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**REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 04, 2022**

**SUBJECT 2021 Safe Restart Program Update**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

This report provides a summary of the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments activity for Regional and Local Area Services up to December 31, 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

The COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments provided \$425 million across the province to assist local governments impacted by COVID-19. The CRD received nearly \$2 million through two disbursements: \$1.4 million in November 2020 and \$0.6 million in March 2021. The CRD Board resolved (at the December 2020 and April 2021 meetings) to use the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing formulae to allocate each disbursement. The two disbursements are summarized below.

**Table 1: Safe Restart Funding Allocation**

<b>Safe Restarting Funding Allocation</b>	<b>November 2020 (\$)</b>	<b>March 2021 (\$)</b>	<b>Total Allocated Funding (\$)</b>
Allocation for Regional Services	1,246,000	250,000	1,496,000
Allocation for Local Area Services	175,000	325,000	500,000
<b>Total COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant</b>	<b>1,421,000</b>	<b>575,000</b>	<b>1,996,000</b>

The program stipulated regional districts must allocate their funding to services by December 31, 2021. For various reasons, the Province did not require municipalities to meet the allocation deadline. It is anticipated that local governments will utilize the funding for response and post-recovery expenses, including those incurred from 2020-2021 and into 2022. All program funding received by the CRD has been fully allocated in compliance with program deadlines.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Service Delivery Implications*

Safe Restart Funds were used in alignment with eligible project categories to assist Regional and Local services in response to COVID-19. Safe Restart Funds supplemented revenue shortfalls, supported operational recovery and the corporate Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Through the Local Area Services allocation, EA Directors added the funding to the Electoral Areas' Grants-in-Aid Program to assist local communities.

*Financial Implications*

The following table provides a summary of the Safe Restart funding allocations and expenses for both Regional and Local area services.

**Table 2: Safe Restart Financial Summary of Regional and Local Area Services**

Service	Grant Allocation (\$)	Funds Spent 2020-2021 (\$)	Funds Committed 2022 (\$)
Regional Services	1,496,000	1,219,070	276,930
Juan de Fuca Services	123,000	98,288	24,712
Salt Spring Island Services	264,000	220,918	43,082
Southern Gulf Islands Services	113,000	113,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996,000</b>	<b>1,651,276</b>	<b>344,724</b>

Appendix A details the initiatives approved and expended through December 31, 2021, for Regional and Local Area Services. The remaining balance has been committed in the 2022 Financial Plan for those approved initiatives.

**CONCLUSION**

As part of the Province’s commitment to help local governments, the CRD received nearly \$2 million in funding through the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Government. Funds were allocated to both Regional and Local Area Services in alignment with the December 31, 2021, deadline. Funds continue to be spent for approved initiatives in 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Appendix A: Safe Restart Funding for Local Governments – Regional and Local Services Projects