

In the 2024-25 Alberta provincial budget the FCSS funding was maintained at \$105 million provincially. A survey was conducted by the FCSSAA in April/May 2024. The survey was sent out to FCSS programs and 62 responses were received. The survey data was reviewed by the FCSSAA Board on May 24, 2024 and the following summary was created from the data.

**Increasing Demand for FCSS Services:** There's a growing need for FCSS-funded programs and services. FCSS staff are tasked with handling vulnerable populations affected by provincial changes without adequate financial compensation, leading to increased workload and resource strain.

**Financial Strain:** Funding challenges persist. Payroll increases and operational costs strain budgets, often leading to difficult decisions such as reducing programming or seeking additional funding from municipalities or other grant sources.

The significant in-kind contributions made to FCSS programs must be acknowledged in funding assessments, impacting budget considerations.

**Employee Retention and Program Cuts:** Inability to offer competitive wages and escalating operational costs make it challenging to retain staff and maintain program quality and continuity.

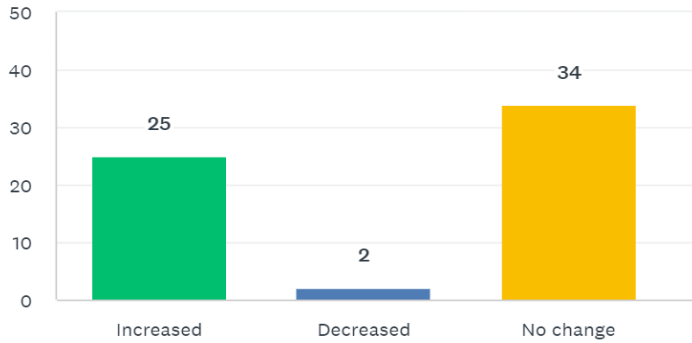
**Challenges of Municipal Funding:** Municipalities struggle to balance budgets and locally many are being asked to contribute more to FCSS programs to maintain services in the community, with limited support from the provincial government.

**Rural Challenges:** Rural FCSS programs face unique challenges due to limited funding and resources, large service areas, and being one of the few support options in the community for residents.

Overall, the provincial FCSS budget freeze is affecting program responses, potentially leading to reductions in services, staff layoffs, and cancelled programs. The survey feedback highlights the need for adequate and sustainable funding to ensure FCSS programs can effectively support preventive programming and address community needs across the province.

## How has the municipal portion of your FCSS budget changed since January 2023?

(answered 61, skipped 1)



## How has your FCSS program responded to the provincial FCSS budget freeze? (check all that apply)

(answered 61, skipped 1)

Services have been (or will be) reduced

Programs have been (or will be) cancelled

Staff have been (or will be) laid off

We are granting less funds to community organizations

Staff have resigned citing wages/benefits are no longer competitive

Staff positions will not be re-hired to when they become vacant

The municipality(ies) are contributing more to make up the difference

We are actively looking for grants to offset costs

There is no change to our programming

Other

