

## Community and Regional Economic Support Program (CARES)

**Purpose**

To fund initiatives that enhance local economic conditions, leverage regional economic development resources & build capacity (local/regional) for sustainable economic development delivery.

**Funding From**

CARES is a 2 year program under AB Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Jobs Plan 2016 – 2018. Up to \$26.45 million will be granted to communities, regions, municipalities, & other eligible organizations.

**Website**

<http://www.alberta.ca/community-regional-economic-support-program.aspx>

**Contact Information**

[cares.program@gov.ab.ca](mailto:cares.program@gov.ab.ca)

**Funding Calendar**

1<sup>st</sup> intake: Oct.1 – Nov. 30, 2016  
 2<sup>nd</sup> intake: April 1 to May 31, 2017  
 3<sup>rd</sup> intake will be announced in early 2017

**Decisions**

- Applicants will be notified in 60 days of closing date.

**Funding Amounts and Matching Funds Requirement**

1. Community projects that benefit 1 community or municipality: CARES funding starts at \$10,000
2. Collaborative Regional projects with 2 or more supportive partners and shared vision. CARES funding starts at \$25,000.

Both streams require a 1:1 match ratio, or 50%.

**Decision Making Process**

- Applications are reviewed for eligibility and completeness.
- A grant adjudication committee assesses eligible applications.
- The Program Administrator may contact applicants to clarify budget or proposed project.

**Eligible Applicants**

- Incorporated not-for-profit economic development organizations/associations
- Municipalities
- Metis settlements and First Nations
- Formal project-based partnerships between a combination of the above.
- See examples in Program Guidelines.

**Project Evaluation Criteria**

- Alignment with program outcomes and evidence of job creation, investment, diversification, and sustainable growth
- Supports priorities/needs of community or region; complements other initiatives
- Support from community/region
- Alignment with applicant's mission & mandate
- Partners commitment of cash, in-kind
- Description of short & long-term benefits
- Methods to mitigate identified risks

### Program Outcomes/Eligible Activities

- Improve local business environment and/or regional economic collaboration
- Increased support for entrepreneurs & Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- Enhanced support for businesses & industries' diversification initiatives
- Increased investment driving high-value job creation
- See examples of Eligible Activities in Program Guidelines.

### Ineligible Activities

- Faith or political based activities
- Re-granting
- Land acquisition
- Major infrastructure
- Broadband towers or fibre for high speed internet
- Duplication of existing initiatives
- Debt reduction
- See list of others: retroactive funding, unrelated travel, sponsorship, fund-raising, lobbying, legal fees, taxes, insurance, etc.

### Application Process

- Check Program Guidelines for eligibility
- Complete the PDF application form <http://economic.alberta.ca/documents/CARES-program-application.pdf> for the appropriate stream: community or regional
- Submit electronically through on-line submission page during an application intake period
- Applications must be signed by the CAO or legal head of organization
- For regional applications, the lead applicant must be named and application signed by all listed partners

### Notes

- The approved funding may be lower than the amount requested.
- Funding provided in 2016 – 17 does not guarantee funding in 2017 – 18.
- Projects must not take longer than 2 years to complete.
- Fund Stacking: Maximum funding from all sources (federal, provincial, municipal, other) provide 100% of eligible costs, and must be identified. Total provincial funding cannot exceed 50%. Program Administrator reserves right to approve stacking.

### Limitations

- Budget for Intake 1, 2016: \$13 million
  - \$8 - \$9 million for community projects
  - \$4 - \$5 million for regional projects
- Applicants can submit 1 community project and partner on 1 regional project per fiscal year.

### Additional Information

- Applicants can contact managers of regional Economic Development and Trade offices for application support:
  - Selena McLean-Moore, Medicine Hat, 403.529.3113
  - Linda Erickson, Lethbridge 403.381.5482
  - Dawna Allard, Red Deer, 403.340.5302

**This is a quick reference summary only. Please check program guidelines and with Program Administrator for complete and current details.**

**Prepared for Canadian Badlands Tourism  
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