Office of the
Auditor General
of British Columbia

June 2022

B.C.'s COVID-19 Response:
Community Economic Resilience Grants

An independent audit report

Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia

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The Honourable Raj Chouhan
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
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Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour to transmit to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia the report: *B.C.'s COVID-19 Response: Community Economic Resilience Grants.*

We conducted this audit under the authority of section 11(8) of the *Auditor General Act.* All work in this audit was performed to a reasonable level of assurance in accordance with the Canadian Standard on Assurance Engagements (CSAE) 3001—Direct Engagements, set out by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada) in the *CPA Canada Handbook—Assurance.*

Michael A. Pickup, FCPA, FCA
Auditor General of British Columbia
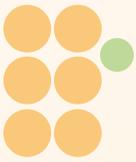Victoria, B.C.

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Ashcroft Indian Band Sports Box and Playground Project
Photo: Province of British Columbia

Audit at a glance

Why we did this audit

- The B.C. government introduced the $1.5 billion StrongerBC economic recovery strategy in 2020 to offset the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Part of the strategy – the $30-million Community Economic Resilience grant stream – provided emergency funding for 63 small-scale infrastructure projects, including new cycling infrastructure, community amenities and park improvements throughout B.C.
- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs administered the grants on an expedited basis, increasing the potential risk of funds reaching projects that didn't meet program objectives.
- Findings from this audit can help in the design of grant programs that need to respond to future public health, economic or environmental emergencies.

Objective

To determine whether the Ministry of Municipal Affairs administered the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program – Community Economic Resilience (CERIP-CER) grant stream according to government transfer payment policies and program guidelines.

Audit period

September 2020 to March 2022

Conclusion

We concluded that the ministry administered the Community Economic Resilience grant stream according to most government transfer payment policies and program guidelines. However, the ministry did not meet all expectations for evaluating project proposals and monitoring funding.

We made one recommendation focusing on applying lessons learned from the development and implementation of the Community Economic Resilience stream to future emergency grant programs.

The ministry has accepted the recommendation.
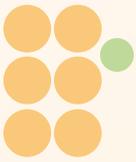
Audit at a glance *(continued)*

What we found

The ministry followed guidelines when establishing the grant stream

- Received necessary approvals to establish the program.
- Established eligibility criteria and funding requirements.
- Developed contribution agreements for recipients.

No recommendation

The ministry applied its evaluation process for selecting projects, with some gaps in its design

- Developed a competitive evaluation process for selecting funding recipients.
- Consistently followed this process and approved 63 applications for funding.
- Guidance for assessing technical scores and risks was underdeveloped.
- Process relied on information provided by applicants, which the ministry did not verify when confirming applicants had capacity to complete the work.

Recommendation 1

The ministry developed a monitoring strategy and received most reports

- Established a monitoring strategy that covered all but one of the funding requirements.
- Received most of the required reporting from applicants.

Recommendation 1

After reading the report, you may want to ask the following questions of government:

1. How will the audit findings apply to similar emergency grant programs in the future?

2. What steps are being taken to ensure all projects are completed before the March 31, 2023, deadline?

3. How will the ministry assess the overall economic impact of these projects?

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic caused significant economic damage. In 2020, business shutdowns, higher unemployment, and falling consumer confidence contributed to a 5.4 per cent drop in B.C.'s annual gross domestic product.

In response, the Province set aside $1.5 billion for the StrongerBC economic recovery strategy. It included the $100-million Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program to create jobs by funding small-scale infrastructure projects, destination and economic development initiatives, and cultural heritage projects. The program involved five grant streams across four ministries (see table).

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs received $30 million for the Community Economic Resilience grant stream. This stream was designed for community projects that, for example, revitalized parks and recreation areas, created more space to allow physical distancing, improved emergency preparedness, or upgraded public buildings.

Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program

Grant Stream	Ministry	Funds
Community Economic Resilience	Municipal Affairs	$30 million
Destination Development	Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sports	$20 million
Unique Heritage Infrastructure	Forests	$20 million
Rural Economic Recovery	Forests	$20 million
Aboriginal Head Start Land-based Project	Children and Family Development	$10 million
Total Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program funding		**$ 100 million**

Source: Province of British Columbia.

