FCSS 101

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

What does FCSS do?

A Bit About FCSS

➢ FCSS is unique in Canada

➢ 80/20 partnership between municipalities or Métis settlements, and the province

➢ FCSS Act and Regulation
  • sets out the mandate and requirements of FCSS Program
  • describes the responsibilities and requirements of municipalities and Métis settlements, and the province, in providing FCSS locally

➢ communities "design and deliver <u>social programs</u> that are <u>preventive</u> in nature, provided at the <u>earliest opportunity</u> to promote and enhance well being among individuals, families, and communities"

➢ Key principle of <u>local decision-making</u>

- Municipalities and Métis settlements decide how to allocate funding and resources to best meet needs and priorities of community

➢ Key principle of <u>community development</u>

- based on the belief that self help contributes to a sense of integrity, self-worth and independence

- "people helping people" approach to improving quality of life and build capacity of families and communities to prevent and/or deal with crisis situations should they arise

Eligible and Non-Eligible Services

Services and Projects that <u>may</u> be offered:

➢ assist communities to identify their social needs and develop responses to meet those needs, including:

- raising public awareness around community issues

- coordinating responses to identified issues

- developing strategies for community advocacy

- developing comprehensive social community plans and initiatives

- research: surveys, forums, community assets/needs, environmental scans, service reviews, strategic planning, program planning

- in-kind support to community-based groups (until they are able to sustain themselves) such as provision of office space, printing, photocopying, help with preparing proposals, etc.

- ➢ promote, encourage and support volunteer work in the community, including:
  - recruitment, training and placement services
  - resources to support volunteers
  - volunteer recognition
  - coordination of volunteer services

- ➢ inform the public of available services, including:
  - information and referral services
  - community information directories
  - newcomer services
  - interagency coordination

➢ enrich and strengthen family life by developing skills so people can function more effectively within their own environment, including:

- mentoring programs
- parenting and family life education and development programs
- programs for single adults and single parents
- courses designed to enhance self-awareness and personal growth
- individual, family and group counselling services that are educational and not treatment oriented
- youth development and leadership services

- ➢ enhance quality of life of the retired and semi-retired, including:
  - home support services
  - education and information services
  - coordination of seniors services and programs
  - self-help socialization activities

- ➢ promote the social development of children and their families, including:
  - parent-child development activities
  - early childhood development services for children 0-6 (excluding childcare)
  - support services for young children aged 6-12

Services provided under a local FCSS program <u>must not</u>

➢ provide primarily for recreational needs or leisure time pursuits

➢ offer direct assistance, including money, food, clothing or shelter to sustain an individual or family

➢ be primarily rehabilitative in nature

➢ duplicate services that are the responsibility of government or government agency

Expenditures of a local FCSS program shall not include

➢the purchase of land or buildings,

➢the construction or renovation of a building,

➢the purchase of motor vehicles,

➢any costs to sustain an organization that do not relate to an FCSS funded service,

➢municipal property taxes and levies, or

➢any payments to board members, except out of pocket expenses incurred on FCSS business

Local FCSS Program Delivery

Preventive social services are provided in FCSS communities by direct service delivery, or through external grants, or a combination of both.

Direct Service Delivery
- services are provided by FCSS program staff or service providers under contract
- i.e. a youth worker may be an employee; a home support service may be provided through an ongoing contract; a contract may be struck with someone to provide a one-time series of 6 parenting courses

External Grants
- FCSS funds granted to local organizations and groups to deliver services or projects - "FCSS funded agencies"
- can be ongoing grants or one-time projects
- must meet FCSS eligibility guidelines
- grant applications and year end (or at the end of the project) reporting must be in place for accountability to the province

