

Performance Results for 2023-24 Community Futures Centre West

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	2023-24
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	25
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	520
4. Total number of business advisory services	197
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$503,733.33
6. Total number of loans	9
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	18
Provide additional Information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...)	
<p><u>Rural Relief Recovery Fund-(RRRF)</u></p> <p>CFCWest, as a participant in the Rural Relief & Recovery Funding (RRRF) program lent out a total of \$7,595,837.59 to business clients within our region (2021-2022). Clients had enjoyed no payment status until January of 2024, when payments in full was due. While the amount of lending CFCWest originally successfully completed was quite surprising, it is the level of payback by January 12, 2024, that was a glimmer of hope businesses were beginning a come back. Relationships built with RRRF clients over the last 2.5 years has resulted in significant payback in 2024. One hundred and seventy-four loans were repaid as of January 18, 2024, for a total of \$3,467,145.50. Clients received \$1,711,276.00 in forgiveness as a result. In January 2024 seventy-eight loans were converted into 3-year term loans due in full by December 31, 2026. RRRF clients in increased numbers are utilizing other services from CFCWest such as the SMARTstart Program and the Digital Service Squad services.</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending.

Developmental Lending

Birth Bump & Beyond

Ms. Limoges a registered Midwife and Ms. Miller a Doctor of Chiropractic. Ms. Miller. has owned Central Health Chiropractic & Wellness in Airdrie for fifteen years. This business operates from a bay in a strip mall on Main Street in Airdrie. There are six private offices in the bay, one of which Ms. Miller utilizes for her patients and she rents out the remaining five to several other personal health care industry practitioners for them to meet with their clients. Ms. Limoges started renting one of the offices from Ms. Miller on a part-time basis in June 2022 to meet with her midwife practice clients. Upon getting to know each other and discussing the need for another similar facility in Airdrie, Ms. Limoges and Ms. Miller decided earlier last year they would partner in a new company to establish another multi-disciplinary clinic. Consequently, Ms. Miller incorporated Bump, Birth and Beyond Inc. (BBBI) on September 7, 2023. They were searching for a suitable premises to lease when they discovered the business beside Ms. Miller's existing clinic was closing. They entered discussions with the landlord and the parties executed a lease in November. The bay is virtually the same size as Ms. Miller's current premises; thus, they planned the completed build-out with a similar layout to Ms. Miller's existing facility. Our clients have attracted 4 other health practitioners to create this multidisciplinary practise. They are currently looking at the creation of a franchise model.

Community Economic Development

In the 2023-2024 operational year, the DSS contract was renewed for an additional year. Due to the popularity & amazing results for the project, 10 Alberta Community Futures office are meeting to discuss the program continuing into the current year and beyond.

Your customers are online. You should be too.

The DSS (as part of the Digital Economy Program) is here to help your small business expand online. This FREE program is funded by the Government of Alberta in conjunction with Business Link and Digital Main Street. The program is delivered to you by Community Futures Centre West in partnership with local municipalities - City of Airdrie, Town of Canmore, Town of Cochrane, Town of Crossfield, Kananaskis Improvement District and Rocky View County.

The DSS is ready to help your small business with free 1-on-1 assistance. Services include training and advisory support to assist with digital strategy development, Google My Business assistance, social media posts, taking photographs for your businesses, and more. As of March 2024, 475 business owners have accessed the services of the DSS Advisors and are now on target to reach user totals. As of March 31, 2024, 145 out of a target of 180 business have been already served by the program.