

Commerce



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Commerce News

May 27, 2021



Commerce announces 2 new grants for businesses still experiencing the impact of COVID-19

Tour Operators Grant (TATO)

The TATO is designed to assist travel agents and tour operators within the travel and tourism industry that continue to experience negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. Businesses must prove a 50% revenue loss from 2019-2020. Award amounts will be based on a 75% loss of revenue.

Eligible entities include:

- **A travel agent who books commission-based travel for private individuals or companies.**
- **A tour company that schedules tour details and itineraries in North Dakota.**
- **A transportation company that provides bus services to tour planners for tours either originating in North Dakota or receptive operators who provide local services to tour companies bringing groups into North Dakota.**

The TATO application window opens June 1, at 10 a.m. CST.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Event and Support Services Grant (ESSG)

The ESSG is designed to assist event centers and supporting businesses that continue to experience negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. Businesses must prove a 50% revenue loss from 2019-2020. Award amounts will be based on a 25% loss of revenue.

Eligible entities include:

- **Event venues & festivals (indoor and outdoor)**
- **Florists**
- **Caterers**
- **Photographers**
- **Production companies including DJ's, live performers who are hired for private events**
- **Promoters**
- **Decorators**

The ESSG application window opens June 10, at 10 a.m. CST.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Community Services

Manufactured home training

Commerce will be hosting a training for installers and inspectors on June 9, 2021, at the Great River Energy building.

Individuals interested in becoming licensed to install or inspect for the Manufactured Home Installation Program are required to attend this training and pass the exam.

For more information, contact Rory Hoffmann at 701-486-3330 or visit our website: www.ndmhip.com.

Community outreach updates

Commerce and the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota (CAPND) hosted a Community Action Board training on April 30. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Commerce and CAPND will also be hosting a CAPND user conference on June 28-29. The primary audience for this will be Community Action Agency staff who use the CAP60 software for data tracking and state/federal reporting. If you have any questions please contact [Rikki Roehrich](#).

Main Street Initiative

Nominations for the 2021 Governor's Main Street Awards, a program of North Dakota's Main Street Initiative (MSI), are being accepted through Aug. 13, 2021.

“Every year we are grateful to see all the communities and individuals taking innovative approaches to build healthy, vibrant communities. These awards are a great reflection of the dedication that many North

Dakotans have to enhance the quality of life for current and future residents.” - Gov. Doug Burgum

The Main Street Awards are a collaborative effort of the Office of Governor and the North Dakota Department of Commerce. A selection committee made up of the collaborating agencies and partners judge the entries to make final awards, which will be presented at the Main Street ND Summit on Oct. 12 in West Fargo.

[Learn more here](#)

MAIN STREET ND

2021 INITIATIVE

Workforce

ExperienceND

Did you know Commerce offers concierge, personalized services for your future employees and their loved ones who are new to North Dakota? ExperienceND shares job opportunities and resources on integrating into the community to make their transition to life in North Dakota go smoothly. We invite employers to utilize this service to enhance their recruitment efforts. Visit [ExperienceND](#) to learn more.

Tourism and Marketing

2021 ND Governor's Photo Contest

Gov. Doug Burgum and Commerce Tourism and Marketing, in partnership with AAA of North Dakota and North Dakota Council on the Arts, have launched the 2021 North Dakota Governor's Photo Contest for Travel and Tourism.

The contest celebrates the talents of North Dakotans and the appeal of our wide-open spaces and community places where we follow our curiosity, not the crowds. The contest is open now through Aug. 31, 2021.

Help us spread the word through your communities and to friends and neighbors. [Click here for full details.](#)

USDA seeks applications for Placemaking Grants to spur economic growth and community development in rural America

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.

The technical assistance will support the development of actionable plans based on convening partners and identifying community needs that

enable rural areas to build back better and stronger. The technical assistance must provide support to rural communities for up to two years.

Public or private groups, organizations or institutions that demonstrate experience in providing placemaking technical assistance and administering federal grants are eligible to apply

[Learn more here](#)



In the News



[Travel and tourism industry on the upswing](#)



[North Dakota governor seeks nominations for Main Street Awards](#)



[ADM to build \\$350 million soybean plant in North Dakota](#)