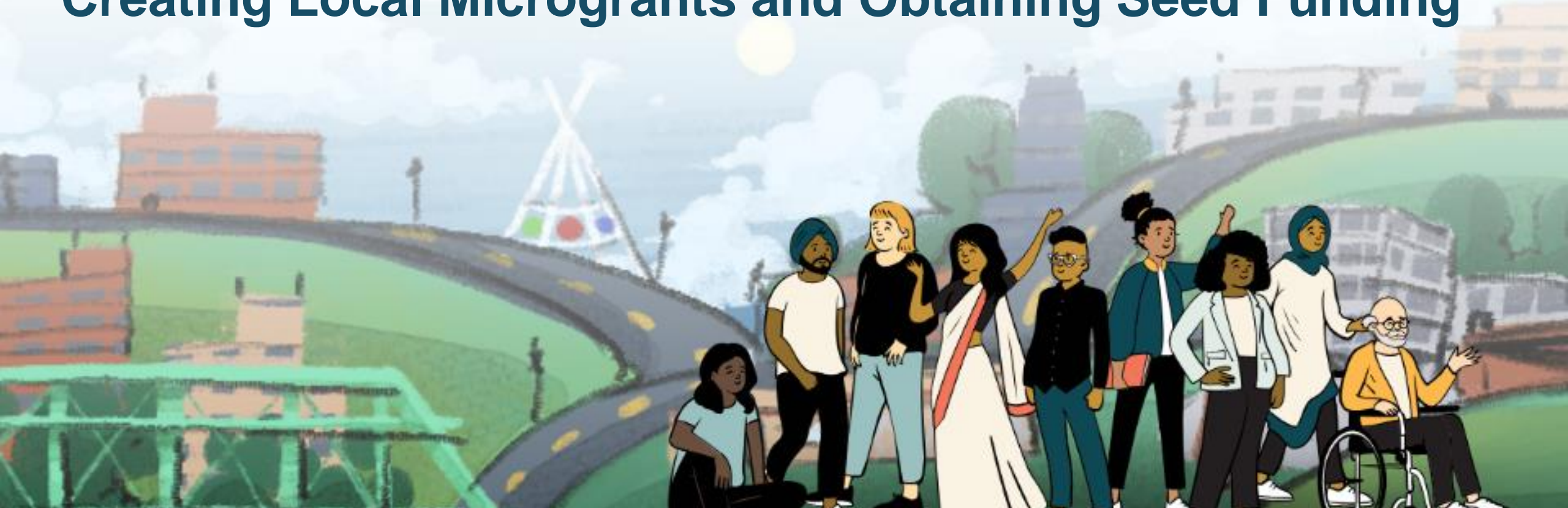
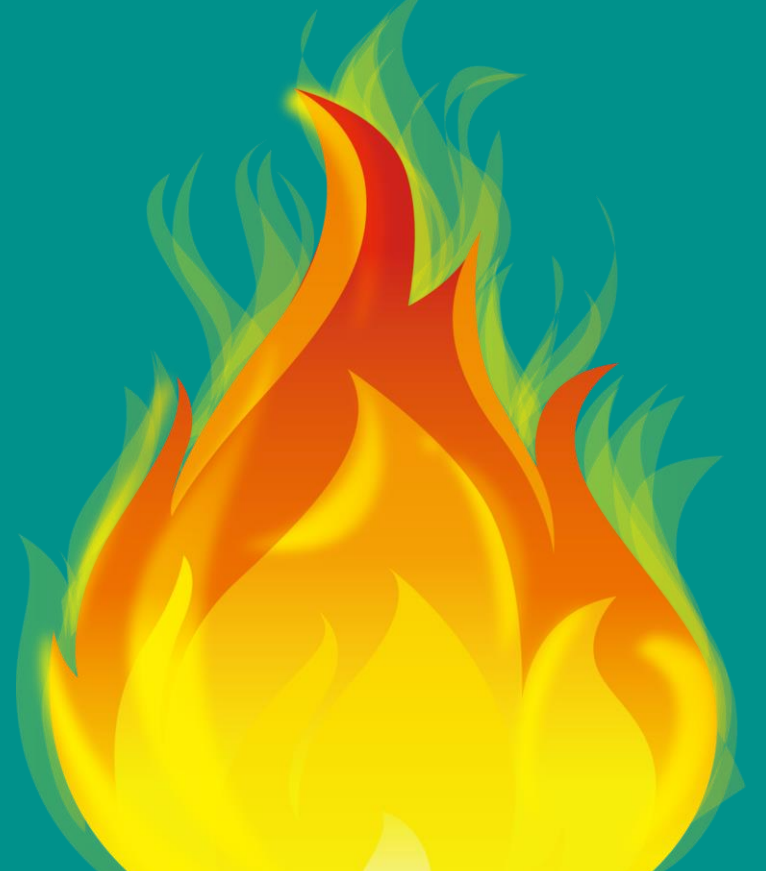


