

**FCSS – 2009 TRENDS & ISSUES FROM 2010 FCSS FUNDING APPLICATIONS
SECTORS**

Adult Support	Children & Families	Community Development	Seniors	Volunteers	Youth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases number of working poor. • More people living in poverty and becoming homeless • Over the past year, an increase in mental health and addiction resulting in an increased demand for services. There is a lack of relevant programs to refer these clients • Available options for mental health services, both community-based and acute care fall far below the demand. Very ill people have nowhere to go unless they become involved in the penal/corrections system • Increase number of clients who have experienced abuse • Housing and homelessness are challenges for many • When basic needs are not met it is nearly impossible for clients to attend to other issues in their lives • The recruitment and retention of staff remain an ongoing challenge due to the need for specialized skill sets and the lower wages offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increasing diverse demography of newcomers to Edmonton calls for a wider range of services, newer approaches in service delivery and better coordination of programs to bring about positive outcomes for individuals and families • Newly arrived immigrant and refugee families, children and youth, including many from single parent families, face significant social and educational challenges that require intensive support from staff. Finding adequate linguistic and cultural supports to increase our staff sensitivity/knowledge of other cultures continues to be paramount • More immigrant children coming to the programs, because they are moving into the community. This is providing an opportunity to work on learning more about other cultures and support a relationship between the Aboriginal community and immigrant families • Increase of immigrants, especially Afghan, Turkish and Russian living in West Edmonton • More support requested by the Afghani and the Somali communities • Influx of immigrant families from Africa, South America, Asia looking for good quality child care program • Supporting families with many children through transportation help, childcare, supplementing food and other basic resources is an ongoing need in immigrant communities • Access to acceptable, affordable, and quality housing • Cancellation of the rent shortfall funding by the provincial government (HEP fund). This 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the current economic recession in community life limits volunteer time and resource availability for community development work • Funding cuts in the voluntary sector has affected in a way that it has become imperative to streamline strategies created as part of project funded for short periods of time and those that were funded for specific end timelines • Many women come interested in moving towards employment situations that offer a good living and a positive future often they do not advance in their career decision-making. Creating change is difficult particularly for women who face multiple personal issues and barriers • Women attending information sessions report their desire for women specific training to prepare for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased aging population leading to increased instances of isolated seniors in the community • Providing food service important for reducing isolation • The number of seniors facing the issues of poverty, hunger and homelessness is increasing at a rapid rate • Increase financial abuse • Visibility of care-giving issue is growing • Ambivalence of public responsibility leaves caregivers (and their loved ones) vulnerable • Employment-related issues (work-care-giving-life balance, paid caregiver leave, etc.) are growing concerns of the so-called "sandwich-generation" • The added burden of a wounded economy and the resulting dim prospects for flexible employment and public financial assistance leaves many caregivers in a state of extreme vulnerability • Information and service coordination (as a preventative measure against caregiver isolation and burnout) is perhaps the key facilitator of well-being for caregivers • The growing percentage of 'sandwich generation' caregivers have difficulty accessing services, such as support groups or workshops, which are only available during regular work hours • Lack of adequate space due to growing membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the closure of the Volunteer Centre, it is becoming increasingly difficult to match volunteers with the opportunities available • Recruitment and retention of volunteers including Board members especially those with experience • The older adult volunteer population is increasing due to the baby boom generation retiring and looking for meaningful opportunities • Volunteers are committing to their opportunities for shorter periods of time • Long term engagement of volunteers increasingly difficult • Increase number of volunteers from different cultures • Many retired volunteers are professionals who have often had highly regarded jobs • The number of employee groups volunteering together continues to increase • A change in the types and numbers of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased request for parent-teen mediation services • When there is violence between the parents youth are exposed to unhealthy family relationships and support in the community is inadequate • Increase in youth violence • Lack of programming for youth in NE Edmonton • Requests for youth support have increased substantially in the last year • Youth are underserved in the community of Mill Woods • Lack of financial resources • Homelessness and poverty go hand in hand with addictions as it seems much easier for the youth to cope when they can create an artificial euphoria with drugs and alcohol. • The cycle of depression and

<p>in the sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase numbers on live-in caregiver • Clients with greater needs • High stress neighborhoods require facilities that can become gathering places and safe havens • Transience is becoming more of an issue • Difficulty in securing free or affordable space to offer the free educational workshops and other sessions • Salary and rent increases continue to increase • Crisis Chat is demanded but needs sustainable funding • Involvement of child welfare • Food security and limited basic needs • Increasing demand to keep up with technological advancement • Increasing and continual need to do more with less human, material and financial resources • There is a greater need expressed for 'brief' counseling sessions, whereby the client receives no more than three sessions • Increase in the number of people affected by gangs 	<p>has become a large barrier for homeless persons being able to gain sufficient financial resources to obtain permanent housing. It also affects all newly housed persons who were recently homeless to maintain their housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility continues to be a major obstacle for