The ministry developed the Community Economic Resilience stream much faster than traditional grant programs. It started developing the grant stream in September 2020, assessed applications over a compressed four-week period in October and November, and provided funding for projects in March 2021 – a seven-month period. This was all while developing common materials, guidance and agreements for the wider Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program.

Demand was high, with Community Economic Resilience stream applications exceeding available funds by $88 million. The ministry awarded the stream's $30 million to 63 applicants, including 32 local governments, 25 not-for-profit groups, and six Indigenous governments or organizations. The grants ranged in amount from $29,000 to $1 million.

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Objective

The objective of the audit was to determine whether the Ministry of Municipal Affairs administered the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program – Community Economic Resilience grant stream according to government transfer payment policies and program guidelines.

Scope

We examined how the ministry developed, implemented, and monitored the Community Economic Resilience funding stream.

Since recipients were still using grant funding at the time of this report, we focused on how the ministry designed and implemented the grant stream rather than the outcomes.

We also looked at the ministry's evaluation of individual applications and how it monitored recipients, including any data the ministry had received from recipients at the time of the audit.

We did not audit the other four Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program funding streams or the ministries that administered them. We did not directly audit organizations that received funding, though the team did interview some recipients about their experiences with the funding stream.

Audit period: September 2020 to March 2022

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Conclusion

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs administered the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program – Community Economic Resilience grant stream according to most government transfer payment policies and the grant program's guidelines. This included seeking appropriate approval for the government transfer, implementing a competitive evaluation process, and developing a monitoring framework with reporting requirements.

However, the ministry did not meet all expectations for evaluating project proposals and monitoring funding. The ministry did not clearly document how reviewers should assess risk and technical scores, or how each part of the evaluation process would inform funding decisions.

The ministry also relied heavily on applicants' own information about costs and risks when assessing their capacity to complete the work on time and budget. These exceptions increased the risk that the ministry assessed applicants inconsistently and based on incomplete information, which may have resulted in funds going to projects that won't fully achieve the outcomes of the program.

Prince George Golf Curling Club [Refrigeration Plant Conversion (Ammonia to Freon) and Insulation Improvements Project]
Photo: Province of British Columbia

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Findings and recommendation

Program design and development

A successful government program seeks appropriate authorizations, aligns program goals with broader strategic objectives, and clarifies program expectations. Grant programs may have additional requirements to make sure funding decisions follow set criteria.

The government has set out general guidelines for the design, implementation, and monitoring of funding programs in its *Core Policy and Procedures Manual*. The manual also provides ministries with a financial management control framework.

Chapter 21 of the manual includes directions for government financial transfers – including grant programs – to external organizations along with guidance for program design and approval. This formed the basis of our audit criteria.

The ministry followed guidelines when establishing the grant stream

What we looked for

We examined whether the ministry established the Community Economic Resilience funding stream according to the *Core Policy and Procedures Manual,* by:

- Securing proper approval.
- Ensuring the program aligned with broader strategic and operational objectives.
- Establishing eligibility criteria for qualified funding applicants.
- Requiring recipients to ensure they use funding as intended.

What we found

The ministry received appropriate approval for funding, and aligned the program with broader economic recovery objectives

We found the ministry met expectations set out in the manual by securing funding from approved authorities, completing a funding transfer request, and ensuring review and sign off by the appropriate expense authorities.

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The ministry also aligned the grant stream with government's COVID-19 economic recovery objectives by focusing on short-term and small-scale infrastructure projects that supported job creation in the construction industry and other sectors of local economies.

The Fraser Valley Artisans' Food Centre Project was one of 63 small-scale projects funded by the Community Economic Resilience grants. Others included revitalized outdoor spaces and downtown areas, added space for physical distancing, improved emergency preparedness, or upgraded public buildings.

Photo: Province of British Columbia

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The ministry established eligibility criteria and funding requirements for recipients

We found the ministry set criteria for the types of applicants and projects that could be funded. Eligible applicants included local governments, not-for-profit organizations, and Indigenous governments and organizations. Eligible projects needed to improve or create infrastructure that would support economic development in their communities, be primarily for public use and benefit, and meet the objectives of the Community Economic Resilience stream.

