



COUNCIL REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Amanda Ulrickson, Manager, Family and Community Support Services

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REPORT TITLE: Family Resource Network Future Funding

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To mitigate this risk of a potential loss of provincial funding for the Family Resource Network, Administration recommends that Council approve contingency funding for the period of April 1 to December 31, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council directs Administration to include one-time allocation of \$301,529 from the operating reserve in the 2026 budget for the Family Resource Network (FRN), to ensure the continuation of services from April 1 to December 31, 2026, should provincial funding not be renewed beyond March 31, 2026.

COUNCIL HISTORY

In 2019, the City of Leduc was encouraged by the province to apply independently to the newly established FRN program, rather than continuing to receive services through Leduc County. Prior to this transition, Leduc County Parent Link provided services to City of Leduc families under their provincial agreement.

The City submitted an independent application and was awarded a three-year grant agreement, effective March 2020 through March 2023. Following the successful implementation of the program, the city received a two-year funding extension, which currently supports operations through March 31, 2026.

BACKGROUND / RATIONALE

Over the past three years, the FRN has provided workshops and programming to 2180 participants. 143 families have received targeted ongoing direct caseload support either in their homes or in the community; 225 children were positively impacted. The rise in families seeking support, coupled with increased community referrals, demonstrates that families and the community recognize the crucial role FRN plays in enhancing the well-being of children, youth and families. The complex needs of families are also increasing, adding to the level of support that each family requires.

The Family Resource Network (FRN) has operated as a City service since 2020, with all operational costs fully funded by a provincial grant. The City contributes in-kind support such as program management, employee services, and IT, but does not currently provide direct financial support to program operations.

The province has recently communicated that a new Expression of Interest (EOI) process will be required for all agencies currently receiving FRN funding, for funding beyond March 2026. While we have no indication that our

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funding will be discontinued—we have successfully fulfilled all the requirements of our grant agreement—grant funding is never guaranteed.

At present, the FRN program supports three full-time contract employees. If provincial funding is not renewed, the City would face the possibility of laying off employees and losing a critical service that supports local families and children. It is important to note that Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) does not currently have the capacity to absorb the caseload or scope of services provided by the FRN.

To mitigate this risk, Administration recommends that Council approve contingency funding from the operating reserve for the period of April 1 to December 31, 2026. This would:

- Ensure continuity of service through the end of 2026,
- Provide time to explore alternate funding options, and
- Allow Administration to return to Council, if necessary, with a proposed service level adjustment in the next budget cycle.

This proactive measure would help ensure that vulnerable families and children in our community are not left without support during a funding transition. If future grant funding is received, this one-time funding will not be allocated through the budget process.

STRATEGIC / RELEVANT PLANS ALIGNMENT

Strategic Plan 2023-2026

Strategy 1.1.2 Ensure civic facilities, programs and services are accessible

Strategy 1.1.7 Enhance community safety and well-being

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATION:

If the grant agreement is not renewed, three full-time positions will be concluded effective March 31, 2026. As current funding is secured until that date, the province is not obligated to provide a 90-day notice for discontinuation.

RISK ANALYSIS:

The annual grant received is \$402,038 therefore to continue operations from April 1- December 31, 2026 (9 months) would equal \$301,529. If the grant is not received to be funded by the Operating reserve.

IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATIONS:

- If the recommendation is approved: No additional actions are required.
- If not approved: Communication will be necessary with affected staff, residents, and the broader community regarding program impacts and potential service reductions should grant not be received.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not fund the program past March 31, 2026, and if grant is not reapproved, terminate the program and associated services.

ATTACHMENTS:

n/a