Stimulating Grassroots Initiatives in Rural Communities to Increase Receptive Capacity:

Creating Local Microgrants and Obtaining Seed Funding



**Stimulating Grassroots Initiatives
is like Starting a Fire**



- Fuel
 - tinder = affected person with idea
 - kindling = a few champions
 - firewood = a community
- Oxygen = the space / place
- Heat = something to ignite it



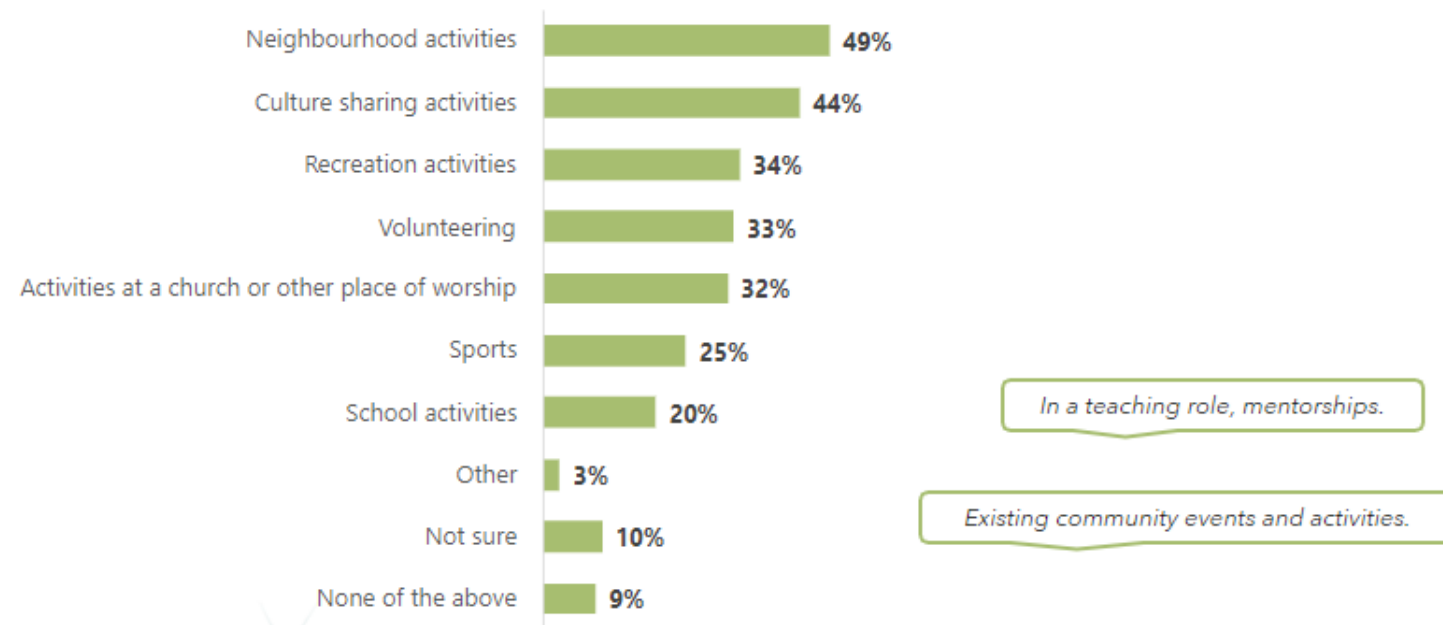
Using a Fuel that Will Ignite

Using Fuel that Will Ignite

Medicine Hat residents are most interested in neighbourhood activities and cultural sharing activities to interact with newcomers.