Community Economic Resilience project objectives

Funding for sustainable community infrastructure projects that achieved one of the following:

- Upgraded infrastructure, improved human safety and increased environmental benefits.
- Increased accessibility and inter-connectivity for safe trail systems and park amenities.
- Enhanced community cohesion and facilitated cultural and educational opportunities.
- Supported downtown revitalization including cultural and entertainment opportunities for communities.
- Supported social opportunities for First Nations youth and elders.
- Created cultural, educational and entertainment opportunities for communities.
- Provided recreational venue improvements (e.g., arena upgrades, chiller/refrigeration replacement).
- Improved accessibility to facilities and supported adjustments in response to COVID-19 protocols.

Source: Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program

The ministry also met *Core Policy and Procedures Manual* guidelines for establishing funding requirements for recipients to ensure the funding was used as intended. The ministry developed a contribution agreement template for Community Economic Resilience grant recipients, requiring them to:

- Have a starting date for their projects (no later than Dec. 31, 2021) and completion deadline (no later than March 31, 2023).
- Use the funds solely for the purposes of the project.
- Notify – and potentially consult and accommodate – Indigenous groups regarding the proposed project.
- Maintain accounting and administrative records.
- Meet ministry reporting requirements (including periodic progress reports, interim expenditure reports, a final report, and potentially a project audit report).
- Repay funds and other enforcement measures if recipients are non-compliant.

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Why this matters

By seeking necessary approvals and following prescribed government transfer review processes, the ministry defined how the funding aligned with broader objectives for economic recovery. Creating appropriate eligibility criteria and funding requirements also helped the ministry direct funding toward appropriate recipients and projects. It also provided a means for the ministry to ensure recipients were meeting the economic objectives of the funding stream.

Recommendation

We have no recommendations in this area.

Evaluation process

Government transfer programs require a systematic approach to evaluating funding requests. A clearly defined process ensures funds reach the appropriate applicants, and in the context of the Community Economic Resilience stream, that the funding is allocated in a way that supports the Province's economic recovery objectives.

The ministry established and followed an evaluation process for selecting projects for funding, with some minor gaps in its design

What we looked for

The *Core Policy and Procedures Manual* outlines expectations for selecting funding recipients. It requires a government entity to use either a competitive selection process or give documented reasons for not using one.

We examined the evaluation process that the ministry established for the Community Economic Resilience grant stream to see if it aligned with the manual's guidelines. We assessed whether the process was competitive and established:

- Staff roles and responsibilities for evaluating and selecting applications for funding.
- Clearly defined steps and expectations applicants would have to meet to receive funding.
- A method for determining funding amounts to successful applicants.

After examining how the ministry designed the evaluation process, we examined whether ministry staff used this process to evaluate applications consistently.

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What we found

The ministry established a competitive evaluation process, with some opportunity to clarify expectations

The ministry created a competitive evaluation process for the Community Economic Resilience funding stream. The *Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program Guide* included expectations for merit-based evaluations, a maximum funding cap of $1 million for individual projects, and that grants would be distributed in full and upfront.

The ministry indicated that upfront funding was atypical. The ministry normally uses claims-based funding arrangements, where grant recipients seek reimbursement for eligible expenditures after they have been incurred. The ministry noted upfront funding is faster but can create challenges because it limits control over funding and removes one of the ministry's normal oversights (the claims process).

The ministry also outlined the different steps that applicants would have to pass in the evaluation process, which included:

- A set of five mandatory eligibility criteria to screen applicants.
- Technical assessment questions to evaluate the merit of proposed projects.
- An assessment of financial, technical, and operational risks of proposed projects.

To get funding to eligible recipients as quickly as possible, the ministry said it compressed the application process, with the goal of completing reviews within 30 days.

We found that some of the components of the evaluation process had clearly defined requirements and thresholds. Applicants had to pass five mandatory eligibility criteria by:

- Meeting the grant stream objectives.
- Having an estimated construction start date in 2021.
- Having an estimated construction end-date by March 2023.
- Including a detailed cost estimate.
- Providing information about the proposed location of the project.

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Applicants meeting the mandatory eligibility criteria advanced to a technical assessment based on seven questions (worth 100 points overall) that scored the proposal's economic development and employment potential. Applicants had to receive a score of 70 points or higher to pass.

