

2025 ESS CEPF Grant Application (Online submission)

APPLICANT: CVRD

Sub-Applicants: Town of Ladysmith, Town of Lake Cowichan, Municipality of North Cowichan, City of Duncan

RATIONALE FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS:

Emergency Support Services are provided by the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) to support four (4) municipalities, in addition to the nine (9) electoral areas of the CVRD. Additionally, the program provides support to various First Nations in the Cowichan Area. As a centralized program which provides service across 3,400 km², a regional grant will ensure that resources are shared across all zones. By tackling updates to the program regionally, instead of one geographic location at a time, there will be cost efficiencies in the total grant request.

PROJECT TITLE: Emergency Management Cowichan ESS 2025

START DATE: January 2, 2025

END DATE: December 31, 2025

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:

\$200,000

ESTIMATED TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:

\$200,000

OTHER FUNDING:

No

SOURCE:

Not applicable

PROJECT SUMMARY (500 WORDS):

This grant will be used on the regional Emergency Support Services (ESS) program to increase training, supplies, and modernize response capacity. In addition, the grant will support recognition and increase retention for the ESS volunteers. Under this project, the Cowichan ESS program aims to purchase/implement the following:

- Two volunteer appreciation events in 2025.
- Training for volunteers including Level 1 and AED First Aid training to meet requirements to work in reception centres.

- Volunteer kits needed for ESS Response in the field for new volunteers as part of recruitment campaign.
- Develop and implement accessible and clearer ESS Signage.
- Develop and implement an online portal for basic ESS information specific to an event
- Develop region-specific training, incorporating community nuances for the ESS program.
- Increase our supplies for regional reception centres and group lodging including cots, sleeping bags, ID card printer, laptops for ERA.
- Supplies for mobile ESS program including a dolly to adjust mobile ESS units on site without a vehicle, a pallet jack, and a small generator for our mobile ESS trailer.
- Sea Cans (temporary storage) for ESS supplies (to improve our response capacity by allowing ESS supplies to be staged at a new reception centre facility).

PROGRESS TO DATE (500 WORDS):

In 2020, the Cowichan Valley Emergency Support Services program purchased its first mobile reception centre supply unit (CESS Trailer) to store cots, tables, chairs and pet carriers.

In 2021, the CVRD received a regional ESS grant through CEPF to implement three storage locations, increase volunteer capacity, purchase ERA related equipment, purchase a second mobile unit for immediate needs of evacuees.

In 2022, the CVRD received a regional ESS grant to procure generators that could be deployed at ESS facilities to provide redundant power.

In 2023, the CVRD received a regional ESS grant through CEPF to purchase group lodging supplies, mobile printers for ESS vehicles and trailers, reception centre kits for secondary reception centres, laptop storage and secure storage carts, and an ESS command desk.

Additionally, we were able to outfit our second ESS trailer with shelving, racks, lighting, and electrical to operate as a mobile ESS interview space.