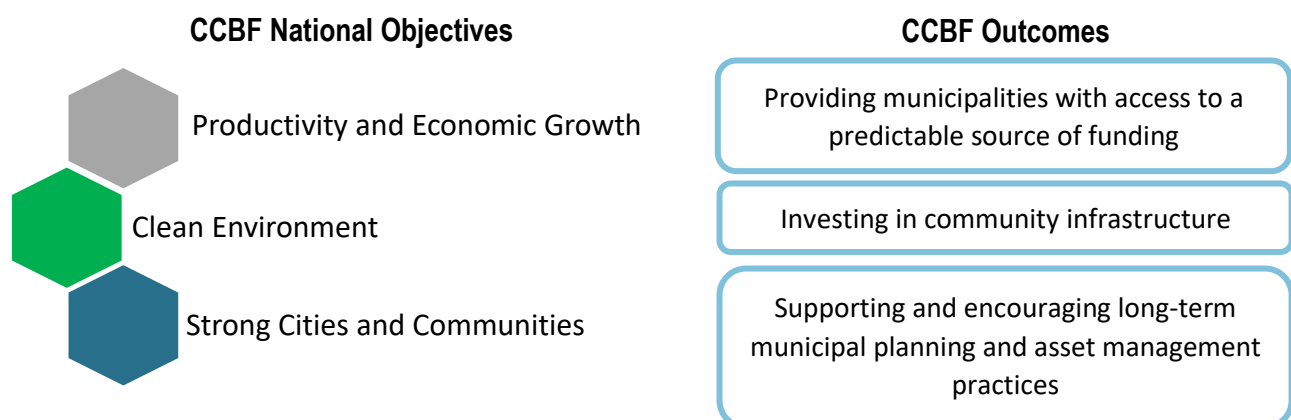


SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION OF THE CANADA COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND

Infrastructure Canada’s evaluation of the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) assessed the effectiveness of the CCBF and the progress made towards recommendations from the previous evaluation, as well as reports from the Office of the Auditor General and the Parliamentary Budget Office. This evaluation also includes the government-wide commitment to include Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) in all evaluations as outlined in the Directive on Results.

Program Description			
On June 29, 2021 the Gas Tax Fund was renamed the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF). The program provides a flexible and permanent source of federal infrastructure funding to support community infrastructure projects.			
The CCBF funding is managed through agreements between INFC and 15 signatories:			
12 Provinces & Territories	2 Municipal Associations	The City of Toronto	
Between 2014-19, CCBF contributed to infrastructure investments through:			
Transferring \$10.29 billion to signatories	Supporting approximately 4,000 projects each year	Flexibility to fund projects across 18 categories	Serving roughly 3,900 communities



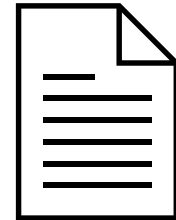
+

The evaluation found that:

Collaborative efforts on performance measurement and reporting have been helpful and that reporting roles and responsibilities of signatories and ultimate recipients are generally clear.

CCBF signatories were aware of key resources provided by INFC (e.g., communication protocols, eligibility assessment guidelines, asset management guidelines, etc.) but accessibility and usefulness could be improved.

CCBF reporting has improved since the 2015 CCBF evaluation but data reliability, consistency, and uniformity remain central issues. Program signatories and ultimate recipients continue to be interested in working with INFC to refine data collection and help develop a national-level understanding of program performance.

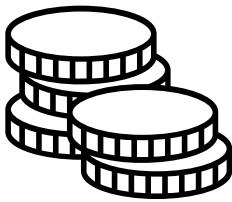


Administrative and human resources capacity limitations were highlighted as a concern regarding CCBF reporting, as stakeholders appreciate CCBF's flexibility and emphasized that any change to the existing reporting burden should be understandable and justified.

CCBF's flexible funding model has supported signatories and ultimate recipients in meeting their local needs and priorities. Asset categories identified to be of the highest priority similarly received the greatest portion of CCBF funding. Survey data indicates that needs and priorities are expected to remain generally consistent for the next five years.



CCBF has provided municipalities with access to a predictable source of funding and the current program flexibility allows ultimate recipients to target funding to local needs and priorities, or to bank funding for future infrastructure projects.



CCBF funding contributed to community infrastructure projects in support of the program’s long term national objectives of productivity and economic growth, clean environment, and strong cities and communities.

CCBF has contributed to capacity building and asset management practices.

The importance of CCBF asset management expenditure is highlighted by 1 in 4 ultimate recipients identifying CCBF as the sole source of financial support for their asset management improvement.

There is limited understanding in how CCBF is benefitting diverse populations and communities. Signatories and ultimate recipients have expressed interest in exploring ways in which CCBF can support diverse populations and a diverse range of community types.

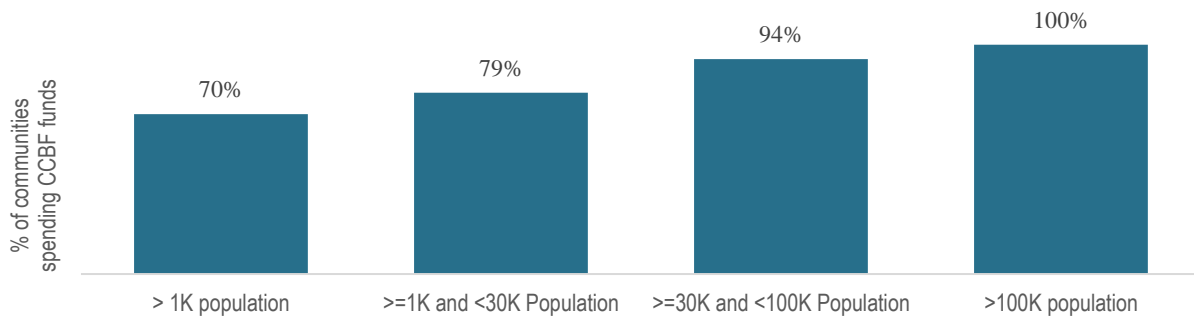
Demographics identified as the most relevant for CCBF include:

- Small, rural, remote, and northern communities
- Indigenous peoples
- Persons with disabilities



Expenditure data indicates that smaller communities are less likely to spend CCBF funds, banking over multiple years to fund projects.

The **smaller** the community, the **less likely they were to spend CCBF funding** between 2014-19.



Differences in per capita expenditure were noted between remote communities in provinces and in territories. Per capita allocation and expenditure is higher for remote communities in the territories than remote communities in the provinces.

Evaluation Recommendations

Recommendation

1

It is recommended that INFC ensure that resources are made available and kept up to date in support of both signatories and ultimate recipients. These resources could include clear and consistent reporting guidelines established and communicated in advance of a reporting cycle; a regularly updated list of key contacts within INFC and at the signatory level and with participating CCBF ultimate recipients; key roles & responsibilities for all parties; documents/tools that provide information on eligibility.

Recommendation

2

In future negotiations, it is recommended that INFC strengthen the reporting framework and requirements to move towards the establishment and use of common indicators for outcomes reporting. These indicators should be clearly aligned with the desired outcomes and objectives of CCBF, as well as INFC. It would be worth examining the indicators already in place for other programs to determine if they can be applied towards CCBF.

Recommendation

3

To better align to evolving inclusiveness priorities, it is recommended that INFC conduct a GBA+ analysis for the upcoming renewal of CCBF. This could include exploring the specific needs and geographic contexts of small/rural/remote and Northern communities, as well as how those communities and Indigenous persons and persons with disabilities are impacted by the CCBF.