Community Economic Resilience stream technical assessment questions

1. Describe how the project will help support long-term economic growth and recovery in the community. – *20 points*

2. How has your project considered the potential positive and negative impacts of the project on all community members (e.g., sex, gender, ethnicity, race, culture, language, age, ability, geography, economic status)? – *20 points*

3. Describe how the project will create jobs in the community. – *20 points*

4. Does the community have a hard-hit job sector (e.g., lumber industry, manufacturing, tourism)? *Yes/No*

   a. If yes, describe which sector and how within this sector the project will contribute to the creation/ restoration of jobs. – *10 points*

5. Will this project create jobs for the hardest hit populations (e.g., women, young, under-employed in the community, displaced workers)?

   a. If yes, describe how quickly these jobs will be available and how long they are expected to last. – *10 points*

6. How does the project create training and job opportunities for under-represented groups? – *10 points*

7. How does the project create opportunities for local business in the community? – *10 points*

Source: Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program technical assessment template

The ministry required applicants to report any additional sources of funding for their proposed project. Applicants were to sign an attestation that the information in their application was correct, giving the ministry recourse for terminating an agreement if needed. The ministry also specified that recipients would be responsible for any project costs that exceeded the funding they received.

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Other aspects of the evaluation process were less defined and more open to the reviewer's interpretation and judgment:

Scoring technical assessments. The ministry developed some guidance for staff scoring the technical responses (as weak, acceptable, or comprehensive) but it did not define what type of response would meet these thresholds.

Considering an applicant's risk assessment. The ministry required reviewers to consider an applicant's risk level by using existing guides and tools, but it did not document how staff should consider an applicant's self-assessed risk rating and mitigation strategies in the overall assessment.

Defining roles and responsibilities. The ministry did not define staff roles and responsibilities for evaluating applications in the grant stream's initial design. Ministry staff indicated that time constraints in the planning stage affected how roles were allocated and led the ministry to assign a small number of staff to evaluate applications.

These less defined components of the evaluation process created a risk of reviewers evaluating applications inconsistently.

The ministry consistently followed the evaluation process it established to select 63 applicants

To analyse the ministry's implementation of its evaluation process, we looked at the completed technical assessments conducted by the ministry for all Community Economic Resilience grant stream applications. We found that the ministry followed the evaluation process:

Eligibility screening. We found that the ministry screened all 218 applications against all five mandatory eligibility criteria. The ministry reviewers determined that 186 of the 218 applications met all criteria.

Technical assessments. The ministry completed technical assessments of all remaining 186 applications from the initial screening.

Risk assessments. The ministry also completed risk assessments and provided rankings for the 186 applications that made it past the initial screening.

Funding decisions. All 63 applicants selected for funding passed the technical assessment and were considered either low risk (47 applicants) or medium risk (16 applicants). The ministry then completed formal funding agreements with each recipient, using its contribution agreement template.

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The ministry relied extensively on applicants' self-assessment of risks, and costs when considering capacity

The *Core Policy and Procedures Manual* requires that ministries undertake appropriate due diligence on a prospective applicant to ensure they have sufficient capacity to manage the planned project. We found that the ministry largely relied on information provided by applicants, without verifying the accuracy or reasonableness of the information. This included:

Risk assessment information. Ministry staff relied on applicants' own assessment of risks, via a question that asked the applicant to identify any project risks and mitigation strategies. The ministry did not verify whether this was a complete assessment of project risks, though in some cases the ministry indicated that its prior understanding of an applicant or project informed their final risk assessment score.

Cost estimate information. While the ministry required applicants to provide cost estimates, time constraints meant the ministry did not verify the reasonableness of the estimated costs. The ministry explained that its assessment process focused instead on background information in the proposals (the type and recency of the cost assessment, and whether the assessment was prepared internally or externally).

The ministry's reliance on unverified applicant information limited its assurance that applicants could complete their proposed projects on time and on budget.

Why this matters

Overall, the ministry established a competitive evaluation process, with several key requirements in place, and consistently followed that process. However, the limited guidance for some components – combined with the limited assessment of applicants' information – created a risk the ministry conducted evaluations inconsistently, or selected applicants that may have difficulty completing projects on time or according to program objectives.

Recommendation

See recommendation 1.

See the response from the auditee on page 21.

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Monitoring and reporting

A robust monitoring framework is important to ensure that programs and services align with legislation, regulations, goals and objectives, and that they achieve desired results. Monitoring allows organizations to identify and act on opportunities for improvement.

