



The FireSmart Community Grant Program



**2015 FireSmart Community Series
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta
March 3-5, 2013**



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History of the Grant Program

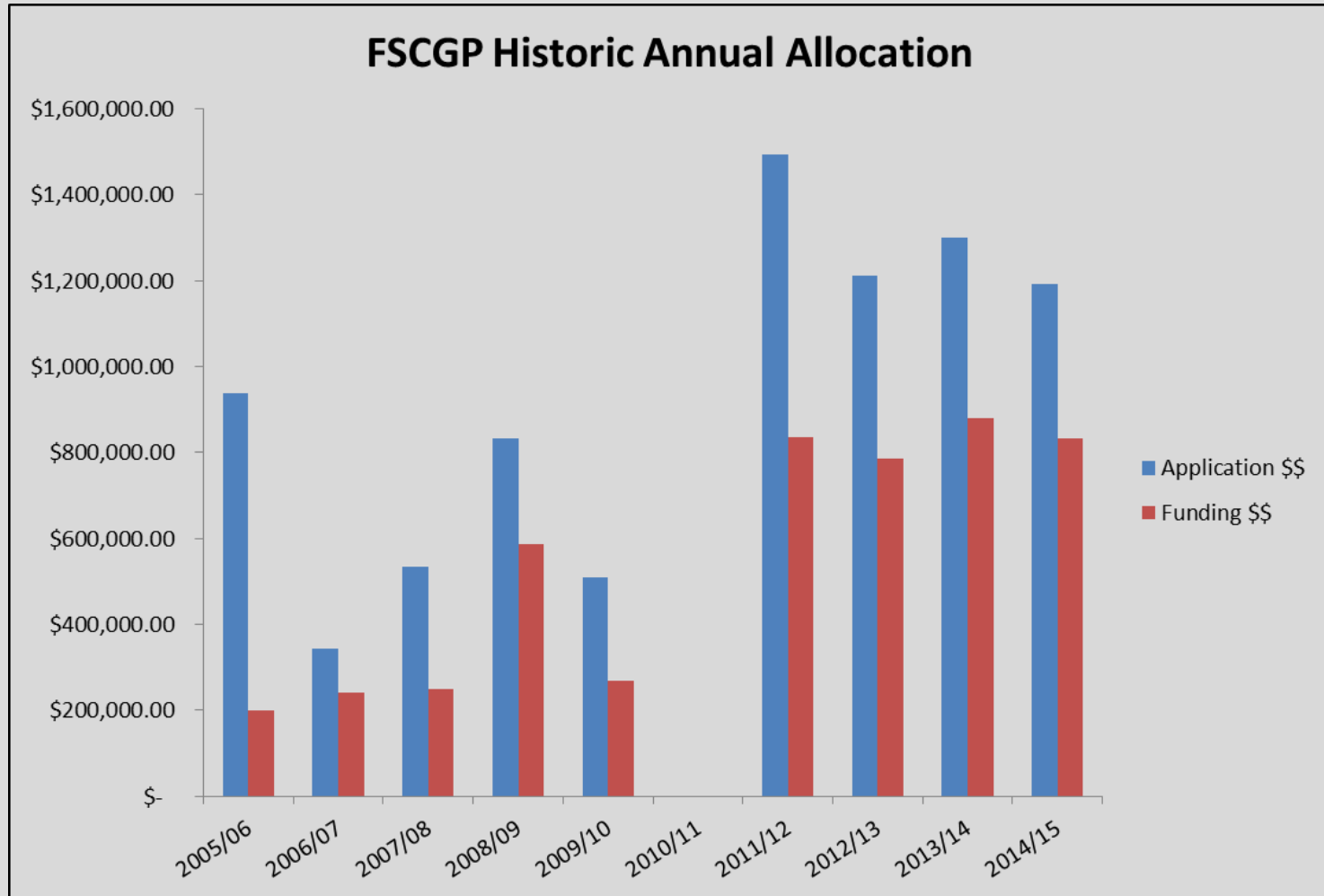


The program was introduced in 2005 with a focus on providing funding for municipalities in the Forest Protection Area which expressed a need in areas of wildfire planning, education and fuels management.

Over the past ten years 129 grants have been awarded for a total of 4.9 million dollars. These grants have supported over 60 communities.

Fifteen of these communities have received \$100,000 or more in total funding.

History of the Program



Program Information



Purpose:

“To protect Albertans and their personal property, as well as support community involvement and ownership of wildland urban interface issues within municipal jurisdictions.”

Objective:

Providing financial assistance to those communities that wish to reduce their wildfire threat.

Eligibility:

Municipalities, municipal districts, counties, Metis Settlements and registered non-profit societies may apply. Only projects within the Forest Protection Area are considered.

Program Information



Projects that reduce the wildfire hazard and risk to communities are considered for grant funding. Projects will consider one or more of the following:

- FireSmart Planning
- Vegetation Management
- Public Education
- Interagency cooperation and cross-training
- Legislation and planning
- Development
- Emergency Planning

Program Information



Each year a panel of FireSmart experts are selected to review eligible applications over a two day period in October.

There are six categories that are considered by the panel when reviewing applications:

- Wildland Urban Interface Hazard
- Community Contribution
- Demonstration of Commitment to FireSmart
- Area Evaluation
- Effectively Addressed FireSmart Disciplines
- Partnerships Demonstrated

Program Information



Spring

- Grant business case submission
- Review Panel creation

Summer

- Review of grading criteria and weighting
- Applying lessons learned from the previous year

Fall

- Application submissions
- Applications review

Winter

- Agreement drafting
- Successful and unsuccessful letters are distributed

2014 Program Audit



In the fall of 2014, an audit of past Community Grant Program projects was conducted. This audit produced a number of recommendations for improving the program.

- In general, the reporting system for completed grant projects needs to be improved.
- Many applications lack meaningful specific information in project description sections
- Many applications do not include “up to date maps” as required (fail to update completed FireSmart work)
- FireSmart projects often include or are a part of trail systems. This is an excellent opportunity for FireSmart information to be spread to community members, and is often overlooked

Discussion and Questions



Thanks, any questions?