

CSRD Food Network Project Proposal

The Interior Health Community Food Action Initiative Funding is available for local governments to apply until December 9, 2019 for three-year projects.

Match to Funding Objective:

- Development and/or coordination of a Regional Food Security Network

Applicant Eligibility:

- First Nations, Municipalities and Regional Districts can apply
- Local Governments are expected to provide matching investment.
- Preference is given to local governments who have not received CFAl multi-year funding in the past (Municipalities of Revelstoke, Salmon Arm, Sorrento, and Golden have all received this funding in the past).

Available Funding:

- Four multi-year grants are available for up to \$15,000/year (total \$45,000 for 3 years).
- Project timeframe: April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2023

Match to Eligible Expenses:

- Funding human resources or a consultant to develop and/or coordinate a Regional Food Security Network

Definition of a Food Security Network:

A food security network acts as a connector and a leader by identifying opportunities for collaboration and alignment between many partners who are working to improve food security within a region. The goal of a food security network is to support collective action toward a common set of goals and priorities for a region and improve the capacity of partners to address their own food security goals.

Networks bring people together to catalyze action that meets local government priorities. Food systems, agriculture, food security in our community, economic development and climate action all require commitment and action from various sectors. Networks can facilitate partnerships amongst a variety of sectors to help move forward common goals.

When developing and coordinating a regional food security network, a local government's involvement has the potential to contribute to the sustainability of the work. Local government can play different roles such as leading the project or acting as a key partner to work alongside partnering organizations. The CFAI fund can be used to hire a consultant such as a local community group or academic to lead the project.

A CSRD Food Network:

The Columbia-Shuswap region is unique in its geography and agricultural potential. To the east, Golden connects with the East Kootenay region, but many foods produced in that region do not make it to Golden markets. In the centre, Revelstoke connects with the West Kootenay, but again, little food makes it across the ferry. The western area of the CSRD has higher populations and higher agricultural outputs, and connects strongly with the Okanagan as a food source.

Several communities across the CSRD are working on community food security in their own way:

- The Local Food Matters organization inspires conversation, initiates momentum, and facilitates projects to promote a thriving local food culture in Golden and Area A.
- Community Connections (Revelstoke Society), with funding support from the City of Revelstoke, employs a Food Security Coordinator to implement the municipal Food Security Strategy.
- The Shuswap Food Action is a Salmon Arm-based organization that has taken up the challenge of raising awareness around food security issues with the ultimate goal of initiating a local food policy.

A CSRD Food Network could provide the following benefits:

- Highlight regional food security assets (share the work already happening)
- Identify region-wide food security goals (strive for a food secure region)
- Share resources and project planning to avoid duplication of work
- Support the development of new food security champions in rural communities within the region
- Support the implementation of regional and municipal agriculture and food security plans
- Prepare project plans for upcoming funding opportunities
- **Catalyze food action across the region**

The structure of the CSRD Food Network:

- Lead by the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District
- Network facilitator hired to convene members - explore food security personnel in each municipality or area of the CSRD and their interest in joining the network - consider

inviting representatives from the Columbia Valley, Kootenays and Okanagan to connect us to major food producing regions around us

- Members invited to attend monthly online gatherings (via Zoom platform)
- Members invited to attend in-person meetings twice yearly (changing locations or central)
- Network facilitator helps to flush out network goals, key topics, and opportunities for regional projects and mentorship, reporting back to the CSRD on progress
- Provide compensation to members to support their ability to attend network gatherings

Why care about food and food security?

- Very large proportion of the region's food is imported from outside of 250 km
- Roadways throughout the region are vulnerable to closure for extended periods
- Municipalities are growing in populations throughout the region, yet agricultural outputs are not growing significantly
- Food production, processing and education have social, economic and environmental benefits
- Our region's growing capabilities will be uniquely impacted by climate change and we must learn to mitigate and adapt
- 1 in 7 households in the Interior Health region are food insecure to different degrees, yet there is little to no government funding for food charity programs
- CSRD communities CANNOT solve food security on their own; this issue requires regional collaboration for effective impact