

# FCSS Regulation Review 2016 Conversation Guide

## Background

The Family and Community Support Services Act and Regulation provide the mandate and requirements for the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Program. All provincial regulations currently include expiry dates to ensure periodic review for ongoing effectiveness, currency and relevancy.

The last FCSS Regulation review was conducted in fall 2002 and the subsequent amendments came into effect on June 24, 2003 (Alberta Regulation 199/2003). A review of the Regulation was initially started in 2012; however this review was suspended in 2013 and the Regulation expiry date was extended to June 30, 2015. With the change in provincial government in May 2015, a second two-year extension was requested and approved. The current expiry date is June 30, 2017.

Building on the work that was completed in 2012, the 2016 review of the regulation will validate the initial input and recommendations, as well as consider new and current information to support the ability of FCSS programs to build capacity and respond to preventive social service needs and priorities in their respective communities.

## Review Process

During the Spring FCSS Regional Meetings, participants were asked to fill out a **feedback form** with answers to key questions that are **in scope** of this current review. The questions will focus on:

- Flexibility to respond to their respective community needs;
- Capacity building in their programs and community;
- Validate the recommended changes from the 2012 review; and
- Challenges and opportunities facing FCSS programs.

This Review **will not ask** about (out of scope):

- The funding formula;
- The FCSS Act;
- Big City Charters;
- 80/20 partnership; or
- FCSS Services on Reserve.

Those participating in the review will be provided with:

- A copy of the regulation with the recommended changes from the 2012 review;
- Background information about the FCSS program and regulation; and
- The feedback form.

## Options for Providing Feedback

Each region is required to send one **feedback form** that represents the feedback from their region. It was recommended at the Spring Regional Meetings, that the members of the Directors Network Committee take the lead in gathering and submitting their regions feedback. However, FCSS programs can also submit their own feedback, should they wish, to Joyce Mellott at [joyce.mellott@gov.ab.ca](mailto:joyce.mellott@gov.ab.ca).

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It is recommended that regions gather input from all of their respective FCSS program providers. Some suggested options for doing this include:

- Host a general meeting with representatives to go through the feedback form together.
- Send the feedback form out for written feedback and compile the information into one form.
- One on one meetings or conversations with representatives to gather input for the feedback form.
- Encourage FCSS program areas to host their own meetings (send them this conversation guide and feedback form) and compile written feedback into one form.
- Combination of any of the above options.

## Tips for Organizing a Group Discussion

Your role as an organizer is to guide and lead the group as you work through the feedback form. Please ensure that all participants have the materials needed for the review which are listed above and provided in the feedback package.

Here are a few points to think about:

- ✓ Help all people to share their thoughts and ideas
- ✓ Keep conversation on topic and moving forward – refer to what is in and out of scope for the review
- ✓ Listen actively
- ✓ Set and maintain a positive and comfortable discussion
- ✓ Record stories and specific examples
- ✓ If you are not able to come to a consensus on a question, note the varying viewpoints

## Feedback Form

The feedback form contains nine open ended questions. When writing responses please keep the following in mind:

- Use specific examples from your experiences to illustrate your ideas.
- Give rationale for any suggestions or feedback.
- Does your suggested change need to apply to the regulation? Can it be written into policy instead?

## What will be done with your feedback?

After compiling all the feedback from the regions, the FCSS Branch in Human Services, with support from a legal advisor, will recommend the appropriate changes to the Minister. All submissions will be considered for applicability to the regulation or policy. A summary of the changes and rationale will be provided at the end of the process.

## Anticipated Timelines

Engaging with FCSS programs will be completed by July 2016. The FCSS branch will then use the feedback to complete the review and appropriately update the Regulation before it expires in June 2017.