

October 24th, 2024

Reference: 642082

Will Cole-Hamilton, Chair
Comox Valley Regional District

Barbara Roden, Chair
Thompson-Nicola Regional District

Lara Beckett, Chair
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

Mark Parker, Chair
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Clayton Brander, Chair
qathet Regional District

Jason Lum, Chair
Fraser Valley Regional District

Kevin Flynn, Chair
Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Blair Ireland, Chair
Regional District of Central Okanagan

Dear Regional District Chairs:

Thank you for taking the opportunity to meet as a collective with Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) representatives at this year's Union of BC Municipalities Convention on September 19, 2024.

Thank you for sharing the challenges your communities face regarding funding for Emergency Management Programs and staffing for Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs). While there is no program in place at this time to directly support increased staffing levels for community EOCs during an emergency event, EMCR Regional Offices work with activated EOCs to support immediate needs and has deployed personnel on a case to case basis to aid in emergency response. Additionally, EMCR Regional Offices do connect communities with contacts from the Ministry of Health, First Nations Health Authority, and health authorities in the midst of response to support mental health needs.

I appreciated you highlighting your concerns related to funding your disaster mitigation needs. I understand how these needs have grown with the changing climate and the complexities you've experienced, especially in rural communities. EMCR has heard feedback about how challenging it can be to access funding and taken this feedback into consideration in the design of the Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding program. I've included an attachment outlining the funding sources currently available for disaster mitigation projects.

I also recommend checking the [Community Climate Funding Guide](#), a resource developed by our colleagues at the Ministries of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation and Environment and Climate Change Strategy, for other funding programs that may be able to provide support for your projects. For any EMCR funding-related questions or clarifications, please contact the funding programs shared inbox at EMCR.DisasterMitigation@gov.bc.ca

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Again, thank you to all of you for taking the time to meet.

Sincerely,



Tara Richards
Deputy Minister

Attachment: Disaster Risk Reduction Funding Programs Information

CC: Heather Paul, Chief Administrative Officer, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Jonathan Kerr, Vice Chair, Comox Valley Regional District
Chris Calder, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George



Disaster Risk Reduction Funding Programs Information

General overview	Eligible applicants	Program name	Eligible projects	Max amount	Next intake
<u>Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF)</u> Suite of funding streams intended to enhance the resilience of local governments and First Nations in responding to emergencies and to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate change.	- First Nations in B.C. (Bands and Treaty First Nations) - Local governments in B.C. (municipalities and regional districts)	Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training	Purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve EOCs, EOC training and exercises.	\$40,000	February 28, 2025
		Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training	Volunteer recruitment, retention and training, including in-house training and purchase of ESS equipment.	\$40,000	January 31, 2025
		Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training	Cultural safety and humility training. Adapting emergency management tools to be inclusive of Indigenous peoples, activities related to providing assistance to Indigenous communities during emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.	\$40,000	November 1, 2024
		Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning	Develop evacuation route plans and/or public notification plans that provide information for communities in the event of an emergency.	\$40,000	April 25, 2025
		Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training	Purchase of new or replacement equipment and to facilitate the delivery of training.	\$40,000	October 18, 2024
<u>Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program</u> Funding for projects that strengthen defenses against natural and climate-driven hazards, such as: floods, drought, extreme heat and landslides.	- First Nations in B.C. - Local governments in B.C.	Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program	Risk mapping, risk assessments, planning, non-structural projects, natural infrastructure projects, small-scale structural projects.	\$400,000 - \$5M \$15M for regional applicants	Spring 2025 (TBD)

General overview	Eligible applicants	Program name	Eligible projects	Max amount	Next intake
<u>Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP)</u> This funding supports timely local climate action that reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prepares communities for the impacts of a changing climate and creates new opportunities for people in the clean economy.	• Modern Treaty Nations in B.C. • Local governments in B.C.	<u>Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP)</u>	Funding must be used to achieve community and provincial climate objectives, aligned with the <u>CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 (PDF, 9MB)</u> and/or the <u>Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (PDF, 7MB)</u>.	Normalized per capita allocations	Annual program that is not application based
<u>Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program</u> Funding program intended to reduce the risk of wildfires and mitigate their impacts on BC communities.	• First Nations in B.C. • Local governments in B.C. • Forest industry B.C. • Natural resource districts in B.C. • BC Parks • Mountain Resorts Branch	<u>FireSmart Community Funding and Supports</u>	Community based FireSmart activities focused on wildfire prevention.	\$150,000	October 1, 2024 to September 20, 2025
		<u>Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR)</u>	Fuel management planning, risk reduction activities, operational projects, critical response infrastructure.	N/A	N/A
		<u>FireSmart Pilot Program for Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organizations</u>	Training and purchasing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for local community members in areas that do not fall within a structural fire protection jurisdiction area.	\$10, 000	October 1, 2024 to May 30, 2025
<u>Infrastructure Planning Grant Program</u> Funding for projects related to the development of sustainable community infrastructure.	• Municipalities in B.C. • Regional districts in B.C.	<u>Infrastructure Planning Grant Program</u>	Asset management plans, integrated stormwater management plans, water master plans, liquid waste management plans.	\$10,000	Open for applications year round Next program intake deadline: December 11, 2024

General overview	Eligible applicants	Program name	Eligible projects	Max amount	Next intake
Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) Permanent source of funding for provinces and territories, who in turn flow this funding to their municipalities to support local infrastructure priorities. Municipalities can pool, bank and borrow against this funding, providing significant financial flexibility.	Local governments in B.C.	Community Works Fund (CWF) Available to all local governments	Activities that involve acquiring, planning, designing, constructing, renewing, or rehabilitating tangible capital assets or natural assets.	Per capita allocation (includes funding floor)	N/A provided up front, twice a-year
		Strategic Priorities Fund Available to all local governments outside the Metro Vancouver Regional District	Infrastructure and capacity building projects that are large in scale, regional in impact or innovative.	Per capita allocation (includes funding floor)	N/A provided up front, twice a year
		Metro Vancouver Regional Fund (MVRF)	Provides funding for regional transportation investments within the Metro Vancouver Regional District and its member municipalities.	Per capita allocation (includes funding floor)	N/A provided up front, twice a year

For additional information please contact: EMCR.DisasterMitigation@gov.bc.ca