

**Community Futures Central Kootenay
Performance Results for 2024-25**

Community Futures (CF) is a national program that fosters entrepreneurship and community economic development in rural Canada. There are 34 CF offices in British Columbia, mandated to deliver a variety of services ranging from strategic economic planning, technical and advisory services to businesses, loans to small and medium-sized businesses, self-employment assistance programs, and services targeted to youth and entrepreneurs with disabilities. CF offices are non-profit corporations run by salaried staff and guided by volunteer boards of directors.

Community Futures Performance Results	2024-25
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Number of community-based projects	8
2. Number of local and regionally based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	3
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Number of business training session participants	362
4. Number of business advisory services	243
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Value of loans	\$2,983,651.83
6. Number of loans	28
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	58

Community Futures Central Kootenay: 2024/25 Year in Review

In 2024/25, Community Futures Central Kootenay (CFCK) made significant strides in economic development, supporting entrepreneurs and businesses across the region. Our Business Loans Program approved 28 loans totaling \$2.98 million, creating or retaining 59 jobs. The Self Employment Program helped launch 20 new businesses before concluding in March 2024.

We provided advisory services to 243 clients, including 22 entrepreneurs who received one-on-one mentorship through our Inclusive Start-Up Business Advisor. The Export Navigator Program assisted 51 businesses, and 93 clients accessed business counselling. Training reached 362 participants through workshops, startup sessions, and regional online content.

In response to wildfires, CFCK delivered emergency loans, counselling, and recovery initiatives through the CFBC Disaster Recovery program. We advanced regional development through housing, childcare, workforce, and transportation projects, and earned the CFBC Excellence and Innovation Award for our sustainability leadership.

As we look ahead to 2025/26, CFCK remains focused on building a resilient and inclusive economy.

¹ Estimated at the time of lending