

Community Futures Central Island  
Performance Results for 2025-26

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.

<b>Community Futures Performance Results</b>	<b>2025-26</b>
<b><i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i></b>	
1. Number of community-based projects	<b>3</b>
2. Number of local and regionally based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	<b>5</b>
<b><i>Rural access to business development services</i></b>	
3. Number of business training session participants	<b>412</b>
4. Number of business advisory services	<b>259</b>
<b><i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i></b>	
5. Value of loans	<b>\$652,023</b>
6. Number of loans	<b>12</b>
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending <sup>1</sup>	<b>29</b>
Provide additional Information (e.g. success stories, links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc.)	
<p>2025-26 proved to be an interesting year for Community Futures Central Island. We approved 16 loans valued at \$922,023 and disbursed 12 loans totalling \$652,023, creating/maintaining 29 jobs. Demand for business coaching increased while the hesitancy to take on debt grew; reflected by our loan disbursement rate of 70%.</p> <p>We continued to offer the Entrepreneur in Residence Program with entrepreneurs providing business coaching for start up and expansion supporting 46 businesses with 169 hours of one on one coaching.</p> <p>We are delivering two programs, Community Futures Central Island - Crisis Management for Small Business Pilot Project and AI Upskilling for Small Business. Both programs began in 2024-25 and will conclude in March 2026 providing training to upwards of 200 participants.</p> <p>We supported organizations by providing affordable strategic planning facilitation and work plan development. We supported community planning and implementation to four organizations across the region. We continue to assist Rural Island Economic Partnership with the implementation of their REDIP project, Islands Talking.</p> <p>Our office was also awarded a 3-year grant from the Nanaimo Foundation in partnership with Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society to provide our Local Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program to 5 cohorts totalling \$225,000. We have currently delivered two cohorts successfully with 17 participants.</p> <p>We hosted two successful events with CFBC/WeBC; Turning Possibilities into Prosperity a workshop series in November/December 2025 celebrating Entrepreneurship Day and Give to Gain to celebrate International Women's Day in March 2026.</p> <p>We continue our contract management relationships through two community based not for profits.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Estimated at the time of lending