



North Dakota Tourism Industry Newsletter

June 2, 2021



MHA Nation Interpretive Center grand opening is held in New Town

Representatives from the Three Affiliated Tribes, State Tourism and North Dakota's Congressional delegation took part in the grand opening of the MHA Nation Interpretive Center in New Town in May.

Visitors to the state-of-the art center on the shores of Lake Sakakawea and adjacent to the Earthlodge Village, will be able to learn more about the unique culture of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara people through displays,

an interactive kiosk, programs and interaction with the staff. Living history programs will tell the story of the MHA Nation.

The center has a 250-seat event room and a kitchen for preparing traditional meals for the public at special events. A classroom will be provided for cultural educational classes like traditional food, beading, tanning hides, etc. There is a coffee shop and gift shop and a 500-seat outdoor amphitheater.

[Click here for more details](#)



Trio of new grants are available to help travel and tourism industry

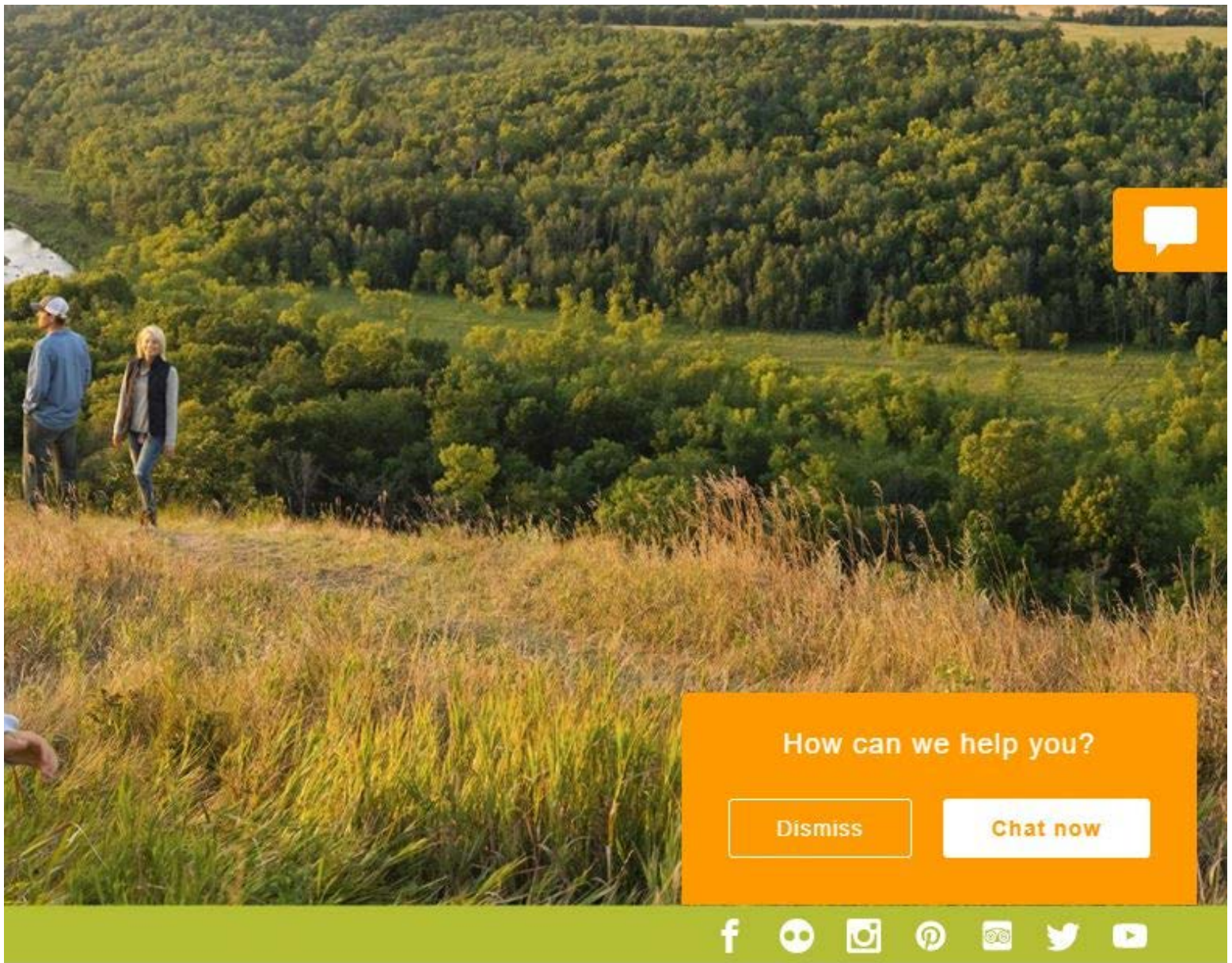
The North Dakota Department of Commerce has announced new grants to help the state's travel and tourism industry withstand the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Travel Agent and Tour Operators Grant (TATO) application window opened June 1. The TATO is designed to assist travel agents and tour operators within the travel and tourism industry. Funds from the grant are

to be used to reimburse eligible entities for lost revenue. Eligible applicants may be awarded up to \$100,000 per qualifying location. [Click here for more TATO information.](#)

The application window for Events and Support Services Grant (ESSG) focusing on venue-based businesses opens June 10 at 10 a.m., CDT. While these businesses face dramatic declines in revenue, they continue to be pillars in both rural and urban communities across North Dakota. This grant, which is capped at \$100,000 per location, will help event centers and those who support such venues survive the pandemic. [Click here for more ESSG information.](#)

The USDA is making up to \$3 million in cooperative agreement grants available under the Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC). Eligible entities may use the funds to help rural communities create plans to enhance capacity for broadband access, preserve cultural and historic structures and support development in transportation, housing and recreational spaces. [Click here for more RPIC information.](#)



Visitor Services adds live chat


North Dakota Tourism is taking customer service to a more personalized level with the implementation of a live chat feature on NDtourism.com.


