

## Appendix A- Rural Economic Development Service- Fund Criteria

On October 2, 2019 the RDNO adopted the Rural Economic Development Service Establishment Bylaw 2793. Requisition for the service will be in place for 2020 in the amount of approximately \$80,000. Participants in this Service include Electoral Areas: B, C, D, E and F. \$55,000 of the Service will be allocated to grants and the remaining \$25,000 will be utilized for priority projects that are to be undertaken or managed by RDNO staff. The grant funds are intended to support undertaking and administering projects and works that support economic development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO; the goal being to create a more economically resilient and diverse region. Projects and works can include but are not limited to:

- **Business Retention & Expansion;**
  - Examples: Regional Business Visitations; Follow Up Actions Regional Business Visitations (Opportunities & Challenges); Create / up-date Regional Business Database; Sectoral Supports- Workshops and Region wide Business Licensing.
- **Workforce Development;**
  - Examples: Workshops for Businesses- Nontraditional workforce; Workplace culture; Immigrant council (job matching / readiness); Skills attraction; Certifications; Educate businesses on how to retain employees; Job fairs; Opportunities for Youth; and Opportunities for Older Workers.
- **Economic Development Planning; and**
  - Examples: Regional Agricultural Plan & Regional Employment Land Action Plan projects:
    - 2.1 Promote agricultural business development and initiatives through economic development planning, including the identification of funding opportunities
    - 2.2 Agriculture is highlighted as a key employment sector, and co-locating agri-industrial and agri-support business through land use designation
    - 7.6 Regional Agri-tourism Strategy
    - 5.1.1 North Okanagan Investment Zone Mindset- Develop and use a Socio-Economic Assessment Modelling Tool to highlight and communicate both the social and economic benefits of inbound investment and business retention/expansion to the region.
- **Regional Collaboration-** e.g. marketing.
  - Examples: Investor Tours- Support & Follow up; Economic Development Communications Plan / Strategy; Media outreach; Social Media; Content Development; Create a Regional Economic Development Investment Profile with Sub-Profiles for Each Community; RDNO information and Opportunities collateral; Pamphlets / Brochures; Advertisements; Sell sheets / demographics regional attributes.

All economic sectors will be considered for grants however additional points will be awarded to applications that carry out work in the fields of: Agriculture; Creative Industry; Tourism; Technology/Manufacturing; Forestry; and or implement actions that are consistent with or found in the Regional Agricultural Plan or Regional Employment Lands Action Plan as prioritized by the Electoral Area Directors.

## **Rural Economic Development Service- Project Grant - Basic Eligibility Requirements**

- Be open and/or accessible to the public, and reach beyond the organization's members and to the broader community.
- Promote Economic Development within the Electoral Areas of the RDNO.
- Be conducted within a year of the funds being awarded unless otherwise stipulated.
- Have an independent, active governing body composed of volunteers (i.e. Board of Directors).
- If registered, be in good standing with the B.C. Registrar of Societies and must have operated for at least one fiscal year.
- Be able to demonstrate financial stability, sound administration and the organizational capacity necessary to carry out the project.
- Demonstrate a proven track record of public service and excellence.
- Demonstrate strong community ties and relationships.
- Adhere to the accountability requirements set out with the approval of any discretionary grant.
- Not be any one of the following:
  - o Individual(s);
  - o Political parties and advocacy groups;
  - o Religious groups;
  - o Third parties raising funds solely for charity or their own purposes.

**Grant Evaluation Weighting – Rural Economic Development Service- Project Grant**

Value	Description	Score	
Excellent	Strongly demonstrates value towards Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO (Electoral Areas B, C, D, E and F). Supports the Agricultural, Forestry, Creative Industry, Tourism and or Technology/Manufacturing Sectors and or is a collaborative project and or implements actions that are consistent with or found in the Regional Agricultural Plan or Regional Employment Lands Action Plan as prioritized by the Electoral Area Directors. Merits investment of funding.	4	
Good	Satisfactorily demonstrates value towards Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO (Electoral Areas B, C, D, E and F). Limited collaboration and not within a sector identified above. Merits investment of some funding.	3	
Fair	Does not sufficiently demonstrate value towards Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO (Electoral Areas B, C, D, E and F). Does not merit investment of funding.	2	
Weak	Makes an incomplete or inadequate case for the value towards Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO (Electoral Areas B, C, D, E and F). Does not merit investment of funding. Information is unclear and/or lacks specific detail.	1	

