



# COUNCIL POLICY

## Fair Access Policy

Policy Title	Fair Access Policy		
Policy Number	220	Approved Date	2026/04/27
Department	Community Connections	Last Amended	
Mayor Signature	"J. Clayton" (signed)	Last Reviewed	
		Signature Date	2026/05/01

### 1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. The City of Grande Prairie (City) is committed to ensuring that all Residents regardless of income have equitable and affordable access to recreation, public transit and other City-supported affordability programs through the Fair Access Program.

### 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Council policy (policy) is to:

- 2.1. Reduce financial barriers and ensure equitable access to select municipal services that promote recreation, mobility and Social Well-Being for Low-Income Residents.
- 2.2. Improve clarity, consistency and equitable access to the City's Fair Access Programs in the areas of Recreation and Events, Community Development, and Transit.

### 3. Definitions

In this policy:

- 3.1. **"Administration"** means officers, directors, supervisors or any other employee of the City.
- 3.2. **"Fair Access Programs"** means City-administered initiatives that reduce or eliminate financial barriers to accessing select municipal services by providing eligible Residents with subsidies, discounts, or other forms of financial assistance.
- 3.3. **"City"** means the municipal corporation of The City of Grande Prairie, having authority under the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000 C. M-26 and other applicable legislation. Where context requires, City also means the area included within the municipal boundaries of the City.
- 3.4. **"Low-Income"** means individuals or households with annual income at or below the Low-Income threshold established by Council through [Bylaw C-1395 Fees, Rates and Charges](#), based on Statistics Canada's Low-Income Cut-Offs (LICO) or another Council-approved benchmark.



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- 3.5. **“Resident”** means a person who makes their primary home within the municipal boundaries of the City of Grande Prairie.
- 3.6. **“Social Well-Being”** means the conditions that allow individuals and families to meet their basic needs, achieve a good quality of life, and participate fully in community life.
- 3.7. **“Subsidy”** means a financial reduction in fees or charges for eligible municipal services, as approved by Council, to reduce the burden of cost for eligible Low-Income Residents.

### 4. General Principles

- 4.1. The City will provide application opportunities for Fair Access Programs that:
  - 4.1.1. Are promoted to the public through accessible and inclusive communication methods.
  - 4.1.2. Are accessible, with simple and transparent application processes.
  - 4.1.3. Prioritize community members most in need of Fair Access Programs.
  - 4.1.4. Uphold privacy, dignity, and respect in the application and approval process.
  - 4.1.5. Reflect Council's commitment to Residents' quality of life through equity, inclusion and community well-being.

### 5. Related Information

- 5.1. **Bylaw C-1395 Fees, Rates and Charges**
  - 5.1.1. Method of payment for Fees, Rates and Charges to be at the discretion of the City of Grande Prairie.
  - 5.1.2. Reviewed annually by City Council for amendments with an effective date of January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### 6. Responsibilities

- 6.1. City Council will:
  - 6.1.1. approve the Subsidy rate(s) in conjunction with [Bylaw C-1395 Fees, Rates and Charges](#);
  - 6.1.2. approve the eligibility threshold(s) in conjunction with [Bylaw C-1395 Fees, Rates and Charges](#); and
  - 6.1.3. approve the selection of municipal services included in the program; specifically, those services that provide individual benefit and improve Residents' quality of life.



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### 6.2. City Administration will:

- 6.2.1. continue Fair Access Programs for select municipal services based on the Fair Access Policy;
- 6.2.2. implement Fair Access Programs based on established procedures; and
- 6.2.3. make recommendations to Council on the Subsidy program eligibility criteria, application processes, Subsidy levels and other program details as required.

6.3. City Manager will review and approve any procedures related to this policy.

6.4. City Administration will carry out this policy based on established procedures.

6.5. Applicants must give factual, up-to-date and sufficient information to qualify for the City's Fair Access Programs.

## 7. Legislative Authority & Other Reference

- 7.1. *Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26*
- 7.2. [Bylaw C-1395](#) Fees, Rates and Charges

## 8. Version History

Action	Date	Description
New Policy	2026/04/27	