

Commerce

NORTH
Dakota
Be Legend

Commerce News

February 18, 2021





Still time to apply for round two of the Hospitality Economic Resiliency Grant

Help is available to North Dakota businesses hurt by the effects of COVID-19. The second round of Hospitality Economic Resiliency Grant

applications are being accepted through Feb. 25. These grants are for restaurants, recreation venues and entertainment venues like bowling alleys, trampoline parks, indoor golf facilities and more.

So far, 232 applications for \$7.5 million have been submitted. Leaving more than \$22 million available, so spread the word throughout your communities.

[Click here for more information](#)



Tourism-Marketing

Seven chosen for Main Street Tourism Expansion Grants

The North Dakota Department of Commerce announced seven recipients of 2021 Main Street Tourism Expansion Grants.

Main Street Expansion Grants support new or expanding businesses and activities that provide an improved visitor experience, with an emphasis on attracting new visitors to North Dakota communities.

“These grants will help develop new tourism experiences and facilities that will draw visitors to enjoy unique lodging, local cuisine and diverse activities,” North Dakota Department of Commerce Interim Commissioner Shawn Kessel said.

2021 grant recipients:

- **Fargo Air Museum Flight Simulator Lab:** The Fargo Air Museum will develop a virtual reality-based flight simulator lab at the museum in Fargo.
- **Folly Hill Farm Lodging and Restroom Facilities:** This project will expand demonstration and farming facilities at Folly Hill Farm north of Bismarck.
- **Historic Hygge Hotel Restoration:** The project will complete the renovation of the historic hotel in Powers Lake.
- **National Buffalo Museum Bison Pasture Tour:** The National Buffalo Museum in Jamestown is developing a bison pasture tour to take visitors safely near the grazing bison. The museum is working to acquire a large, customized vehicle capable of transporting a household of people through the grazing pasture.
- **Pioneer Trails Regional Museum Paleontology Program Expansion:** Pioneer Trails Regional Museum in Bowman is enhancing and expanding its paleontology program to include new museum fossil displays and daily tours to fossil dig sites. Participation in longer proposed tour events will keep visitors in the community longer.

- **The Springs Golf Course Dining Igloos:** The Springs Golf Course clubhouse in Gwinner is planning the addition of a pair of enclosed clear “igloo” outdoor dining structures.
- **Up North Cabins:** The Up North Cabins project is planning development of unique rental cabins near the Pembina Gorge in northeastern North Dakota.

[Click here for full article](#)

ED&F

LIFT Committee awards \$520,000 in funding for February

The Innovation Technology Loan Fund (LIFT) Committee awarded \$520,000 to two North Dakota businesses in February.

Funds for this month were acquired from returned funds awarded earlier in 2020. Eligible businesses for the current round of awards consisted of applicants that applied during the August 2020 submission round. The LIFT Committee did not open a new round to receive applications.

“The current biennium was a success with more than \$14.5 million being awarded to 20 North Dakota businesses,” North Dakota Department of Commerce Director of Economic Development and Finance Josh

Teigen said. “The LIFT Committee is looking forward to seeing these awards come to fruition across the state.”

February LIFT recipients:

Golden Path Solutions is a workforce development start-up awarded \$180,000 to connect high school or higher education students with employers to build the workforce of the future with the right talent, skills and education.

Omnibyte Technology was awarded \$340,000 to grow its mobile applications and technical service offerings for field service organizations

Meet Carla Valentine!



Carla Valentine is a program manager for the North Dakota Department of Commerce. Carla has been part of team Commerce for seven years. As a member of the Economic Development & Finance Division, Carla is responsible for managing the LIFT program and the Innovate ND program. Carla says the most rewarding part of her job is interacting with the entrepreneurs and small businesses in the state. Carla resides in Bismarck and she is enjoying the corgi puppy she received as a Christmas gift from her husband.

Carla will be speaking about both Innovate ND and LIFT Programs at this year's [Jamestown Regional Entrepreneur Center \(JREC\) Women's Business Conference](#).

Community Services

Commerce renews Renaissance Zone for Grand Forks

Commerce announced that the Renaissance Zone Program for the city of Grand Forks has been renewed for five additional years.

The Renaissance Zone Program is a tool for community redevelopment and economic investment that incorporates tax incentives to business and residential properties.

Grand Forks started utilizing the Renaissance Zone Program in 2001 and has had 69 approved projects. Recent major projects for the community include a building rehabilitation by Epic Holdings LLC in 2020 and a new building construction by Global 2000 Partners LLP in 2017.

“Grand Forks has used the Renaissance Zone Program to encourage reinvestment and redevelopment in its downtown area to enhance business and improve housing,” said Rikki Roehrich, program manager at the North Dakota Department of Commerce. “The program is often used in both larger cities and smaller rural communities to attract businesses that provide vital services to their populations.”

[Click here for more information](#)

Main Street

Main Street to host first virtual convening March 3

Join the MSI team and Molly Herrington, North Dakota director of leadership and learning on March 3 for the first MSI virtual convening.

Fundamentals of Change Management

Deepen your understanding of change management and its value. This experiential learning program delivers the fundamental concepts of change management and establishes how effective change management can benefit your organization. The program applies five tenets of change management to a specific project or change initiative to build awareness and desire for change management—the first two milestones in the Prosci ADKAR Model.

[Click here to register](#)



In the News



[North Dakota tourism primed for a big return, but is there enough money for marketing?](#)



[North Dakota's Commerce Department business aid effort accepting applications](#)



[North Dakota tourism expected to recover](#)