteers

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Bike Rodeo ~ June 6
 - b. Blackfalds Days ~ June 19-21
2. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In March, the newsletter was emailed to 295 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 59%

FCSS Board Update: March 2026

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 1,686 followers at the end of March

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 277 followers at the end of March

The 50+ Walk & Talk Club continues to receive the biggest audience,

- the “take the carrot for a walk” post had over **1.5 K views** (1,645 views on Facebook and 182 on Instagram)
- The “ready aim fire” post had over **2.2 K Views** (2,247 views on Facebook and 132 on Instagram)

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- 50 tax returns have been filed in March!
- We have three highly skilled and dedicated volunteers who continue to support this program
- Community members call the office and are pre-screened for CRA eligibility by the wonderful front-desk admin. Eligible clients are then booked for a tax intake appointment. This process works great! I am very thankful for the strong admin support – it is deeply appreciated.
- I meet one-on-one with each client to complete the CRA and FCSS intake forms, ensuring all sensitive information is handled with respect and confidentiality
- A trained CRA volunteer comes in every week and E-files the tax returns
- Once filed, I contact the client/community member to let them know their return has been successfully E-filed and is ready for pick-up.
- Admin completes a satisfaction and outcome survey question with the community member at the point of pick up.

Interagency Meeting:

- March 4, Eagle Builder Center Banquet Room
- 20 people attended
- Representing 13 unique organizations
- This month's “hot seat” winner was Lacombe & District Chamber of Commerce. We highlighted the upcoming trade show at the Lacombe Gary Moe Arena and a few of the free opportunities available to Blackfalds Chamber members! I am

BLACKFALDS FCSS

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES

403.600.9066

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Jan Pocock, Community Engagement Programmer

so glad that Lacombe & Blackfalds have joined together to create a stronger Chamber.

50+ Walk & Talk Club

- Average of 30 walkers every Tuesday in March
 - We had 51 unique walkers in March
 - 13 Walkers had “perfect attendance” in March
 - 59% of the walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds
 - 22% are from the City of Lacombe
 - 19% are from the County of Lacombe
- This program continues to create an opportunity for older adults to build social connections.

More than a Movie:

- 19 Movie Guests
 - Enjoyed the Movie: Captain Philips
 - 19 guests from the Town of Blackfalds
 - 2 guests from the City of Lacombe
 - 2 guests from the County of Lacombe
- This movie sparked lively and “spirited” discussions! The intense themes of piracy, US rescue ships, and global conflicts felt very relevant given the current US-Israeli war with Iran. The post-movie discussion time is a safe and respectful space for older adults to express their thoughts and feelings. This connection strengthens the social connection among participants and increases their sense of belonging.
 - Before the movie begins, I highlight community events and ensure the most current Community Guide is available. In March, I promoted upcoming programs such as the Blackfalds Community Clean-Up, the Community Income Tax Program, the De-Cluttering Workshop, and the Family Easter Event. I love seeing guests jotting down pen & paper notes and tucking them into their purses or pockets. People like to stay informed and connected.

Clan-Up Blackfalds

- Coordinated with TOB parks to learn the areas that need the most cleaning attention.
- Created a "pick-up map" for community members to choose their preferred location.
- Updated waiver
- Updated poster
- Promote on Social media, Blackfalds Community Guide, Volunteer and Vibrant living newsletter, also hand out posters at 50+ Walk & Talk, 50+ More than a Movie and a poster is displayed on the Community Center Bulletin board.

Abbey Center Membership Assistance Program:

- **3 applications were received and screened**
 - All three applications were approved.
 - Total: 3 adults have gained access to the Abbey Center amenities for two-months.

Camp Curios Champion

- Two applications received and screened

Outer duties:

- The one-on-one CVITP appointments continue to be meaningful and eye-opening. Many clients have a limited understanding of how income tax works, and these intake sessions provide an opportunity to meet people face-to-face, hear their stories, and, **most importantly, connect them with additional community resources when needed.** It's clear that Blackfalds FCSS is viewed as a safe & trusted place, something our team and board should be proud of! Integrity and trust are earned, and the positive experiences shared by clients this month highlight the strong reputation we've built in the community. We often only hear about the challenges rather than the successes, so hearing the overwhelmingly positive feedback from community members this month has been especially encouraging. These moments remind us of the impact that we're making, and they deserve to be recognized and celebrated!

Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer March Report

Blackfalds Youth Crew (BYC)

Instructor: *Annette*

BYC supports youth in building friendships, leadership skills, and self-confidence through fun, safe, and engaging activities. Each session welcomes up to 15 participants.

BYC Detail	Grades 4-6 Thursdays 5:00-7:00 PM	Grades 7-12 Tuesdays 5:00-7:00 PM	Homeschool Thursdays 1:00-3:00 PM	Total Youth Registered, including Waitlist
Glow Up March 3 and 5	15	4	13	32
Forts & Fries March 12	15		10	25
	Waitlist 6			6
Fries & Friends March 10		4		4
St. Patty's Shenanigans March 19	16		11	27
Tye Dye T-shirts March 17		5		5
March 24 and 26	No BYC due to school break (Historically lower numbers)			
Desserts & Duct Tape Art March 31		5		5
Total Youth Registered in Mar				84

Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer March Report

Child Safe Canada Internet Safety

Instructor: *Annette*

The Internet Safety explores topics such as social media dynamics, cyberbullying, online safety strategies, and sharing personal information. Each session welcomes up to 15 participants.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered / Attended (max 15)
March 16	5:00-7:00 PM
Youth Registered 14	

Teen Test Kitchen: Create, Cook & Connect

Instructor: *Annette*

The 'Teen Test Kitchen' is a mini-series that is a hands-on beginner-friendly cooking session that invites grades 8–10 to roll up their sleeves, explore new flavours, and discover how fun cooking can be.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered/Attended (max 10)
Wednesday, April 1, 8 and 15	5

Leaders in Training (LiT)

Grade 9-12 youth have a chance to build leadership skills, gain volunteer experience, and make a positive impact. Lit volunteers help run activities at BYC and Youth Cooking Club, support younger youth, create a welcoming environment, and take part in team reflections to shape future sessions.

