

Performance Results for 2020-21 COMMUNITY FUTURES CROWSNEST PASS

Community Futures (CF) is a program that supports community economic development and builds the capacity of communities to realize their full sustainable potential. The purpose of the CF Program is to help communities develop and implement *local solutions to local problems*.

Community Futures Performance Results	2020-21
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	78
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	2
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	0
4. Total number of business advisory services	225
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$1,041,000
6. Total number of loans	25
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	82
Provide additional information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...)	
<p>The past year has been met with an unprecedented set of challenges as a result of the Covid crisis. We were able to assist our clients by waiving interest payments and deferring principal payments for four months while we all struggled with the new reality. Community Futures was fortunate enough to receive and offer Regional Relief and Recovery Funding to those clients who were not able to access other government business support (CEBA).</p> <p>With Covid support we were able to fund a part time position to reach out to individual businesses in the community to inquire how they were managing and if there were any additional supports that could be provided to them immediately or foreseen in the next 1-5 years. The feedback was invaluable for planning purposes and the personal contact appreciated.</p> <p>While we were not able to provide onsite training during the year, we partnered with other Southern Alberta CFs to provide workshops through the Business Retention & Recovery Project (funded by Rural Opportunities Fund). This was very effective and as it was done online, the reach was further and the ability to offer a wide variety of courses much more effective than doing it locally.</p> <p>The Covid event provided us an opportunity to partner with local Heritage Attractions on a post-covid redevelopment plan to streamline management of operations, eliminate duplication of services and build capacity of the Board to ensure long-term sustainability of the sites.</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

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Staff participated in Lending Training and Cyber-Security workshops during the year. Cybersecurity and Privacy Policies are being updated and/or developed. Cybersecurity (draft), Bylaws, Lending Policy and Conflict of Interest Policies have all been updated and signed off by the Board of Directors.

Our Board chair accepted the position as Chair of the Community Futures Network of Alberta. His guidance is exceptional and well respected by the Community Futures teams.