The ministry developed a monitoring strategy and received most reports

What we looked for

The *Core Policy and Procedures Manual* states a "monitoring strategy must be maintained by the responsible ministry to ensure the terms and stipulations for the government transfer payments (such as grants) are met."

We looked at whether the ministry established a monitoring strategy for the Community Economic Resilience grants to ensure recipients met funding requirements.

We also looked to see whether the ministry used an information management system to receive and review reports from recipients, and whether the ministry had a process to address situations where recipients were not meeting funding requirements.

What we found

The ministry established a monitoring strategy that covered all but one of the funding requirements

We found that the ministry established a monitoring strategy for recipients, with one exception. The ministry outlined its monitoring strategy and reporting requirements in the contribution agreements it signed with the 63 recipients.

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Reporting expectations outlined in contribution agreement template

Report	Requirement
Periodic Progress Reports	If substantial completion (defined as a project that "can be used for the purpose for which it was intended") of the project was not achieved by December 31, 2021, the recipient had to submit a periodic progress report by January 31 of each year until substantial completion of the project.
Interim Expenditure Reports	Recipients were required to submit interim reports summarizing expenditures, when 25% and 75% of the total funding had been spent. The ministry could also require an additional report when 50% of the total grant amount had been spent, but this was optional.
Final Report	Recipients were required to submit a summary of final project expenditures along with data on the number of people employed on the project (including number of women, Indigenous peoples, new Canadians, and young adults), and the number of permanent jobs created.
Project Audit Report	Optional reporting where the ministry could request certain recipients to provide a project audit report confirming that the project expenditures had been made in compliance with the contribution agreement.
Impromptu information requests	Optional reporting where the ministry could request "all such other information concerning the progress of the Project, as may be required."

Source: Community Economic Resilience Contribution Agreement template

There was a gap, however, as the reporting requirements did not capture an expectation in the contribution agreement for recipients to identify whether construction had started by Dec. 31, 2021. The progress reports, which outline project start dates, were only required by Jan. 31, 2022.

The ministry received most of the required reporting from applicants, though there were some gaps and delays

With reporting requirements in place, we looked to see whether the ministry ensured recipients submitted their required reports on time.

We found that the ministry used two approaches to collect reports:

1. An IT system (Local Government Information System) to receive periodic progress reports
2. An email account to receive project expenditure reports and final reports

Ministry staff tracked the reporting they received through both the Local Government Information System and the email account in a monitoring spreadsheet. We reviewed entries in the information system and the monitoring spreadsheet and found that the ministry received the required reporting except for interim expenditure reports from five recipients.

Through conversations with ministry staff and our review of the reports, we also learned that 20 recipients did not begin construction before the required deadline of Dec. 31, 2021. These

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construction delays contrasted with initial estimates provided by the 63 recipients, where more than half had estimated that they would complete their projects in 2021.

The ministry cited a range of factors for project delays, including the effects of flooding and forest fires in 2021, changes in the scope and staffing of projects, global supply chain issues, geotechnical survey delays, and seasonal construction delays.

Ministry staff explained that they accepted the reasons for the delays and approved the progress reports for all the delayed projects. The ministry can end agreements and demand repayment of funding, but it explained that withdrawing support would likely run counter to the goal of supporting communities during the pandemic.

Why this matters

The ministry established the required monitoring framework and received the majority of required reports from recipients. However, the absence of early reporting on project start dates, coupled with the unanticipated project delays, increased the risk of the ministry not detecting and correcting issues with funded projects in a timely manner. A further consequence of these delays is that they potentially limited the economic objectives of the grants to support immediate COVID-19 recovery through the funding and completion of short-term and small-scale infrastructure projects.

Recommendation

We recommend that:

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs develop guidance for designing, implementing, and monitoring emergency grant programs that builds on the *Core Policy and Procedures Manual* and sets:

- ▫ Defined roles and responsibilities of ministry assessors and reviewers.
- ▫ Detailed written guidance for all stages of the evaluation process, including guidance for verifying information provided by applicants.
- ▫ Monitoring requirements for recipients of upfront grants to ensure the ministry receives sufficient information to monitor compliance.

This recommendation is to help the ministry apply lessons learned from the development and implementation of the Community Economic Resilience grant stream. There are likely to be future grant programs that need to respond quickly to public emergencies while meeting expectations in the manual.