The youth volunteers are actively supporting a variety of BYC programs and consistently showing strong leadership, initiative, and teamwork. Their involvement has created higher energy, more engaging activities, and an overall better experience for all participants.

Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer March Report

Youth Cooking Club

Instructor: *Annette*

On March 18, our youth participants prepared a delicious chicken and vegetable stir-fry celebration dinner for 24 guests, proudly showcasing the cooking and social skills they've developed throughout the program. We were excited to welcome **Constable Jeff Hewitt**, Blackfalds' resource officer, as our special guest for the evening. After dinner, the youth were surprised by a four legged- visitor—Constable Hewitt's locally famous sidekick, Rosie—who happily joined them for some big dog cuddles.

We were also grateful for the support of a community volunteer who helped the evening run smoothly. The meal was a wonderful success, and the youth were recognized for their hard work with certificates of completion and a recipe booklet featuring all the dishes they created together. This booklet will help them continue practicing and sharing their skills long after the program ends.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered/Attended (max 10)	Waitlist (max 10)
Grade 5-7 January 21-March 18	10	10

Life Literacy Series: More than a Resume

Facilitator: Annette Brown

These three workshops helped youth explore their strengths, connect with peers, and build practical resume and cover-letter skills. The sessions include snacks, pizza, and giveaways, and are delivered in partnership with the Servus Credit Union Blackfalds Public Library. Funding comes from the remaining AG Society grant.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered/Attended (max 7)
February 23, March 2 & 9	6

Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer March Report

Youth Programmer Initiatives:

Positive Ticketing Program	Constable Hewitt continues to distribute Positive Tickets to youth in the community and local schools for demonstrating positive or improved behaviour. The program remains popular, especially because the tickets can be redeemed for a Slurpee for the youth and a friend at the Blackfalds Convenience Store, adding a fun and motivating incentive.
Youth Week May 2-8	I'm putting the final touches on our Youth Week activities, including developing agendas, planning each event, organizing to-do lists, purchasing supplies, and coordinating all the details to make the week run smoothly.
Blackfalds Days Youth Night Out	Currently, I am working toward facilitating the Blackfalds Youth Night Out event, focusing on planning activities, organizing logistics, and coordinating the details needed to make the night a fun and successful experience for local youth.
Working with Carolyn from FRN	I'm currently working with Carolyn from FRN Lacombe to explore future preventative programs, workshops, and/or resources that we can offer to support youth and families in our community.
Youth Cooking Club Waitlist	I spoke with Sawyer about the high demand for Cooking Club and the ongoing waitlist. With Grade 7+ programming shifting to once a month, I'll have more capacity to run the program more often. This fall, Cooking Club will run from September 23 to November 11, and in 2027 it will be offered twice a week from January 18 to March 8. These changes will help ensure all interested youth can participate in this popular free program.
Continued program planning is underway for both the upcoming summer season, fall and into 2027	Admin time to explore what types of programming will genuinely interest Blackfalds youth. Life Literacy was a great concept, but attendance showed a clear pattern—youth often registered but chose other activities instead. And honestly, if it's a choice between learning sessions in the summer or swimming at the Abbey Centre, I can't blame them for picking the Abbey. I'm reviewing trends and feedback to help shape programs that youth are excited to show up for.
After School Program Times	Blackfalds is a unique community where many youths are bused to schools outside of town. To remove barriers and ensure all local youth can participate, most out-of-school programs have been adjusted to start at 5:00 p.m. This timing helps make FCSS's free youth programs fully accessible to every young person in the community, regardless of where they attend school.

Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer March Report

Leaders of Tomorrow Nominations	It's a bit of a tradition that the FCSS Youth Programmer takes on a tough job this time of year—reading through every Youth Volunteer Award nomination. There are so many amazing stories and hardworking young people and helping to choose who best represents volunteerism in our community is never easy, but it's always inspiring.
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Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer March Report



Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer March Report



Client Statistics for FCSS Blackfalds 2026

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
FCSS Referrals												
Sawyer	1	1	0									
FCSS Cara	4	5	1									
Snow Angel Program	3	2	0									
FCSS Jan	8	4	2									
FCSS Annette	3	5	1									
Income Tax Return Inquiries	0	11	13									
Employment Support	1	0	0									
FCSS Event Movie/WW	5	2	0									
FCSS Subsidized Programs	2	2	0									
Back to School	0	0	0									
Winter Wear	0	0	0									
Christmas Bureau	0		0									
Abbey Assistance Program	3	4	1									
Food Bank	2	0	1									
Low Income Inquiries	4	2	1									
Housing	1	1	0									
Fax	17	11	0									
Printing/Photocopying	17	16	19									
Seniors Assistance Programs	6	6	1									
Telephone	0	0	0									
BOLT	0	1	0									
Golden Circle	2	0	4									
General Inquiries	69	87	95									
Number of Clients												

Beyond Food Lunchbox Program emails sent weekly 294 sends with an open rate of 48%

Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter

April - 296 sends with an open rate of 61%

March – 290 sends with an open rate of 70%

Volunteer Newsletter

March –295 sends with an open rate of 59%

April– 294 sends with an open rate of 56%

143 Interagency Newsletter emails sent in November with an open rate of 52%