Visitors to the website now have the option of interacting with Tourism staff members with specific questions between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. After-hours and weekend requests are answered on Mondays and following holidays.

Tourism partners, remember, much of the shared information is taken from NDtourism.com, making this another reason for keeping your listings updated through partner access. Contact [Scooter Pursley](#) with help setting up an account or accessing your existing account.

SEARCH

ND Discover Theodore Roosevelt Nation... Watch later



Watch on  YouTube

Ad Campaign

BE LEGENDARY
BE INSPIRED

New conversation

To serve you better, please answer the following questions:

NAME *

Enter name

EMAIL *

Enter email

START CHAT



Travel Tidbits

Tourism Industry call June 14

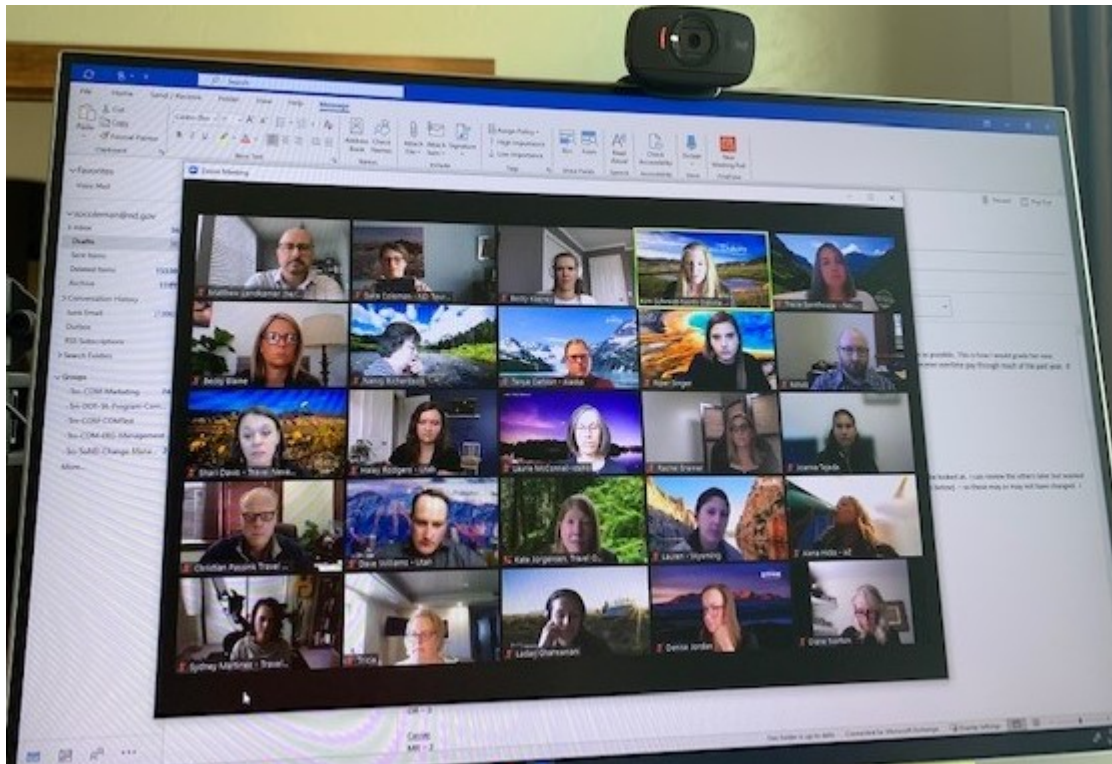
The next Tourism Industry call is scheduled for Monday, June 14. The call will feature news on industry recovery and trends and a presentation by North Dakota State Parks and Recreation Director Andrea Travnicek. [Click here to join the call.](#)

State Capitol tours resume

Tours of the North Dakota State Capitol resumed on June 1. Tours will be conducted Monday through Friday, on the hours between 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Entities wishing to request group tours may [fill out the tour request](#)

[form online here](#). Tours will not be conducted on the weekends as the Capitol is closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

The observation deck on the 18th floor also has reopened to visitors.



WESTO virtual conference

Tourism facilitates conference

North Dakota Tourism and Marketing staff Kim Schmidt and Tricia Miller facilitated the content creation-professional development network at the Western States Educational Seminar for Tourism Organizations (WESTO) virtual conference in May. The conference allowing focused discussions across tourism marketing and management areas attracted more than 100 western state tourism office staffers, including seven from North Dakota Tourism.

Rural funding webinar

A webinar to learn more about the funding opportunity available under the [Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge](#) (RPIC) will be held on June 24 at 1:30 p.m. CDT. In this webinar, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development will provide you with the resources necessary to understand the elements contained in the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) to build a complete application ahead of the deadline, including eligibility requirements, application protocol and scoring criteria.

[Click here to register](#)

History nominations sought

The State Historical Society of North Dakota is seeking nominations for its annual awards program recognizing outstanding achievement in three categories of history: Excellence in Local History, Heritage Profile Honor and North Dakota Person of History. [Details and nomination forms are available here](#) and must be delivered or postmarked by July 9 at 5 p.m. Contact [Ashleigh Miller](#) at 701-328-2666 for more information.

In the News



Proposed park would be called Bison World.



Today includes Theodore Roosevelt National Park in 40 must-see places.



[Roadtrippers share 11 things to do on a trip to North Dakota.](#)



[Reader's Digest says Medora's Fourth of July fireworks are not to be missed.](#)



[Return of daily Amtrak Empire Builder service a win for North Dakota.](#)