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About the audit

We conducted this audit under the authority of section 11(8) of the *Auditor General Act* and in accordance with the Canadian Standard on Assurance Engagements (CSAE) 3001—Direct Engagements, set out by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada) in the *CPA Canada Handbook—Assurance*. These standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and conduct the audit to independently express a conclusion against the objective of the audit.

A direct audit involves understanding the subject matter to identify areas of significance and risk, and to identify relevant controls. This understanding is the basis for designing and performing audit procedures to obtain evidence on which to base the audit conclusion.

The audit procedures we conducted include document review, file reviews, data analysis and interviews with ministry staff and funding recipients.

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Our office applies the Canadian Standard on Quality Control (CSQC 1), and we have complied with the independence and other requirements of the code of ethics issued by the Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia that are relevant to this audit.

Audit report date: June 16, 2022

Michael A. Pickup, FCPA, FCA
Auditor General of British Columbia
Victoria, B.C.

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Appendix A: Recommendation and auditee response

Recommendation 1: The Ministry of Municipal Affairs develop guidance for designing, implementing, and monitoring emergency grant programs that builds on the *Core Policy and Procedures Manual* and sets:

- Defined roles and responsibilities of ministry assessors and reviewers.

- Detailed written guidance for all stages of the evaluation process, including guidance for verifying information provided by applicants.

- Monitoring requirements for recipients of upfront grants to ensure the ministry receives sufficient information to monitor compliance.

Recommendation 1 Response: The Ministry of Municipal Affairs accepts this recommendation and will develop guidance materials specific to the design and implementation of grant programs delivered under truncated timelines for a quick response to unanticipated events.

The ministry's Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch will address the recommendation in advance of a future emergency grant program through the development of process and policy documentation, for programs, that build on the *Core Policy and Procedures Manual*. The work will define roles and responsibilities, outline the required written guidance for the evaluation process and ensure monitoring requirements include adequate early reporting.

Program development and delivery is an iterative process. Learnings from the recommendation will result in efficiencies in the future.

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Appendix B: Audit criteria

Line of Enquiry 1: Program Design

Criteria

1.1 The ministry followed the CPPM approval process in establishing the CERIP-CER funding stream

    1.1.1 The ministry completed a government transfer request for CERIP-CER funding that was approved by a ministry officer with delegated expense authority and the ministry's Chief Financial Officer

    1.1.2 The ministry's CERIP-CER government transfer request outlined how the funding aligned with broader strategic and organizational objectives

    1.1.3 The ministry recorded CERIP-CER funding accurately

1.2 The ministry established eligibility criteria for CERIP-CER funding that aligned with CPPM guidelines

    1.2.1 The ministry identified what type of applicant and project was eligible to receive CERIP-CER funding

    1.2.2 The ministry identified how the eligibility criteria addressed CERIP-CER's intended outcomes

1.3 The ministry established a selection process for evaluating CERIP-CER funding applications that aligned with CPPM guidelines

    1.3.1 The ministry established a competitive selection process for evaluating CERIP-CER funding applications, or outlined why a competitive selection process was not appropriate

    1.3.2 The ministry defined the roles and responsibilities in the selection process for evaluating CERIP-CER funding applications

    1.3.3 The ministry defined the process for evaluating CERIP-CER funding applications

    1.3.4 The ministry defined the process for determining funding amounts for successful funding applications

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1.4 The ministry established CERIP-CER funding requirements that aligned with CPPM guidelines

1.4.1 The ministry established that CERIP-CER funding recipients must meet specific stipulations after funding is provided to them

1.4.2 The ministry established that CERIP-CER funding must repay the funds if they are not used to achieve the purpose outlined in the agreement between the ministry and recipient

1.4.3 The ministry identified how funding requirements addressed CERIP-CER's intended outcomes

1.5 The ministry established processes for ensuring CERIP-CER funding recipients complied with funding requirements that aligned with CPPM guidelines

1.5.1 The ministry established a monitoring strategy for CERIP-CER funding recipients

1.5.2 The ministry established a system for tracking information and reports from CERIP-CER funding recipients

1.5.3 The ministry established a process to address situations where CERIP-CER funding recipients were not meeting the funding requirements