Opportunities to Interact with Newcomers



Q11: Which of the following would you be interested in to interact with immigrants and people new to Medicine Hat? Base: All respondents, n=97.

**How to get people to the table
and light the fire ?**

Example 1: Neighbourhood Microgrants

How Does it Work?

Provide grants up to \$500 for people to connect with those you don't normally connect with

Beliefs and assumptions:


1. Everyone has something to offer
2. The best people to affect change in the community are the people within it
3. When we make money less of an issue, it allows many ideas to shine, and many different people to engage
4. Small is beautiful

In 6 months:

- provided 17 microgrants (\$8300)
- had 45 applications


From 11 reports back so far:

- around 1060 attendees
- 77 volunteers putting in around 315 hours of volunteer time

 **City of Medicine Hat** 3d · 🌐

"Through the City's microgrant program, our neighbourhood was able to access \$500 towards a neighbourhood block party. We were able to bring in a band for live music, provide a BBQ and so much more for everyone and of course glow sticks, chalk and bubbles for the kids! Absolutely warmed my heart seeing over a hundred of my neighbours gathered together sharing stories, laughing, dancing, eating and getting to know each other better. Memories were made and it was an absolute blast!" - Stacey S.

Apply for a microgrant before the summer 😊 is over: medicinehat.ca/microgrant



👍❤️ 531 179 comments 87 shares

👍 Like 🗨️ Comment ➦ Share



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS MICROGRANT APPLICATION

Read the Grant Guidelines before beginning this application form. Please respond to all questions.

To be eligible for a **Community Connections microgrant**, proposed events must fulfill one or more of the following objectives:

- Foster respect and celebrate diversity
- Build relationships and opportunities for neighbours to connect
- Offer the sharing of resident's skills and knowledge
- Foster neighborhood and/or community pride

Application Review Considerations:

- Does the application clearly show how the project supports people to connect and engage with each other?
- Has the applicant outlined how the project will have a positive impact on their neighborhood?
- Is the project welcoming and inclusive to everyone?

Considerations when planning your event/project:

- How will you let people know about your event/project?
- How will you reach and welcome those who are new to your community or that you haven't connected with before?

“We just moved to Medicine Hat, so it was the perfect way to meet our neighbours!”

“It was especially gratifying to see neighbours gather that had lived here for 5 years and never met each other”

