



## **Council Policy #C57**

### **Primary Care Support Grant**

**Approved by Council Resolution #25/03/16**

#### **1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework for attracting and retaining Primary Care Practitioners in the City of Beaumont.

#### **2. POLICY STATEMENT:**

- 2.1. The City of Beaumont is committed to ensuring that the current and future health needs of the growing community are addressed. By providing encouragement for practitioners to provide services in the community, Beaumont City Council aims to improve healthcare access over the long-term.
- 2.2. The objective of the Primary Care Support Grant is to address the lack of availability and capacity of primary care health care providers practicing within the City to address non-urgent concerns in a timely manner.

#### **3. DEFINITIONS:**

- 3.1. The following definitions and interpretations apply in this policy:
  - "City" means the City of Beaumont;
  - "Full-Time" means a minimum of 37.5 hours per week;
  - "Full-Time Equivalent" means a combination of multiple Primary Care Practitioner positions totaling a minimum of 37.5 hours per week;
  - "General Practitioner" means a medical doctor holding the M.D. designation and has an active practice permit and is in good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta;
  - "Grant" means the Primary Care Support Grant
  - "Health Services" means primary and urgent care health services, identified by the City of Beaumont through the Community Health Needs Assessment to be a gap in community services;
  - "Nurse Practitioner" means a nurse who is registered with the College of Registered Nurses of Alberta in the category of nurse practitioner; and
  - "Primary Care Practitioner" means:
    - a General Practitioner;
    - a Nurse Practitioner; or
    - a student Primary Care Physician or student Nurse Practitioner graduating within one (1) year of the application date, with a qualified supervisor in place, and is registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta or the College of Registered Nurses of Alberta.

#### **4. PROCESS:**

##### **4.1. Funding Availability**

- 4.1.1. Council shall identify amounts to be allocated for the Grant as part of the budgeting process.
- 4.1.2. Approval of a Grant in one year is not an automatic ongoing source of annual funding. Funding is subject to available funds and as approved by Council.
- 4.1.3. Eligibility does not guarantee funding, and whether to provide a Grant is a purely discretionary decision on the part of the City. The City may refuse to issue a Grant for any reason. Further, Grants are subject to funding approval, and Grants may no longer be issued if funding is no longer available or if there is a question of whether there is sufficient funding remaining in the program. There is no appeal from any decision on whether to provide a Grant.
- 4.1.4. The City may identify funding priorities or areas of focus and adjust selection criteria and funding allocations as community needs evolve.

##### **4.2. Terms and Conditions**

- 4.2.1. The Grant shall enhance current and new medical practices for identified gaps in care (after-hours care, walk-in capacity, semi-urgent care, available Primary Care Practitioners).
- 4.2.2. The Grant is funded wholly by the City of Beaumont.
- 4.2.3. The Grant shall expire at the end of 2028.
- 4.2.4. Applications for the Grant are reviewed by City Administration and the Chief Administrative Officer or designate is authorized to award Grants in accordance with this policy.
- 4.2.5. The Chief Administrative Officer may grant one or more reprieves, through supplemental agreement, of the requirement to provide Health Services for a leave of absence of the Primary Care Practitioner of not more than 18 months.
- 4.2.6. An award of the Grant shall be subject to the applicant entering into an agreement with the City. Such agreement shall, at minimum, include provisions that:
  - require the applicant to offer the Full-Time Health Services for a period of two years in the City;
  - require proof of practice after one year of beginning practice in the City through a letter confirming office location, hours, and Grant compliance;
  - require repayment of the entirety of the Grant if any services are discontinued within one year;
  - require repayment of a prorated portion of the Grant if any services are discontinued after the first year;
  - require the applicant to be eligible to practice in the Province of Alberta and provide proof of registration prior to entering into an agreement with the City;
  - require the applicant to notify the City if they are unable to become eligible or if they become ineligible to practice medicine in the Province of Alberta prior to expiry of the agreement.
- 4.2.7. For individual applicants:
  - To be eligible for the Grant, an individual must:
    - be a Primary Care Practitioner eligible to practice in Alberta; and
    - apply for the Grant within 30 days of starting to practice in Beaumont.
  - An individual is not eligible to apply if they:

- have been a prior recipient of the City's Primary Care Support Grant; or
    - are part of an organization that has received a Grant in respect of that individual under the City's Primary Care Support Grant.
  - A successful applicant, applying as an individual, shall receive \$25,000 in full at the beginning of the agreement's term.
- 4.2.8. For organizational applicants:
- To be eligible for the Grant, an organization may either:
    - currently be providing Health Services in the City, or
    - commit to providing Health Services in the City within one year of the application date.
  - An organization is not eligible to apply if they:
    - have been a prior recipient of the City's Primary Care Support Grant.
  - A successful applicant, applying as an organization, will receive \$25,000 in full at the beginning of the agreement's term for every additional Full-Time or Full-Time Equivalent Primary Care Practitioner, provided those Full-Time Primary Care Practitioners have not already received Grants as individuals under the City's Primary Care Support Grant.

## **5. SCOPE/APPLICATION:**

- 5.1. This policy applies to Primary Care Practitioners and organizations who intend to provide new or additional Full-Time or Full-Time Equivalent Health Services.
- 5.2. All projects must be within the Beaumont municipal boundary and offer additional or increased Health Services to the community.

## **6. AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY TO IMPLEMENT:**

- 6.1. Beaumont City Council is responsible for:
  - Approving this policy and any amendments thereto and allocating funding through the annual budget process for successful implementation of this policy.
- 6.2. Applicants are responsible for:
  - Accurately completing the application form, submitting by the deadline, providing any supplementary information as required, and completing reporting requirements.
  - Being aware of and securing any additional or related approvals or registrations from the City of Beaumont, Alberta Health Services, or any regulatory body, as required to successfully carry out the initiative described in the Grant application.
  - Consulting with a fiscal advisor regarding income tax implications of accepting a Grant.
- 6.3. The Chief Administrative Officer or a designate is authorized to decide Grant applications and enter into an agreement with a successful applicant and may add additional provisions to an agreement or supplemental agreement, at their sole discretion.

## **Policy Record**

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**Adopted by Council:** March 25, 2025

**Council Resolution:** #25/03/16

**Cross Reference:** Community Health Needs Assessment; Health Services Action Plan

**Administrative Responsibility:** Director, Economic Development

**Next Review Date:** 2028