

# Discretionary Grants-in-Aid Application Form

<b>Section A – Applicant /Organization Information</b>	
1. <b>Registered Non-Profit Organization No.:</b> 766528350RR0001 <u>S0079566</u>	
2. <b>Project Title:</b> Empowered Employment	
3. <b>Applicant/Organization.</b> Must be an eligible applicant.	
a) <b>Legal Name of Organization:</b> FRESH START Collaborative Society	
b) <b>Mailing Address:</b> 2304 5th St. South	
c) <b>City:</b> Cranbrook	d) <b>Postal Code:</b> V1C 4Z7
e) <b>Main Contact for Application:</b> Marcel Germer	
f) <b>Telephone #:</b> 250 489-8895	g) <b>Email:</b> freshstartcbk@gmail.com
4. <b>Sponsored Organization.</b> Only complete if applicable.	
a) <b>Legal Name of Organization:</b>	
b) <b>Mailing Address:</b>	
c) <b>City:</b>	d) <b>Postal Code:</b>
e) <b>Main Contact for Application:</b>	
f) <b>Telephone #:</b>	g) <b>Email:</b>

<b>Section B – Grant Request</b>	
1. <b>Enter the grant amount you are requesting from each electoral area.</b>	
Electoral Area A     \$ _____	Electoral Area E     \$ _____
Electoral Area B     \$ _____	Electoral Area F     \$ _____
Electoral Area C     \$ <u>10,000</u>	Electoral Area G     \$ _____
Total Funding Request     \$ <u>10,000</u>	
<b>Electoral Area Descriptions:</b> <b>Area A:</b> rural Elk Valley <b>Area B:</b> South Country <b>Area C:</b> rural Cranbrook, Moyie, Fort Steele, Bull River, Wardner	<b>Area E:</b> rural Kimberley, Wasa, Ta Ta Creek, Skookumchuck <b>Area F:</b> rural Canal Flats to rural Invermere <b>Area G:</b> Wilmer to Spillimacheen

Office Use Only					
EAAC Recommendations				Board Resolution	
A		E		Board Date:	
B		F		Resolution No:	
C		G		Approved/Denied (\$):	
Total EAAC Recommendation: Request was tabled until the next Area C EAAC meeting; however, Director Gay would like to proceed with a <b>\$10,000</b> recommendation for this project.				Funding changes at Board from EAAC recommendation:	

**2. Purpose of Grant.**

Provide a clear description of the nature of the project and how the grant will be used.

Survival crime undermines the social fabric of a community and erodes the sense of safety and wellbeing. To address this, FRESH START Collaborative Society is partnering with the City of Cranbrook, other non-profits, people with lived experience, and a local employment agency in developing a pilot project that creates and scales low-barrier employment for unhoused or precariously housed individuals.

Research shows that access to low-barrier employment opportunities for people experiencing homelessness has a positive impact on survival crime. Providing purposeful employment allows marginalized individuals to better meet their daily needs, thus reducing involvement in survival crime. It also fosters pride and strengthens community connection- both shown to be crucial elements in reducing survival crime.

A recent example in Cranbrook highlights the impact of such opportunities. One unhoused individual expressed interest and skill in outdoor work. FRESH START facilitated a multi-sectoral partnership that led to the individual being hired to maintain and fireproof the area around an unhoused community. Not only did this improve his economic situation and reduce his involvement in survival crime, it had a positive impact on the broader community by decreasing fire risk and reducing garbage buildup.

The "Empowered Employment" pilot project is designed to track and measure the impact low-barrier employment has on reducing survival crime. Through offering employment on initiatives that address vital community needs, such as cleaning of abandoned camps and ensuring clean and safe common areas, FRESH START is confident survival crime can be measurably reduced.

If approved, this funding will support FRESH START in purchasing start up equipment such as rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, personal protective wear (such as appropriate foot wear, puncture-proof gloves, and safety glasses), and will help cover operations fuel expenses.

In Collaboration with the Mayor's Task Force, FRESH START is developing a business plan and we anticipate that Empowered Employment will evolve into a fully self-sustaining social enterprise by year three.