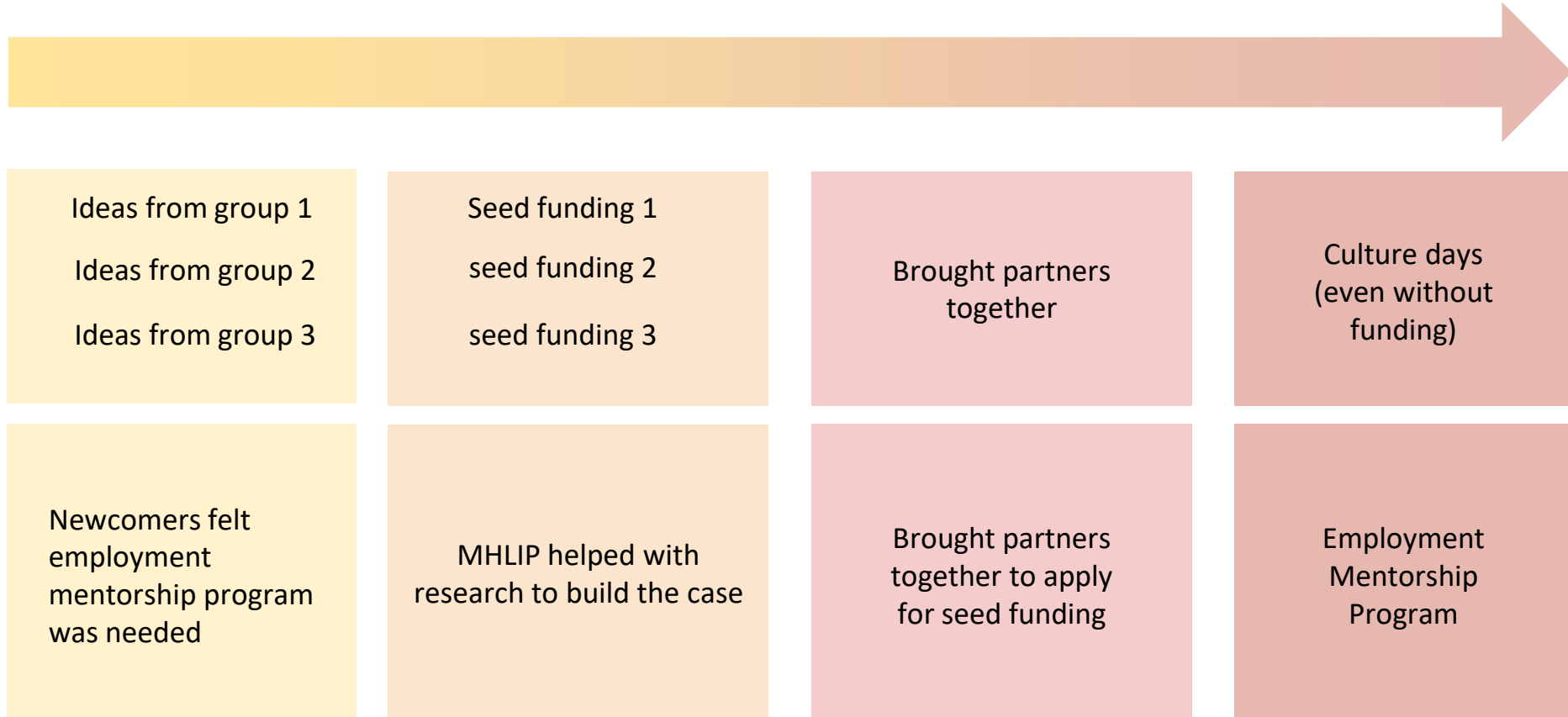
“Meeting new people was a definite plus at this event! One thing that was special was seeing families walk to our street ... there’s not many activities we can walk to”



I met other women in the community I was able to bond over motherhood with the ladies that brought their children. There were some preteens that stopped in taking a break from swimming who had a great time and that was a joy to see that not jus very young children love the art of beading!”



Example 2: Obtaining Seed Funding



Example 3: Bringing Service Providers to Neighbourhoods



Sustaining the Fire

Engagement Level

None

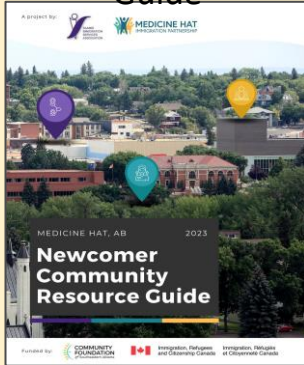
“Self Serve”

“Through the looking glass”

“Taking initiative/responsibility”

“Working across multiple groups”

Newcomer Resource Guide



Bringing Services to the Community



- Working across multiple groups
- Services going to where people need them
- Services reach out to newcomers



Frequency

None

“One and Done”

“Regular Frequency”

“Habit”

One time activity



Regular Activities (ex. soccer and Sepak Takraw - foot volleyball)



Developing places and habits



Welcome Groups





Medicine Hat Local Immigration Partnership
jenn@mhlip.ca sadiki@mhlip.ca