

Performance Results for 2024-25 Community Futures Lakeland

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		2024-25
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>		
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)		17
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated		1
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>		
3. Total number of business training session participants		227
4. Total number of business advisory services		299
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>		
5. Dollar value of loans		\$739,022
6. Total number of loans		15
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹		21
Provide additional Information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc.)		
<p>Our office continues to have a presence in the Lakeland as we work hard at building awareness of our services offered in the area. We continued with offering the SMARTstart program this past year and look forward to the next offering of the program this year. This is an excellent program which an excellent, 8 month entrepreneur training program that provides three main elements of online training, in-person workshops, and mentorship. The program will run again in fall of 2025. The program is well supported by the local municipalities and ECARIN.</p> <p>Some of the other projects that we worked on in this year included: Economic development strategy planning through the Regional Economic Information Partnership (REIP), Chamber of Commerce events including - EARN, Business of the Year Awards, Christmas Craft Show, Feast at The Beach, Municipality Partnerships through – the Beautification Loan Program, SMARTstart, Lemonade Day, Rural Renewal Stream, Cold Lake Economic Development Activity Committee (EDAC), Open Farm Days, Procurement Training, Connect For Food, Power Up North and many training workshops. We partner and collaborate with everyone who is willing to build business capacity in the Lakeland. 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.</p> <p>We look forward to a new year of providing business services and economic development in the Lakeland.</p>		

¹ Estimated at the time of lending