**3. Areas Benefiting.**

List the specific areas that will benefit from the grant. Please see page 1, Section B for the descriptions of the Electoral Areas and identify the specific Area(s) that this grant will benefit. I.e. Areas A and C.

Area C would be the primary focus of this initiative in year one due to logistics of transportation, use of equipment etc. However, the planned work projects are such that they could generalize to other Electoral Areas as the program expands.

For example, once transportation barriers have been addressed, cleaning of abandoned camp sites and common areas could generalize to surrounding areas through a contract with FRESH START.

As Cranbrook is a regional hub, marginalized individuals participating in the program would come from most, if not all, the Electoral Areas.

**4. Benefits.**

Describe how the project will benefit the areas listed in section 3, including the residents of those areas, and how the project meets local needs..

Over the past few years, Cranbrook has experienced rising numbers of visibly unhoused individuals. This has had far-reaching implications across all segments of the community.

Many people living unhoused do not have the means to meet their daily needs and so survival crime increases. Residents and businesses in Cranbrook and surrounding areas have experienced significant financial losses due to the rise in crime.

Cranbrook has also experienced a significant rise in abandoned camps and unsafe items such as drug paraphernalia left in public areas. The task and cost of cleaning these camps and maintaining safe common spaces most often falls to the City or the RDEK.

FRESH START believes that its Empowered Employment initiative will address both these concerns in a significant way.

First, through this project unhoused youth and adults will have access to consistent and supportive low-barrier employment empowering them to become more financially self-sufficient, gain skills and experience, and reengage in meaningful work. In turn, residents and businesses will benefit by the reduction in crime,

Additionally, as the number of people living unhoused increases, so does the accumulation of trash and number of abandoned camps in the community. Abandoned camps are a public health concern and result in unsafe and unsightly areas around the community. Empowered Employment will address this by offering a supervised work program to safely clean up abandoned sites and common areas. This will reduce the time and cost on the municipality or RDEK, while improving the safety and wellbeing of the entire community.

**Section C – Required Additional Information**

All applications **must** include the following additional information:

**Project Budget**

- Provide a budget detailing revenue, expenditures and in-kind contributions. The budget must clearly show all funds received from other sources.

**Project Partners**

- Identify any partners or resources which will be assisting you during this project.

*Additional Information is not to exceed 6 single-side pages or 3 double-side pages.*

Proposals may be submitted by mail, email, fax or dropped off to:

Attention: Corporate Services  
Regional District of East Kootenay  
19–24 Avenue South, Cranbrook BC V1C 3H8

Email: corporateservicesdept@rdek.bc.ca

Fax: 250-489-3498

## RDEK GRANT APPLICATION

**Project Title:** Empowered Employment

**Organization Name:** FRESH START Collaborative Society

**Grant Period:** 2 years after approval date

**Prepared by:** Marcel Germer

**Date:** March 5, 2025

Proposed Project Partner	Funding Amount Requested	To Be Used For	Approved
RDEK	\$10,000	<b>Supplies:</b> (garbage bags, bins) <b>Tools:</b> (rakes, shovels, pickers, hammer, crowbar, pliers, cutting tool, wheelbarrow) <b>PPE:</b> (puncture proof gloves, footwear, protective glasses, etc) <b>Branded workwear</b> <b>Fuel</b>	Unconfirmed
SparcBC	\$37,000	Used Truck and Trailer Insurance Community Engagement and Consultation Event Program admin costs	\$25,000 CONFIRMED
Confirmed Project Partners	Donated/In Kind	To Be Used For	Approved
City of Cranbrook	Truck	Donating use of truck until another truck can be purchased.	CONFIRMED
Community member	Logo	Creation of logo to use for branding	CONFIRMED
ANKORS	Unknown- Applied for grant to cover costs of worker wages.	Wages for workers  <i>Note: Funding is currently available to begin project. However, more funding is needed to expand.</i>	Unconfirmed

Kootenay Employment Services	Unknown- Applied for grant to cover costs of training, program development.	Training, facilities, staff time.	Unconfirmed
The Dwelling Place	Meeting Room	Use of meeting room for planning and coordination	CONFIRMED
FRESH START Society	Human capital	Admin/coordination/Contract Procurement/Fund raising	CONFIRMED