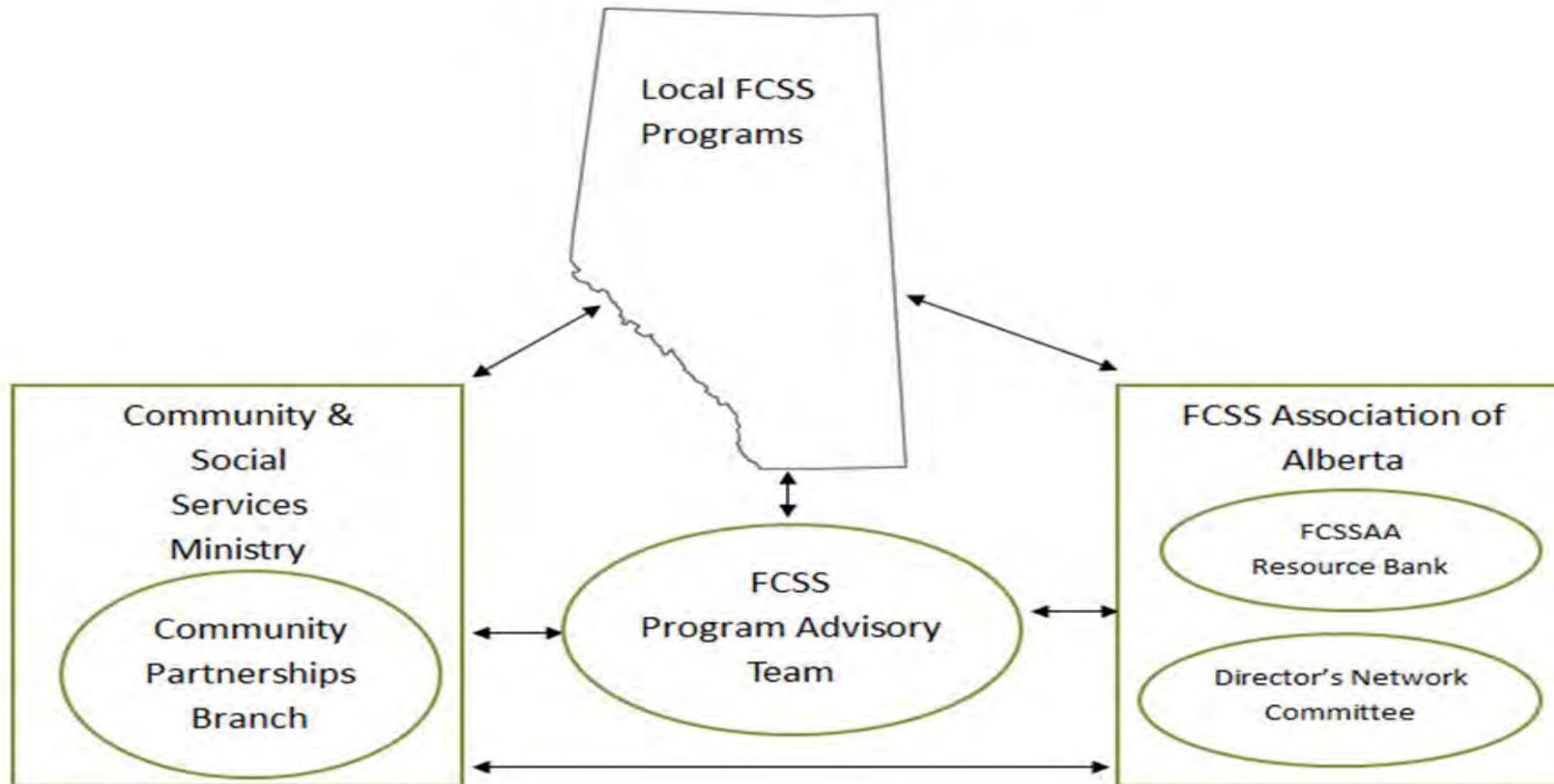|	Community Development Versus	Community Based Services
	Community Development	**Community Based Services**
Basis of Approach	Community Driven to i. Identify needs ii. Build Strengths	Problems driven
Problem definition	Community defines BOTH	Service Providers, government or outside institutions define problem
Vehicle For Creating Change	Building Community control and capacity	Information, education and direct services & program delivery
Primary decision makers	Informal and formal community leaders	Service Providers, government or outside institutions
Role of Professionals	Resource to Community Bring parties together Collect information Facilitate Action Can lead to program/service/advocacy Build Community Partnerships & Relationships	Decision Makers NOT Community Driven

Examples	FCSS examples:
	- Networking and Information sharing
	
	- Research to inform key decision makers and community action.
	
	- Coordination of Community Response to issues such as Housing/domestic violence/Transportation/ Poverty/ Youth Homelessness/Economic Downturn Crisis
		Community Programs and Services delivered either internally or through external funding.
		
		Voluntary Sector Support:
		    Prof. Dev. Education & Training
		    (Conferences; workshops;
		
		Support of Volunteerism:
		    Volunteer Week
		    Volunteer Recognition

Working Together

FCSS Programs In Alberta

➢ 315 municipalities and Métis settlements, organized into 206 local FCSS programs
                    (April 1, 2019)

➢ less than 3,800 Albertans reside in communities without FCSS

➢ 8 FCSS regions in the province

How FCSS Bodies Relate

Local FCSS Programs

Community & Social Services Ministry

Community Partnerships Branch

FCSS Program Advisory Team

FCSS Association of Alberta

FCSSAA Resource Bank

Director's Network Committee

FCSS Program Directors and Boards/Municipal Councils have primary sources of information – Alberta Community & Social Services Ministry (Community Partnerships Branch) and the FCSS Association.

Alberta Community & Social Services – FCSS Team

- ➢ "the Province" or government side of FCSS

- ➢ programming and financial administration

- ➢ where FCSS agreements are signed and funding originates

- ➢ where Annual Year End Reports and financial statements are submitted

- ➢ where Outcomes Reports are submitted

- ➢ Provincial FCSS Director - Karen Wronko

- ➢ Senior Manager - Joyce Mellott

- ➢ FCSS Program & Financial Review Officer - Connor Gaughan

FCSS Association of Alberta

➢ representatives from FCSS regions and the Directors' Network Committee make up the board

➢ strong voice on behalf of FCSS programs, advocating to government and non-government organizations on issues that impact FCSS

➢ works closely with the ministry; solid relationship with other ministries and non-government organizations related to FCSS

➢ annual conference in November

➢ regional meetings occur in the spring

Key FCSSAA Initiatives

- Advocacy on issues that impact FCSS and Alberta residents related to things such as:
  - service delivery
  - funding
  - community issues & priorities
- Poverty Reduction
- Early Childhood Development