



News Release

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2021

Contact: Barbara Peterson

701-577-8110 or barbp@ci.williston.nd.us

September STAR Fund Allocations total \$272,573

Williston, ND - The Williston City Commission, City Administrator David Tuan and the STAR Fund Board of Directors have allocated up to \$272,573 in STAR Fund incentives for projects and programs during the month of September. The recipients include a new autobody shop, daycare facility, skating academy, yoga studio and hair salon.

The largest recipient was a daycare project spearheaded by the CHI St. Alexius Health Williston Foundation. The foundation is converting the former Sisters of Mercy apartment building into a daycare facility. The new daycare will be able to accommodate up to 65 children including a maximum of 15-18 infants.

"There's still a big demand in the community for daycare," said Williston Economic Development Executive Director Shawn Wenko. "Our office has been involved in daycare projects for the past 10 to 11 years."

The Williston City Commission approved up to \$209,823 from the Community Build program to help fund the extensive renovation project. The STAR Fund has also recently supported new daycare projects at Light of Christ Church and Williston State College.

Child care remains a big factor relating to our workforce needs," said Wenko. "Communities need to be creative to address this and we intend to remain fully committed to the issue and partner in any way we can."

Other businesses that were approved for STAR Fund grants in September included E & A Body Shop, Oka Staking Academy, The Vault Yoga, Man Cave for Men and Pinnacle Preschool.

Flex PACE Grants

E & A Body Shop: The startup will receive up to \$47,000 from the Flex PACE Interest Buydown program to purchase a building. The full-service body shop will provide repairs on all types of vehicles, semis and planes.

Community Build Grants

CHI St. Alexius Health Williston Foundation: The foundation will receive up to \$209,823 from the Community Build program to convert the former Sisters of Mercy apartments to a new daycare. The daycare will have room for up to 65 children including a maximum of 15-18 infants. The facility is located on the CHI campus.

Mini Match Applications (approved by the Williston City Administrator)

Ok Skating Academy: The new skating academy will receive up to \$5,000 from the Mini Match program to pay for office space and ice rental. The academy provides private lessons, on ice classes, off ice training plus camps and clinics for ice sport athletes of all levels and ages.

The Vault Yoga: The new hot yoga studio will receive up to \$5,000 from the Mini Match program to help pay for remodeling costs. The studio provides yoga, meditation and sound healing services in Downtown Williston.

ManCave for Men: The new owner of ManCave for Men will receive up to \$5,000 from the Mini Match program to purchase the existing business. ManCave for Men provides haircuts and shaves. It is located in the Harvest Plaza.

Child Care Assistant Grant (approved by STAR Fund board of directors)

Pinnacle Preschool: Pinnacle Preschool will receive up to \$750 from the Child Care Renewal program.

The next STAR Fund meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 5 from 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the Center for Development. To submit a STAR Fund application, visit willistondevelopment.com or contact brendasc@ci.williston.nd.us.