

Performance Results for 2024-25 CF Lethbridge Region

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)		40
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		253
4. Total number of business advisory services		91
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>		
5. Dollar value of loans		\$1,255,227
6. Total number of loans		40
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹		107
Provide additional Information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc.)		
<p>Community Futures Lethbridge Region (CFLR) performed well over the course of 2024-2025 with limited operating funds and staffing contingent. The operational year was led by a staff of 2.80 FTE with an additional 3 contracted positions, of which 2 were eliminated in 2024-25 with programming closure. This contingent is 1.40 FTE shorter than previous years with prior Business Advisor and Operations position being absorbed into current staffing contingent. The extension of the RRRF program to December 2026 with no additional administrative dollars also was a challenge as significant time was spent ensuring due diligence and contact resources were accurate with no direct offset to wages.</p> <p>In fiscal 2025, all key success metrics but one were met or exceeded (100% - 1,267%). Lending saw a net portfolio growth and increased revenues compared year over year. The Business Improvement Loan Program saw growth year over year with primary agreements being oversubscribed in 2024-25. Advisory services continue to be a challenge as the Lethbridge region has numerous private, public, and online entrepreneurial service offerings and organizations such as BDC, Regional Innovation Network of Southern Alberta (RINSA), the City of Lethbridge, and Business Link, to name a few, have a significantly larger “power of voice” and dedicated resources than CFLR. In 2024-25, the Digital Service Squad project ended in September 2024 which also led to a decrease in advisory activity. To strategically mitigate this challenge, CFLR has entered a Memorandum of Understanding with RINSA to share advisory expertise for specific clients and ultimately share key metrics associated with same.</p>		

¹ Estimated at the time of lending.

Performance Results for 2013-14 CF Lethbridge Region

In 2023, a new Board of Directors Executive Committee was elected (with the Chair remaining the same) and provided governance leadership for the organization. Two new Board members joined as replacements for the City of Lethbridge and Town of Picture Butte whose directors reached their maximum time limit for the organization. We do anticipate some Board changeover in 2025-26 as civic elections are scheduled for October 2025.

Partnerships and collaborative efforts continue to be a priority in 2024-25. CFLR is fortunate to be in, and part of, an ecosystem with such great and supportive partnerships. The Blackfoot Signage Project continues to be successful in 2024-25. The project is currently in Phase II with funding and planning in place for Phase III. 243 public facing signs in Blackfoot were approved in Phase II with applicants in area of over 9,000 square kilometers in southern Alberta. Other projects included the Launch Point Pitch competition which continues to grow in its third year. Other projects in the fiscal year included partnerships with others to provide Kidz in the Biz, Angel Investing and Entrepreneurial Fundraising education series, Artificial Intelligence for Entrepreneurs, etc.