

Performance Results for 2023-24 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 | 2023-24 |
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| <i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i> | |
| 1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going) | 14 |
| 2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated | 3 |
| <i>Rural access to business development services</i> | |
| 3. Total number of business training session participants | 423 |
| 4. Total number of business advisory services | 598 |
| <i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i> | |
| 5. Dollar value of loans | \$986,000 |
| 6. Total number of loans | 12 |
| 7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹ | 25 |
| <p>During the past year much time was spent administering the RRRF program which resulted in a very low write-off percentage of 7%. In total we had 81% of loans pay out, have 12% repaying and a 7% write off rate. The new board structure is working out beautifully, with fewer but very engaged board members.</p> <p>We were honoured to receive 3 awards at the annual CF symposium: The 'Ev Arlidge Unsung Hero' Award for our Office Manager, Tara Cole-Klippenstein, the 'EDP Changing Lives' Award for most EDP clients served during the past fiscal year, and finally the 'Adapt and Overcome' Award for changing the governance structure for our CF.</p> <p>In addition, we worked on several projects in collaboration with other stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small Business Month events with the Okotoks & District Chamber of Commerce - Participation in the LaunchPad project (an online learning development project lead by CF Central AB) - We continued work on an Exit Planner project - Ran the Skills in Action project lead by CFDC Restigouche - Continued collaboration with Travel AB and participated on the Foothills TDZ Steering Committee - We continued with the delivery of the DSS program and have serviced 163 clients since the inception of the program - The EDP program continues to enjoy a very health uptake in our office with 25 clients served in the past fiscal year. - We are continuing to offer the CGI loan program, a female identifying entrepreneur loan program with special advantageous loan term | |

¹ Estimated at the time of lending