Line of Enquiry 2: Program Administration

Criteria

2.1 The ministry followed the selection process it established for evaluating CERIP-CER funding applications

2.1.1 The ministry screened CERIP-CER applications according to the same criteria in the Technical Assessment template

2.1.2 The ministry evaluated screened-in applications according to the expectations in the Technical Assessment template

2.1.3 The ministry documented the rationale behind its screening and evaluation decisions

2.2 The ministry ensured that the applications that received CERIP-CER funding met the selection process requirements

2.3 The ministry established agreements with successful applicants that aligned with CPPM guidelines

2.3.1 The ministry established formal written agreements with CERIP-CER funding recipients that clearly identified the terms and stipulations of the funding

2.3.2 The ministry sought advice from legal counsel in developing their written agreements

2.3.3 The ministry gained assurance that the recipient had sufficient capacity to manage the planned program related to the funding

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Line of Enquiry 3: Program Monitoring

Criteria

3.1 The ministry received required reports from CERIP-CER funding recipients to ensure the funding requirements were met

3.2 The ministry took action to address situations where CERIP-CER funding recipients were not meeting the funding requirements

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Appendix C: Community Economic Resilience stream projects ($30 million total)

Completed Community Economic Resilience stream projects as of March 4, 2022

Funding Recipient	Economic Development Region	Funding ($)	Project Name
Ashcroft	Thompson / Okanagan	124,191	Legacy Park Upgrades
Granisle	Nechako	362,148	Curling Rink Facility Upgrade
Mackenzie	Cariboo	236,250	Mackenzie Arena Compressor and Ice Plan Upgrades Project
Miworth Community Association	Cariboo	28,776	Miworth Community Outdoor Rink – Repaving
Prince George Golf & Curling Club Ltd.	Cariboo	648,000	Refrigeration Plant Conversion (Ammonia to Freon) and Insulation Improvements
Rossland	Kootenay	132,525	Rossland old Wagon Road (Green Link) Improvement Project
Strawberry Vale District and Community Club	Vancouver Island / Coast	246,400	Community Hall Repairs/Renovation
Williams Lake Trail Riders Association	Cariboo	109,803	Stable and Riding Arena Re-roofing

Source: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

In-progress Community Economic Resilience stream projects as of March 4, 2022

Funding Recipient	Economic Development Region	Funding ($)	Project Name
Ashcroft Indian Band (AIB)	Thompson / Okanagan	398,645	AIB Sports Box and Playground
B.C. Wildlife Federation	Mainland / Southwest	581,223	Outdoor Access Improvement Project
Black Creek Community Association	Vancouver Island / Coast	398,970	Covered Community-Gathering Structure
Bowen Island Public Library Foundation	Mainland / Southwest	398,000	Snug Cove Cultural Corner
British Columbia Mountain Foundation	Mainland / Southwest	58,278	Backcountry Outhouse, Campsite Area and Creek Crossing at Ossa Mountain

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In-progress Community Economic Resilience stream projects as of March 4, 2022 (continued)

Funding Recipient	Economic Development Region	Funding ($)	Project Name
Central Coast	Vancouver Island / Coast	990,840	Centennial Pool Renewal
Central Saanich	Vancouver Island / Coast	322,800	Multi-Use Pathway on Benvenuto Avenue
Columbia Valley Airport Society	Kootenay	242,528	CYCZ Airport Runway Refurbishment
Cortes Community Economic Development Association	Vancouver Island / Coast	63,052	Cortes Community Economic Development Association's COVID-19 Response Project
Cowichan Valley	Vancouver Island / Coast	550,000	South Cowichan Outdoor Pickleball Complex
Cumberland	Vancouver Island / Coast	169,000	Cumberland Lake Park Waterfront Infrastructure Renewal
Delta	Mainland / Southwest	1,000,000	Ladner Covered Multi-Sport Court
Dunster Fine Arts School Society	Cariboo	191,832	Building Envelope
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation	Vancouver Island / Coast	354,650	Himanis Traditional Bighouse Upgrades 2021
Fort St. John	Northeast	994,500	Kin Park Improvements Phase 1
Fraser Lake	Nechako	1,000,000	Fraser Lake Community Hall Development
Gabriola Community Bus Foundation	Vancouver Island / Coast	187,847	A new home for Gabriola's GERTIE bus
Gitga'at Development Corporation	North Coast	456,000	GDC Building energy efficiency and accessibility upgrade
Italian Cultural Centre Society	Mainland / Southwest	160,000	Osteria Kitchen upgrades
Kent	Mainland / Southwest	395,000	Aberdeen Building Revitalization Project
Lake Country Art Gallery Society	Thompson / Okanagan	40,000	Lake Country Art Gallery Facilities Update
Lakes District Film Appreciation Society	Nechako	309,000	Beacon Theatre Siding and Front Façade Project
Maple Ridge	Mainland / Southwest	200,000	Youth Action Amenities at Silver Valley Gathering Place
Midway	Kootenay	319,410	Boundary Expo Rec Centre Chiller & Condensing Tower Replacement

