

Commerce



Commerce News

June 25, 2021



Engaging Impacts

Team Commerce visited Chicago for a combined commerce and trade mission to increase foreign direct investment into North Dakota on June 9-11.



Team ND connects with the British Consulate in Chicago. From the left to right: Consul General Alan Gogbashian, North Dakota Trade Office Executive Director Drew Combs, Frey Macknigh: British Consul First Secretary of Trade Policy, Tim Bakke: British Consul Senior Trade Policy Advisor, Nick Fiore: British Consulate Press and Public Affairs Officer, Commerce Aerospace/UAS Development Manager, University Liaison Cortnee Jensen, and Commerce Commissioner James Leiman.



Commerce Commissioner James Leiman presents a gift from the state of North Dakota to Taipei Director General Johnson Chiang.



Team ND enjoys dinner with the Japanese Consulate in Chicago. From the left: Commerce Commissioner James Leiman, Consul Yasunori Watanabe, Consul General Kenichi Okada, Consul Haruka Sakamoto, Commerce Aerospace/UAS Development Manager, University Liaison Cortnee Jensen, North Dakota Trade Office Executive Director Drew Combs.



Team ND meets with the Turkish Consulate in Chicago. From the left: Commerce Aerospace/UAS Development Manager, University Liaison Cortnee Jensen, Consul General Engin Turesin, Commerce Commissioner James Leiman, North Dakota Trade Office Executive Director Drew Combs, Attache Ugur Ozturk.



Limited funds are available for the Event and Support Services Grant

Application window closing on July 9

The Event and Support Services Grant (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

[Apply here](#)



ED&F

North Dakota Development Fund approves \$847,000 for Q2 2021

Commerce announced that two companies were approved a total of \$847,000 in loan and venture funds through the North Dakota

Development Fund (NDDF) during the second quarter of 2021.

“We continue to see amazing opportunities for economic development across the state. The technology industries, especially agriculture technology, are making a significant impact on our state’s position of being a leader in innovative solutions.”– Commerce Director of Economic Development and Finance Josh Teigen.

Second quarter of 2021 recipients:

- **Kiddie Klubhouse**, a childcare provider in Park River, received a \$97,000 loan to purchase a location for a childcare center to allow the provider to accommodate more children.
- **FarmQA Inc.** in Fargo was approved \$750,000 in venture debt for working capital to help the company scale operations and continue product development.

[Learn more about NDDF](#)

Main Street Initiative

**Main Street Initiative Artists on Main Street
letter of intent due this Friday**

Artists on Main Street is being offered to North Dakota communities through Commerce to develop an example for rural community development as it relates to arts and culture, downtown revitalization, and historic preservation.

“This is a unique opportunity that offers technical assistance and funding to develop and install art to one of our Main Street communities. Selected communities will receive creative community development training, and one-on-one technical assistance for artists and community leaders from placemaking experts.” –Commerce Economic and Community Development Lead Maria Effertz Hanson

Applicants for the program must:

- Be an existing MSI designated community with a population of 10,000 or less.
- Identify one organizational partner who will help carry out the project.
- Have identified the increase or development of art and/or vibrancy within their action plan or strategic plan.
- Be willing and able to assist in the organization of a community panel to review and select artist project proposals and coordinate artist submissions, presentations, and selection.
- Be able and willing to host one to two creative placemaking workshops for artists from your area.

- Participate in the Main Street ND Summit on Oct. 12, 2021 in West Fargo, North Dakota to showcase the project and learned activities.

For additional details or to submit a letter of intent for the Artists on Main Street Program please contact Maria Effertz Hanson at mehanson@nd.gov.

MAIN STREET ND

SUMMIT 2021

Planning for the Main Street ND Summit is underway. This year the summit will be held in West Fargo at the West Fargo Rustad Recreation Center on Oct. 12. Registration will be available soon. [Visit here](#) for regular updates.

Workforce

Applications now being accepted for the Technical Skills Training Grant

The Technical Skills Training grant is designed to support eligible training providers in their efforts to design rapid, non-degree re-skilling programs, expand capacity in existing programs, and/or move training to virtual platforms in order to train displaced workers who will be re-entering the job market and those wishing to make a career change.

New and existing programs that are underway and began after March 1, 2020, may qualify for this grant in order to increase capacity and offset operation and participation expenses. The CRF requires that payments be used only to cover costs that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020.

Eligible applicants include North Dakota colleges and universities (for non-degree programs), business, non-profit organizations, and/or trades organizations/associations in North Dakota. Internal training programs for incumbent workers are not eligible for this grant

[Learn more](#)

Community Services

Cooling assistance available for low-income North Dakotans with medical needs

In the wake of recent record-setting high temperatures in the state, the North Dakota Department of Human Services announced it is operating a cooling assistance program through September 2021 for qualifying lower-income households.

Cooling assistance aid is focused on adults age 60 and older and other individuals with qualifying medical conditions that put their health more at-risk from extreme heat. To participate, individuals must also qualify financially for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which serves households with incomes up to 60 percent of the

state median income. A household of two can earn up to \$41,118 a year and qualify for LIHEAP.

Operated in partnership with Commerce Community Services and local Community Action Programs (CAP), the cooling assistance program can help eligible households purchase and install a window air conditioning unit, repair an air conditioning unit, or purchase oscillating or window fans.

[Learn more](#)

Tourism and Marketing

Air Museum uses Mainstreet Grant to add simulator lab

The Fargo Air Museum used the North Dakota Department of Commerce's 2021 Mainstreet Tourism Grant to build a state-of-the-art flight simulator lab to enhance visitors' experience at the museum. The new flight simulator lab will be used by students, veterans and community members to experience interactive flying and attract aviation enthusiasts to Fargo for a fun and educational attraction.



The Fargo Air Museum is in the process of training staff and volunteers for the grand opening of the new flight simulator lab on June 17, 2021.

[Check it out here](#)



In the News



[North Dakota ranks #1: The states spending the most on parks and recreation](#)



[N.D. leaders highlight critical role of renewable energy.](#)



[Utilizing art to brighten up Bowman](#)



[Burgum, Leiman, Ag groups discuss carbon-related opportunities, drought in Fargo](#)