## Excellence and Innovation (40%)

<b>Excellence and Innovation (40%)</b>				
	<b>Excellent 4 points</b>	<b>Good 3 points</b>	<b>Fair 2 points</b>	<b>Weak 1 points</b>
<b>Clear Project Description</b>	Project description clearly describes proposed project and the project strongly supports Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.	Project description describes proposed project and the project will contribute to Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.	Project description describes proposed project but the project does not strongly support Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.	Project description does not clearly describe project and the project does not support Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.
<b>Support for Rural Economic Development</b>	Project strongly supports Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO and fits within one or more of the following sectors- Agriculture, Forestry, Creative Industry, Tourism and or Technology/Manufacturing.	Project supports Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.	Project provides limited support for the Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.	Project does not clearly provide support for Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.
<b>Clear Goals and Measureable Objectives</b>	Identifies clear goals and fully measureable objectives that support Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.	Identifies clear goals and measureable objectives and activities that support Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.	Identifies goals and limited measureable objectives and activities that support Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.	Does not identify goals and very minimal objectives and activities that support Economic Development within the Rural Areas of the RDNO.
<b>Confidence in Success</b>	Confident in the ability of the organization to carry out the project.	Very minimal concerns about the ability of the organization to carry out the proposal.	Concerns about the ability of the organization to carry out the proposal.	Multiple concerns about the ability of the organization to carry out the proposal.
<b>Unique and Innovative</b>	Project offers a unique experience, not currently implemented within the Region.	Project offers an experience, not currently implemented within the Region.	Project offers an experience that is similar to one currently implemented within the Region.	Project is already being implemented within the Region.

## Impact (30%)

Impact (30%)				
	<b>Excellent 4 points</b>	<b>Good 3 points</b>	<b>Fair 2 points</b>	<b>Weak 1 points</b>
<b>Accessible to community</b>	Project reaches beyond the organization's members to the broader community and supports one of the following economic sectors Agriculture, Forestry, Creative Industry, Tourism and or Technology/Manufacturing.	Project reaches beyond the organization's members to the broader community;	Project has limited reach beyond the organization's members.	Project is not accessible to the public and has limited or no reach beyond the organization's members to the broader community.
<b>Involves Collaborative Features</b>	Project prominently features a combination of economic sectors within Agriculture, Forestry, Culture, Tourism and or Technology.	Project features a combination of project economic sectors.	Project features minimal combination of economic sectors.	Project does not feature a combination of economic sectors
<b>Community Partners</b>	Project involves six or more community partners	Project involves three or more community partners	Project involves less than three community partners.	Project does not involve any community partners.
<b>Sustainability</b>	Very confident in the ability of the applicant to sustain the project after the grant period.	Very minimal concerns about sustainability	Concerns about sustainability	Multiple concerns about sustainability.

## Management (30%)

**Management (30%)**

	<b>Excellent 4 points</b>	<b>Good 3 points</b>	<b>Fair 2 points</b>	<b>Weak 1 points</b>
<b>Key Personnel</b>	Key personnel and partners have clearly defined roles with related experience.	Key personnel and partners have defined roles with some related experience.	Key personnel and partners have loosely defined roles with minimal related experience.	Key personnel and partners do not have defined roles and/or have minimal related experience.
<b>Project History</b>	Organization has successfully completed a project of similar magnitude.	Key personnel have successfully completed a project of similar magnitude.	Organization and/or key personnel have successfully completed a similar project of smaller scale.	Organization and/or key personnel have not completed a similar project.
<b>Management</b>	Completed project requires no continued management.	Completed project requires limited continued management.	Completed project requires continued management.	Completed project requires extensive continued management.
<b>Fiscal Stability</b>	Very confident in the organization's fiscal stability and ability to carry out the proposed activities given proposed budget and fiscal information.	Very minimal concerns about the organization's fiscal stability and ability to carry out the proposed activities given proposed budget and fiscal information.	Concerns about the organization's fiscal stability and/or ability to carry out the proposed activities given the proposed budget and fiscal information.	Multiple concerns about the organization's fiscal stability and ability to carry out the proposed activities given the proposed budget and fiscal information.