

Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation

Prepared for Aboriginal Financial Officers Association

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Our Vision

Supporting community success through
innovative partnerships!

Our Philosophy

At the Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation we are committed to creating meaningful change in the communities we live in through our community investments. We continue to seek improvements in how we interact with our partners and will listen and learn from our communities.

Our Mandate

Distribute gaming funds to STC First Nations, other First Nations, not-for-profits, charitable groups and organizations within our catchment area, in a fair and equitable manner.

Formative Years

- Focused on ‘building’ the CDC organization
- Earned internal and external credibility
- Greater capacity
- Strategic community investment decisions

Trends in First Nations Communities

- Investment trends signal priority areas that mean the most to our communities
- Since 2007, **\$23.8 M** has been invested into communities
 - Community infrastructure, seniors-youth, education priority areas
- In 2013-2014, over half of investments (**\$3.4M**) was allocated to community infrastructure, senior & youth and health programs

Strategic Focus

- Examined merits and risks of targeting specific priority areas
- Focused on creating significant and meaningful outcomes
- Improve quality of life for immediate and long term results
- Areas of focus identified

Strategic Focus

Youth

Education

Culture & Language

Elders / Seniors

Goals and Priorities

YOUTH

Support programs that encourage and empower our youth to confidently make healthy, safe and constructive choices for their future.

- Self Esteem
- Addictions
- Life Skills
- Recreation

Goals and Priorities

EDUCATION

Support programs that foster lifelong learning and academic success that will open the door to independence, self-sufficiency and achievement.

- High school graduation
- Coaching, tutoring, counselling, mentorship
- School meal and nutrition programs
- Volunteerism
- Rural to urban transition

Goals and Priorities

CULTURE & LANGUAGE

Support programs that celebrate and sustain the rich history, pride and knowledge of First Nations languages, spirituality, family life and contributions to society.

- Language classes
- Translation
- Ceremonies, customs and celebrations
- Learning resources and data bases
- Art and culture
- Camps

Goals and Priorities

ELDERS / SENIORS

Support programs that honor and assist aging members of our community to improve their quality of life and ensure future generations learn from their stories and experiences.

- Health and nutrition
- Home safety
- Mentorship
- Recreation

Priority Areas – Next Steps

- Fine tune priority areas and aligned interests
- Ensure needs and expectations of community and Board are met
- Determine best method(s) to track and measure benefits of focused approach

Transitional Challenges

- Concerns of prioritizing the many needs and wants in community
- Potential of excluding some worthy programs, however communities excited to take a more strategic approach
- Communicating priority themes to community
- Aligning proposals for existing programs with priority areas
- Building trust in the new system

Opportunities

- Potential to align and capitalize on existing skills, knowledge and capacity
- Communities can make marked and lasting change in essential areas
- Foster culture that embraces and advances a First Nations approach
- Encourage collaboration and promote a more holistic approach to service community needs
- Drive overall improved outcomes – do more in a shorter period of time
- Measure the impact of investments – are we making a change?

Changing Role

- Bringing people together, building partnerships and developing a common vision
- Improvements in how we interact with our partners and listen and learn from our communities
- Supporting communities is about more than just money; CDC's support the work that needs to be done

Questions?

Thank you.