

Performance Results for 2024-25 Community Futures Peace Country

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)		13
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		402
4. Total number of business advisory services		267
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>		
5. Dollar value of loans		776,550
6. Total number of loans		20
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹		56
Provide additional Information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc.)		
<p>We had a successful year with 20 loan approvals worth almost \$800,000, 56 jobs created and/or maintained and close to one million leveraged dollars. Long time Board Director George Leger retired from the Board in December, but we welcomed two new Board members and a returning Board member resulting in greater representation from around the CFPC region. The Board had a very successful and engaging strategic planning day in November resulting in a solid Operating Plan for the new year. We updated our Lending Policy and started reviewing the Cyber Security policy. Staff developed and/or updated their procedure manuals, and we also upgraded security systems and three computers. We continued to deliver a highly successful Women in the North Conference in three communities including Peace River, Fairview and Manning. Monthly business training for our communities were offered in the Lunch & Learn hybrid virtual/in person format, staff visited businesses in Grimshaw & Manning for the annual Hug an Entrepreneur Day during Small Business Week, and we hosted the Lemonade Day project in Peace River & Fairview which resulted in over 100 kids registering for the program and 18 stands in our communities. New this year we hosted the SongRise Music Conference in partnership with a small record company in Fairview resulting in 45 music business professionals attending to learn, network and perform. We introduced a new Business Bites lunch hour mixer in Peace River that saw 47 business owners and service providers enjoy the opportunity to network and exchange contact information. The GM facilitated two strategic planning sessions for a local non-profit organization and along with staff attended multiple community economic events throughout the CFPC region. Two Board members attended the Annual CFNA Symposium in Red Deer, both the BA and the GM attended Spring Training in Nisku and attended a few online courses through CFNA offerings. We partnered with CF Central Alberta on the Online Learning System and with CF West Yellowhead on the Disaster Recovery Initiative which are still in progress.</p>		

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