families. Making transportation affordable • Stress is tearing families apart • Increasing demand for children's therapy • Long-term counseling for children/parents is key to parent learning to cope with children's behaviors • Increased interest in parenting issues • Lack of quality child care • Nee for resources such as housing, food bank, transportation, respite care and services for children with disabilities • Children with behavioral problems or special needs are more difficult to get support • In spite of the provincial government's wage enhancement program it is difficult to find a highly trained Level 3 staff to deal with emerging needs working with aboriginal and immigrant families • A trend to the development of site-based mentoring groups (children) • Staff turnover • Transportation of volunteers to schools, or to the families' homes as well as transportation for youth to participate in group or agency events has been identified as a frequent barrier • Increase request for translations services • An overflow of students who would like to be registered in the playschool, who cannot be accommodated • A number of high profile murders have created fear of violence among residents • The Aboriginal population has grown, and is more stable in the community • More people on assistance due to economic downturn 	<p>non-traditional occupational roles. They report being intimidated by having to learn in a potentially critical male environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in attending board meetings. The board members are community volunteers and committed founders of the organization, these individuals must divide their time to the board meetings with multiple jobs, childcare needs, limited transportation and many needs from the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation for low income seniors • Ongoing transportation problems and/or shortage of affordable parking are compounded by reduced walk ability / perilous pedestrian routes in the winter • South East Edmonton currently has the largest population of seniors in Edmonton. The problem of lack of transportation continues to be a challenge. There is some transportation assistance for low income seniors and companies that provide expensive assistance but most of the seniors in the area are from middle income, and fall in-between these services • Increased cost of operations (labour, repair of equipment, food, utilities) • Edmonton employment market is easing. More people are available for work and the expected wages are reasonable • Outreach workers are providing service to a growing number of immigrants/new Canadians who require advocacy and/or assistance with official paperwork • Outreach is also receiving more referrals via the Internet/e-mail, from individuals in other cities or countries who are contacting senior's service providers to request assistance for family members in Edmonton. Other similar requests are from individuals living in Edmonton, calling on behalf of aging relatives who are moving here from out-of-province • Some of the immigrant seniors (Kurdish, Spanish speaking, Korean, Former Yugoslavian and Eritrean) are now in need of finding culturally relevant and responsive options for care and accommodation as health 	<p>volunteers, as well as the shortened time commitment that many volunteers are able to provide to the programs. Volunteers tend to be younger, and seem to prefer to volunteer in groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer drivers are decreasing due to age • Although, predictably, we still regularly lose volunteers to age-related limitations, newcomers in residential proximity are stepping forward to replace them, often through word-of-mouth referrals • Families claim they are too busy to volunteer • Changing volunteer demographics: increasing use of challenged individuals for labour intensive tasks • Community volunteers are aging. Some mainline Church volunteers, who have been coming to the agency for over thirty years, have to limit their involvement due to their age; they may still contribute financially • Need for skilled volunteers • 	<p>addictions continues without support and intervention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are very few appropriate housing options for youth and continual barriers to safe housing. Landlords are very selective with regards to tenants and rents are still too high for someone with a minimum wage job • The job market has declined drastically and many youth have minimal skills with which to obtain employment. Without access to basic shelter and hygiene facilities, getting a job is difficult if not impossible. • Many youth suffer from depression and feelings of hopelessness as they are finding it more and more difficult to access services • The number of pregnancies in girls 15 – 20 is increasing. This trend is very concerning as the pregnancies seem to be planned. Most of these young women are not equipped mentally emotionally, or physically to take care of themselves and/or a child.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving younger and more new Canadians. • Increase demand for immigration and settlement services by all newcomers, but particularly so from Temporary Foreign Workers • Temporary Foreign Workers, individuals and families have limited or no income means; they depend upon free community programs • As the City of Edmonton continues to provide Emerging Immigrant and Refugee Community grants to newcomer communities and organizations, there is a need to respond to request from community groups to collaborate with them to establish programs and services • Economy is a major issue for clients from multicultural communities • Participants experience language barriers • Cultural belief systems • Safe and affordable housing has been a leading issue especially for many of immigrant/refugee clients, including single individuals, families and seniors • Growing demand for English as a second 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing complexity of client needs • There is a movement across Canada and around the world to increase the number of Early Childhood opportunities for all children and to improve the quality of existing programs. In Edmonton, this sector is very scattered in its approach, parents are unsure of their options or how to access services appropriate to support their families needs • With the downturn in the economy, cuts in government budgets and a reduction in donations agencies are experiencing higher demand for services and less money financially • The economic downturn has stressed families in terms of healthy family relationships as well as accessing enough food and covering rising utility costs • Families continue to struggle with issues of parenting in two cultures and offering their children opportunities to develop in preparation for school • Due to tough economic times and parents loosing their jobs some parents withdrew from the program • Increase demand for parenting courses. A few of these parents are mandated to take parenting courses. As a result attendance to the workshops has increased