

Performance Results for 2020-21 Community Futures Highwood

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)	32
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	416
4. Total number of business advisory services	654
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$4,212,624
6. Total number of loans	128
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	230
Provide additional information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...)	
<p>CFH took the lead on two large projects, applying for and receiving funding through the Rural Opportunities Fund.</p> <p>The Succession Matching project was created to raise awareness, educate and eventually assist business owners in the sale of their business and was put in place to address the increasing issue of business closures in the rural areas. We received approval for this project in the past fiscal year and were able to start the project with a slight delay due to COVID in the summer of 2020. We are partnering with 7 other CF offices, as well as 3 external vendors who are focused on family transitions, commercial sales and provide a business buy/sell platform respectively. The project has been delivered entirely online (as opposed to the originally intended in-person delivery model) and will be ending March 31, 2022.</p> <p>In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, CFH put together a \$120,000 grant proposal for the Building Business Resiliency project, to address the issues caused by mandated business closures and the changed economic environment as well as the much-increased demands and stress on the affected business owners. We partnered with 2 other CF offices (AB SW and Crowsnest Pass). The project provided group workshops on topics such as changed HR regulations, e-commerce, etc., group coaching sessions and 1-on-1 coaching sessions and was very well received. It ended March 31, 2021 and once again was delivered entirely online.</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

Performance Results for 2013-14 Insert Name of CF Here

We also started the SMARTstart program in Okotoks. We had 4 people enroll in it for this first round, with one participant stepping back from the program and continuing to complete the online learning components. The remaining participants are engaged in online workshops and active mentoring by local experienced business owners.