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In-progress Community Economic Resilience stream projects as of March 4, 2022 (continued)

Funding Recipient	Economic Development Region	Funding ($)	Project Name
Mission Community Skills Centre Society	Mainland / Southwest	999,450	Fraser Valley Artisans' Food Centre
Mount Waddington	Vancouver Island / Coast	121,650	Train Engine Viewing Platform and Infrastructure for Nimpkish Valley Heritage Park
Nelson	Kootenay	1,000,000	Hall Street Pier Project
Nicola Valley Rodeo Association	Thompson / Okanagan	440,729	Electrical upgrade to Nicola Valley rodeo grounds
Oak Bay	Vancouver Island / Coast	524,275	Oak Bay Arena Chiller and Brine Piping
Oliver Curling Club Society	Thompson / Okanagan	80,000	Oliver Curling Club Ice Plant Upgrades
Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (PISE) Society	Vancouver Island / Coast	1,000,000	PISE: Field of Dreams
Pemberton	Mainland / Southwest	974,258	Pemberton and Area Mountain Bike Skills Park
Penticton	Thompson / Okanagan	1,000,000	Construction of the Lake to Lake AAA Cycling Route Section 3 and 4
Quadra Island Recreation Society	Vancouver Island / Coast	180,000	Quadra Island Community Centre Bike Park
Qualicum Beach	Vancouver Island / Coast	444,525	East Village Revitalization Phase 2
Quatsino First Nation	Vancouver Island / Coast	556,157	Quatsino First Nation – Indigenous Food Hub
Revelstoke	Thompson / Okanagan	947,039	Revelstoke Valley Trail – Phase 1
Richmond	Mainland / Southwest	1,000,000	Alexandra Neighbourhood Park
Sicamous	Thompson / Okanagan	447,000	Sicamous Beach Park Improvements
Silverton Co-work Society	Kootenay	899,770	North Slocan Valley Community Food Centre
Smithers	Nechako	980,000	Arena Ice Plants Consolidation and Heat Recovery – Phase 1
Sointula Resource Centre Society	Vancouver Island / Coast	105,660	Sointula Community Pavilion
Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society	Vancouver Island / Coast	336,113	Canada Cup Trail Phase Two

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In-progress Community Economic Resilience stream projects as of March 4, 2022 (continued)

Funding Recipient	Economic Development Region	Funding ($)	Project Name
Squamish Off-Road Cycling Association	Mainland / Southwest	65,642	Mountain Bike Skills Park Upgrade
Tahsis	Vancouver Island / Coast	82,800	Outdoor shelters and benches
Takla First Nation	Cariboo	470,800	Playground Construction and Trail Enhancement Initiative
Terrace	North Coast	921,352	Lakelse Gateway Connection Project
Tumbler Ridge	Northeast	1,000,000	Chiller and Condenser Replacement and Upgrades + Maintenance Manual and Training
Vancouver	Mainland / Southwest	645,000	Coopers Park Washroom
Vernon	Thompson / Okanagan	695,000	Priest Valley Arena Chiller/Refrigeration Replacement Project
Victoria Lawn Bowling Club (VLBC)	Vancouver Island / Coast	112,312	VLBC: Rehabilitate Bowling Greens and Floodlights
Wells	Cariboo	441,600	Wells Outdoor Skating Rink Improvement Project
West Kelowna	Thompson / Okanagan	442,200	Jim Lind Arena and Royal LePage Place Ammonia Chiller Replacement
Williams Lake	Cariboo	550,000	Williams Creek and River Valley Shared Multi-User Boardwalk
Yucwmenlúcwu (Caretakers of the Land) LLP 2007	Thompson / Okanagan	867,000	Quilakwa Community Tourism Enhancement

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