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in local infrastructure – revitalizing town centers, transforming bus services and cycling infrastructure, boosting connectivity – is critical, but small communities with limited resources often don't have the capacity to compete for application-based funding and grants. Challenges with application-based funding programs include:

- Not enough advance notice of program requirements and timelines
- Limited time to apply
- Complicated and time-consuming application process
- Unclear or changing program requirements
- Delays in project approval
- Inability to modify applications
- Onerous reporting requirements

Local governments rely on the federal Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) to deliver public works and infrastructure projects across 19 different categories, including roads and transit, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, solid waste management, disaster mitigation and broadband. This permanent source of funding, which