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| **Community Futures Performance Results** | **2023-24** |
| ***Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation*** |
| 1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going) | **23** |
| 2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated | **3** |
| ***Rural access to business development services*** |  |
| 3. Total number of business training session participants  | **553** |
| 4. Total number of business advisory services  | **440** |
| ***Rural access to capital and leveraged capital*** |  |
| 5. Dollar value of loans | **$617,100** |
| 6. Total number of loans  | **11** |
| 7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending[[1]](#footnote-1) | **45** |
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| The 2023-2024 year saw continued recovery in the economy and the economic trends in the Lakeland were towards retail and service industries. We expect that the region will continue to grow with construction on 4 Wing Cold Lake Base. There is further excitement towards the economic capitalization with the carbon capture project being planned for our area. We continue to promote CF Lakeland in our area and build awareness of our services. This year we continued to offer the SMARTstart program, an 8 month entrepreneur program that provides the three main elements being online business training through GoForth, in person workshops, and mentorship. This program continued to grow in its second year with an increase of 50% participation. The workshops continued to focus on dealing with every aspect of running a business from accounting, marketing, bookkeeping, business planning, insurance, etc. The program was sponsored and supported by the municipalities in the area, ECARIN, several local businesses and over 11 participating entrepreneurs along with their local business mentors. We are excited to offer this program for the third session this fall. Some of the other projects that we worked on this year was Economic development strategy planning through the Regional Economic Information Partnership (REIP), Chamber of Commerce events including Business of the Year Awards and Feast at the Beach. We also were able to offer the Beautification Loan Program with the partnership of the Town of Bonnyville and we are excited to continue to offer this program. We also continue to participate in the Cold Lake Economic Development Activity Committee (EDAC), Open Farm Days, Connect For Food, and many training workshops. We have worked hard to be a good partner and have established excellent relationships locally through our business community, Chambers of Commerce, Municipalities, as well as regionally through our NE Alberta Community Futures, GOA provincial partners, Portage College, Alberta HUB, East Central Regional Innovation Network (ECARIN) and Indigenous partnerships. We look forward to a new year of providing business services and economic development in the Lakeland area. |

1. Estimated at the time of lending [↑](#footnote-ref-1)