

2024-2034 Community Works Fund Agreement

Frequently Asked Questions

The renewed 2024-2034 Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) will result in the delivery of over \$3.5 billion in federal funding to BC for local infrastructure investments. The Community Works Fund (CWF) is a long-standing program of the CCBF which provides each local government in BC with an annual base amount and per-capita allocation. Local governments make localized decisions on how to prioritize CWF that align with the terms and conditions of their CWF Agreement with the Union of BC Municipalities. In order to receive their first payment under the renewed program, local governments must enter into a CWF Agreement with UBCM.

A CWF Program Guide and allocation table is available on the UBCM website. Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the renewed CWF program.

1.) Why is my Community Works Fund allocation less than last year?

The Canada Community-Building Fund is a national transfer currently set at \$2.3 billion nationally and based primarily on a per-capita allocation. Every five years, the allocation is updated to the most recent Canada census numbers. Changes in your allocation is therefore tied to the per capita amount Canada transfers to BC and the population change of your local government relative to all other local governments.

Therefore, local governments with a negative population change or a relatively low increase in population will be receiving less CWF. However, there is an indexing formula built in to the program which will see incremental increases to the fund over time.

2.) What is required in order to receive my first CWF transfer?

For local governments to receive their first CWF transfer in 2024, they must meet the following requirements:

- Submit their 2023 CCBF Annual Expenditure Report to UBCM (deadline was June 1, 2024)
- Submit their Audited Financial Statement to the Province
- Be in compliance with the 2014-2024 Community Works Fund Agreement
- Enter in to a 2024-2034 Community Works Fund Agreement with UBCM

3.) When will I expect to receive my first CWF transfer?

Provided you have met the above conditions and have executed a 2024-34 Community Works Fund Agreement with UBCM, the first CWF transfer is expected to occur in August 2024 – or within 30 days of UBCM receiving its first payment from Canada.

4.) What are the changes to the Community Works Fund Program?

Eligible Investment Categories:

- All existing eligible project categories are maintained.
- The ‘Disaster Mitigation’ category has been expanded and renamed ‘Resilience’ and eligible expenditures expanded to also include: New construction of public infrastructure and/or modification or reinforcement of existing public infrastructure including natural infrastructure that prevent, mitigate or protect against the impacts of climate change, disasters triggered by natural hazards, and extreme weather.
- The ‘Fire Hall’ category has been expanded to now include Fire Truck purchases as stand-alone projects.
- Feasibility Studies and Detailed Design projects are now eligible.
- Housing planning is now an eligible under Capacity Building.

5.) Are there any changes to reporting?

For all local governments, the timeline for annual reporting will continue to be June 1 of each year. New requirements for reporting will include:

- Geolocation for each project (details to follow)
- A requirement to provide a standardized metric (output) for each project (such as meters of road, meters of pipe, number of facilities)
- A requirement to provide a standardized outcome for each project completed in a given year (such as increase of residents served, increase in storage capacity)

Reporting specific to municipalities with a population over 30,000:

- A Housing Needs Report updated by March 2025 in accordance with provincial requirements;
- Provide UBCM with web link to the Housing Needs Report;

Additionally for non-Metro municipalities over 30,000:

- Where housing pressures have been identified within the Housing Needs Report that can be addressed through closing infrastructure gaps or building capacity, prioritization of CWF funding for these projects, where it makes sense to do so, and;
- Meet the project-based housing requirements set out in the CWF Agreement.

6.) Are there spending timelines on CWF funds?

CWF funds received by UBCM in a given year will be required to be fully expended on eligible projects within five years. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and identified through a long-term capital and/or asset management plan.

Note that any unspent CWF funds held by the local government under the 2014-2024 CWF program will be required to be spent within five years of entering into the 2024-2034 CWF Agreement with UBCM.

For any additional questions, please contact our CCBF staff at ccbf@ubcm.ca or 250-356-5134.