significantly • Request for office space by other groups • Need for a literacy friendly environment • Not enough services specifically for children who are victims of violence • New staff has minimal family violence experience • Family and community violence is on the increase • Support for those living on the streets is also in high demand • Over the past few years the children at Centre are much more stressed and anxious at an early age due to the stress the family unity is enduring 		<p>deteriorates and their capacities reduce over time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness regarding senior abuse in immigrant communities • During the economic boom, many temporary foreign workers from former Yugoslavia and Mexico arrived In Edmonton brought their parents to help with babysitting. These seniors do not have health insurance and have limited access to health services because of their unique immigration status. This population of immigrant seniors that the formal system is not aware or was not prepared to serve • Increased isolation of immigrant seniors in the community • Increasing numbers of referrals from the 211 • Overall, participation in regularly scheduled programming has dropped, while attendance at social events/ activities has noticeably increased • Insufficient supply of adapted and affordable housing for seniors • Lower-income seniors already afflicted by rising costs of living are hard to find accommodation. • An increasing number of seniors from other communities are approaching the team for support as well as accessing other programs such as Safe House for abused seniors • There are more than 25,000 seniors living in the west end of Edmonton. Seniors are living in their homes longer • Increased opportunity for collaboration with the addition of Edmonton Seniors Coordinating council • Increased number of seniors presenting with disabilities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some youths are also violent or in abusive relationships and do not have the skills to get themselves out. • Staff retention due to low salaries. • There has been increasing media coverage of dating violence. • Competitive wages and salaries are needed to attract and retain qualified staff • Staff requires more training to deal with the increasing range and complexity of issues facing new immigrant families • Challenges associated with maintaining board and volunteer involvement and encouraging participation • Inability to achieve a quorum for most general meeting lead to difficulty in filling board positions • Many funding grants have a one year term and so a great deal of time is spent writing funding proposals to secure funding for programs that take more than a year to complete or to see results eg crime reduction, etc.
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<p>language at a more advanced level than is now available, resulting from the increasing level of education and professional competence of newcomers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The increasing diversity of our community, especially due to immigration, posed huge challenges for effectively integration newcomers. This is a whole-community issue. The challenges of supporting newcomers is increasing, and exacerbated by a complex set of factors which involved government policy, public awareness, and the shortage of appropriate services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment and job security for families has become very difficult. This adds to the family stressors and the centre is seeing many more development delays in the children Staff retention and recruitment Lack of Infant Child Care Financial support system policy changes have affected the level of financial responsibility placed on the teen parent Increased response from the community to be involved in a variety of initiatives Decrease in funding within various levels of government has affected the delivery of programs. In some cases programs ceased to operate while we searched for funding High demand for services has placed stressors on programs capacity, quality of service, and the safety of participants, volunteers and staff Services that provided referrals and access to emergent and basic needs such as housing and food, adult drop in services, and employment services were particularly hard hit by this demand on services. At time through the fall and winter, near three hundred individual participants were counted being supervised by four front line staff. The atmosphere was menacing, violent episodes were more frequent and brutal. Some participants were involved in the housing crisis in 2007 where a tent town sprang up in the inner city Lack of resources to cover escalating audit costs Increased training and support required by staff so they can better support families Need for more space and appropriate program facilities in order to cope with program expansion and increased staffing Higher needs families requiring a greater number of home visits due to the greater challenges and stressors they are facing The agency has seen a dramatic shift in the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer support continues to be well utilized Agencies and government offices are utilizing senior's centres as hubs to disseminate relevant information and services More seniors a visiting the centre with chronic conditions Seniors feel unsafe in their community Seniors feeling economic pressure due to increases in daily cost of living Opportunities for collaboration can be very time consuming A significant gap which affects immigrants, seniors and those with mental health and dual diagnosis issues is the lack of services which can deal in depth and at length with individuals whose issues are pervasive. The availability of advocacy services is usually limited to basic problem solving rather than dealing with the complex cultural issues and impacts Organizations are starting to feel the effects of our country's economic downturn. This means lower fundraising revenues, a drop in investment values and an increase in demand for services High turnover in staff More outreach hours for elders in care, or lonely elders needing home visits Lack of financial resources to increase staff Seniors served have more individual needs including health issues and lack of mobility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of space Increase of interest by youth on the issue of domestic youth and gang violence Lack of funding. High staff/ volunteer turnover. More demand for services to Aboriginal youth.
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	<p>clientele dropping in for support. Many of them are facing addiction and mental health issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of experienced Aboriginal staff• Increased demand for programming for ELL/new immigrant families, and the need to find culturally relevant ways to engage Aboriginal and Métis families• Scheduling groups to suit the needs of the parents has been a challenge because parents busy schedules• Rent increases				
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