

Performance Results for 2020-21 Insert Name of CF Here

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*.

<b>Community Futures Performance Results</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b><i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i></b>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	<b>12</b>
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Rural access to business development services</i></b>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	<b>56</b>
4. Total number of business advisory services	<b>485</b>
<b><i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i></b>	
5. Dollar value of loans	<b>2,333,250</b>
6. Total number of loans	<b>75</b>
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending <sup>1</sup>	<b>182</b>
Provide additional information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...)	
<p>Community Futures Lesser Slave Lake Region (CFLSLR), as with all offices across AB, has had an interesting year chock full of new opportunities and challenges. With Covid-19 and the restrictions in place a slew of new hurdles emerged preventing us from running our regular programming. That being said, the responsiveness of the Federal Government in providing our organization with the operational funding and new investment funds enabled us to help our regions businesses beyond what we normally could. In addition to helping businesses through the RRRF program, it also enabled us to create more awareness of our regular services throughout our region to markets that would not normally know who we were.</p> <p>Considering the challenges CFLSLR has faced this year, our operations have come out the better for it. When our office was advised to close and work from home, we found ways we could work more efficiently and be more effective. When our in-person services were suspended, we utilized virtual platforms, which now give our clients and potential clients more accessibility to our services. When our traditional business visits couldn't happen, we utilized funds to do more engagement online, which opened us up to new audiences we had not yet met. Out of necessity, we found easier ways to communicate with our board, and better decision-making processes that are far more efficient. All of these, great discoveries for our organization and the communities we serve.</p> <p>This last year we saw a definite decline in our regular loan applications/inquiries. We feel this is due to the restrictions and uncertainty during this last year. We have had many inquiries about support for existing business</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Estimated at the time of lending

Performance Results for 2013-14 Insert Name of CF Here

though not many looking for expansion loans. With the launch of the RRRF, we were able to fulfill loans in a different capacity. Though we are disappointed we couldn't see any loans go out to grow our economy, we are glad that we were given a tool (RRRF) to serve our businesses during this time. Our office completed 69 RRRF loans for a total of \$2,175,750.00's out into our region. The RRRF program also enabled CFLSLR to connect with a host of businesses who we have never served before. We hope to use these new connections to as a means to further support our business community.

Not every cloud has a silver lining. With the inability to gather, the majority of our community programming has been either cancelled or postponed. This is not without trying. We hosted a quite few events and seminars online (Customer Service Training, Business Planning, Business Resiliency, and Business Development courses), the turnout was limited though interest was high. A post event review found that the majority of our audiences were not interested in virtual events or had attended too many (virtual burnout). Our office continues to plan events and is looking into how to create better options for learning.

Our board has made some minor changes to our expense policy and internal document management, which has enabled us to operate more efficiently. We have also recognized the importance of having a strong human resources team and so have contracted an HR company to assist our organization in the hiring and development in strong HR policy and employee procedures.

We look forward to a new year and hope to continue to add value to the communities we serve.

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