

Community Economic Development Project Information, Guidelines and Application :

Youth Engagement and Diversification and Innovation Project

About Community Futures Meridian Region:

Community Futures are Non-Profit Organizations guided by a volunteer board of directors and staffed with business professionals, who together are actively engaged in helping to develop and implement community-based economic development strategies.

We are proactive, progressive community organizations dedicated to strengthening both their communities and their communities economy as a whole.

Our Mission:

Community Futures Meridian Region is a catalyst for change, providing the environment for employment, wealth and community growth through the promotion of entrepreneurship.

Community Futures Meridian Region provides the tools and services to launch, expand or purchase businesses within the region.

CF Meridian Region has incorporated two (2) funding initiatives under their operational plan for the period July 15, 2009 to March 31, 2010. This is an opportunity for your organization to make application under two (2) categories; one for projects that engage youth and develop leadership, and the second one for the enhancement or development of rural diversification and innovation projects. Applications can be made under one or both initiatives.

Category 1 - Youth (up to age 34)

CF Meridian Region values the contribution of youth, as it is required to maintain a healthy and prosperous region. CF Meridian is therefore committed to providing financial assistance to develop, implement and promote projects that improve the engagement of youth in our communities through leadership development, in volunteerism, and in connecting to the spirit of community. Projects may be targeted for individual communities but must be in a format to be shared as a 'best practice' model for other CF member communities. Project priority will be given to regionally-based initiatives. CF Meridian has \$15,000.00 available for projects from July 15, 2009 to March 31, 2010. Priority will be given to regional projects that focus on Engagement of Youth in communities.

Category 2 - Rural Diversification/ Innovation Projects

CF Meridian is seeking applications that address diversification and innovation in the business environment. Projects that focus on strategies in the development of and adopting of new technologies and growth of emerging industrial clusters or sectors will qualify. For example: a project which explores the possibilities of wireless communication systems for their business districts which strengthen community innovation and capacity building to improve small business productivity will be given priority.

All applicants are encouraged to send an outline of their project concept and strategy at least Five (5) working days prior to the application deadline.

**Box 2167, 125-1st Avenue East
KINDERSLEY, SK S0L 1S0
888-919-3800 Toll Free
306-463-1855 Fax
meridian.business@sasktel.net
www.meridianregion.ca**

**Community
Futures** 
Meridian Region

Community Economic Development Guidelines:

Youth Engagement and Diversification and Innovation Project

- Applicants must be in agreement that the application and project information can be shared publicly in a Best Practice format and made available to communities across Canada.
- A combination of in-kind contribution and cash is necessary from the applicants.
- Projects will be eligible for up to \$5,000.00 with a combination of in-kind and cash contribution of 25% of the project total (\$1,250.00).

Each project may apply for the maximum of \$15,000.00 with the following criteria:

- ◆ First \$5,000.00 requires 25% in-kind or cash contribution (\$1,250.00);
- ◆ Balance of the funding request to a maximum of \$15,000.00 requires 50% cash or in-kind contribution; the maximum contribution necessary is \$6,250.00. Example: Application of \$12,000.00 = \$1,250.00 for first \$5,000.00; balance of \$7,000.00 X 50% = \$3,500.00. To receive \$12,000.00 from CF Meridian the project would have \$4,750.00 of cash and in-kind contribution for a total project cost of \$16,750.00.
- Projects will receive a maximum of 80% of the project funding upon endorsement of the contract. At midpoint, upon completion of a brief project update, an additional 10% will be advanced. The remaining 10% will be disbursed upon receipt of the final report on or before March 31, 2010. All project reporting will be in a format outlined by CF Meridian and provided to the successful applicants.
- CF Meridian supported project expenditures must be completed by March 1, 2010 and the final report must be submitted by March 15, 2010.
- Final payment will be provided upon receipt of the final report or on or before March 31, 2010.
- Projects must involve communities that are members of the CF Meridian Region. Bi-Provincial projects are encouraged.
- Project applications may be made by Committees under the direction of the CF Membership and Non-profit organizations.



Important Dates to remember:

First Application Deadline: August 15, 2009
Decision to be made by: August 24, 2009
Signed Contract to be in by: August 31, 2009

Second Application (pending resource availability)
Deadline: September 18, 2009
Decision to be made by: October 2, 2009

Visit:
www.meridianregion.ca

It is recommended that you submit a one or two paragraph summary of your project concept at least Five (5) working days prior to application deadlines.