

## **Coastal Community relaunches Building Healthier Communities Fund**

Organizations can apply for up to \$25,000 to help fund a project that falls within the program's newly identified funding guidelines.

**Thursday - July 27, 2023 – Vancouver Island & the Gulf Islands:** In response to community needs during the pandemic, Coastal Community retooled its Building Healthier Communities Fund (BHCF) to create the Relief and Resiliency Fund (R&RF). Now that the environment has evolved, the credit union is ready to replace the R&RF with a new version of the BHCF. Applications for funding open on July 31<sup>st</sup> and can be found on [cccu.ca](https://cccu.ca).

BHCF has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in seed money to activate dozens of local organizations over the years. The grants help fund long-term initiatives that meet the criteria of sustainability, support for a broad range of people, and visible and meaningful impact in one of our local communities. The newly overhauled program now has a bigger budget to support holistic community health through four specific areas of support. They include:

- Housing
- Mental health
- Healthcare
- Homelessness

"We're looking for organizations that share our vision of social responsibility, leadership and strengthening and sustaining our Island communities," said Allyson Prescesky, Senior Manager, Community & Communications for Coastal Community. "Any projects that also include an element of financial health will receive additional points in the scoring criteria for the grants."

The original \$100,000 funding for the program has been increased to \$250,000 for 2023. The extra monies have been allocated from the \$1.6 million in one-time special community funding recently announced by the credit union. Some other ways Coastal Community plans to share its success through the special funding this year include:

- \$250,000 to launch a bursary program for students who are current members of Coastal Community and attending post-secondary education 2023 or 2024.
- \$200,000 in member-allocated funding, to be determined through member research.
- \$100,000 in increased funding to the credit union's Community Investment Fund. This program supports local projects and initiatives with grants up to \$2,500.
- \$50,000 in support for local initiatives that focus on financial literacy and improving financial health.

Stay tuned for more details on these and other ways Coastal Community will be using the \$1.6 million to help build strong communities throughout the coming months.

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Coastal Community Credit Union acknowledges that we are located on the Lands of the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth and Kwakiutl ancestors and families, whose historical relationships with the Land continue to this day. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live, learn, work and play in their traditional and unceded territories.

Media contact: Gerry Weaver | Communications Specialist, Coastal Community Credit Union  
1.888.741.1010

## COASTAL COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

***Improving financial health, enriching lives, and building healthier communities...*** These are at the core of who we are and what we do at Coastal Community Credit Union (CCCU).

With these as our focus areas, the CCCU family of companies continues to grow our position as the largest Island-based financial organization. We serve over 120,000 members and clients on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

To help our members and clients improve their financial health, our business lines offer a full range of products and services for personal, business and commercial banking, insurance\* and wealth management\*\* through Credential Securities. Our Island communities are our homes, so we make decisions based on knowledge of the local market, strengthening local economies. And we never stop looking for ways to improve the way we do business.

As a financial co-operative, we are 100% member-owned. Our shareholders are our neighbours and fellow citizens, so we are focused on building strong and vibrant communities by keeping our jobs, our earnings, and our community efforts local. Coastal Community regularly invests over half a million dollars annually into communities across the Islands through community funding grants, education awards, sponsorships and fundraising initiatives.

Want to learn more? Visit [cccu.ca](http://cccu.ca) or join us on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

\*References to "insurance" in this article refer to the insurance services provided through Coastal Community Insurance Services (2007) Ltd., an affiliate of Coastal Community Credit Union.

\*\* References to "wealth management," "financial planning" and "investments" refer to mutual funds, other securities and securities related financial planning services offered through Credential Securities, a division of Credential Qtrade Securities Inc. Credential Securities is a registered mark owned by Aviso Wealth Inc. Coastal Community Private Wealth Group is a division of Coastal Community Financial Management Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal Community Credit Union. Coastal Community Financial Management Inc. is a licensed life insurance agency offering financial planning, life insurance and investments.