

Performance Results for 2018-19 Community Futures Central Alberta

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	Results as of 2018-19
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	86
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	14
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	847
4. Total number of business advisory services	176
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$603,786.16
6. Total number of loans	14
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	45
<p>Lending activity continues to be lower than normal due to the continuing economic downturn occurring in the Province of Alberta and the CFCFA Region. For year ending March 31, 2019, CFCFA provided funding to 14 small businesses, advancing loans totalling \$603,786. Our loans were advanced to various industry sectors including Construction, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Professional, Technical and Health Services, and Hospitality. These new loan advances occurred in communities across our Region including Red Deer, Penhold, Sylvan Lake, Olds, and Bowden and have assisted in creating and/or maintaining a total of 45 full-time and part-time positions in these areas. We collaborate and work in partnership with lending institutions in our Region to provide necessary capital to small businesses.</p> <p>We continue to focus on supporting entrepreneurs in the Government of Canada priority areas by contributing resources, support and funding to women entrepreneurs, youth entrepreneurs, persons with disabilities, and the Indigenous community. Through the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program, CFCFA assisted 14 clients in our Region and provided access to \$9,433 in non-repayable EDP funds to assist with their unique entrepreneurial needs. In this fiscal year, 50% of our loans advanced were to women led small businesses. CFCFA supports development of Youth Entrepreneurs in our Region by participating on the planning committee and sponsoring campers in the Rotary Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship Camp, which has fostered entrepreneurship for youths aged 13-15 for over 23 years. Our Youth Loan Program provided \$97,000 in funding to assist young entrepreneurs in our Region. We also assist with the Alberta Junior Achievement Program by facilitating workshops to youth. CFCFA sponsored and participated in the Central Alberta Indigenous Summit in 2018 and</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

Performance Results for 2018-19 Community Futures Central Alberta

have partnered with the Rocky Native Friendship Center and the Red Deer Native Friendship Society for upcoming planned projects in the current fiscal year. As well, we continually seek opportunities to offer support and assistance to emerging and technological industries to further promote economic diversification in our Region. These partnerships include but are not limited to Central Alberta Regional Innovation Network, Catapult Entrepreneurs Central Alberta, and Chinook Entrepreneur Challenge. We also work in partnership and seek collaboration opportunities with Olds College and Red Deer College Centers for Innovation.

Entrepreneur Training continues to be large part of the services we offer to our communities. A full suite of QuickBooks training is delivered by private sector partner Aggregate Financial Solutions. Our Training Center has allowed our office to continue meeting our training requirements as a part of our funding agreement with Western Economic Diversification. We offered a total of 61 sessions and workshops in 2018-2019. CFCA provided valuable coaching, advice and mentorship to our clients with a total of 176 face-to-face advisory services. We continually seek collaboration opportunities with other service providers such as The Business Link, Catapult Entrepreneurs, ATB and BDC for partnership opportunities in our Region to provide resources and training within our Region.

Community Futures Central Alberta sponsored and participated in several events and special projects throughout the year: Power Up Entrepreneur Conference in Olds; International Business Development Project; Red Deer Advocate Small Business Week publication, The Report; Red Deer & District Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours; Red Deer College Career and Entrepreneur Expo; Catapult Entrepreneurs Central Alberta, Chinook Entrepreneur Challenge.