

Grant program encourages new and expanded health services

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Beaumont, AB – A new incentive program aims to fill health care service gaps in the community by attracting primary care practitioners to Beaumont and encouraging existing services to expand.

"Beaumont residents' health needs are generally well-served but there are pressure points when it comes to after-hours, walk-in, and semi-urgent care, and primary care practitioners with capacity for new patients," said Mayor Bill Daneluik. "Council is taking action with a grant program to address those areas and help meet the needs of residents now and as our community grows."

The Primary Care Support Grant program will provide individual grants of up to \$25,000 to qualified primary health professionals and organizations, including:

- General practitioners
- Nurse practitioners; and
- Registered student primary care physicians or nurse practitioners graduating within one year of application

Grant recipients must commit to offer full-time services within Beaumont for at least two years. A total of \$150,000 in grants will be available over three years on a first-come first-served basis. Primary care practitioners can apply for the grant through the <u>City of Beaumont's</u> website.

Addressing health care challenges and advocating for solutions

The grant program implements a recommendation from a <u>community health needs assessment</u> the City of Beaumont completed in 2024 following extensive consultation with health care providers, residents, and Alberta Health Services. Other actions arising from the assessment include the development of an <u>online health and social services directory</u> and <u>advocacy</u> with the Alberta government.

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Media contact:

Mike Berezowsky
Director, Communications and Service Experience
780-243-0458
mike.berezowsky@beaumont.ab.ca