



News Release
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For Immediate Release

Williston STAR Fund accepts Community Enhancement Applications until Dec. 15, 2017

The Williston City Commission has approved up to \$50,000 for the 2018 Community Enhancement program. The CE Program is funded by the one cent city sales tax through the Williston STAR Fund.

The goal of the CE Program is to promote tourism and the economy, create jobs, and improve the better quality of life.

Eligible nonprofit groups may apply for CE funding for cultural and historical activities, museums, convention and visitors bureau projects and many more. Some of the past recipients include Williston Band Day, Chokecherry Festival, Divide County Fair, Marketplace for Kids, Fort Union Trading Post, the Miss North Dakota Scholarship Pageant and others.

The Event Communications Coordinator for the Williston Convention & Visitors Bureau said the CE program often fills a financial gap when it's needed the most.

"A number of events I have worked with have benefited from Community Enhancement funds, and I can tell you it is not just a grant," Sabrina Ramey said. "It is encouragement and affirmation from a panel of people (STAR Fund board) that you are on the right track."

CE applications must show proof of matching funds. The grant monies may be used for capital improvements such as the purchase of land, buildings or equipment, annual or special events, and programs and operating expenses.

"The Community Enhancement program supports projects and activities that will improve the quality of life in Williston," said Shawn Wenko, Williston Economic Development executive director. "These grants help attract visitors, permanent residents, new businesses and company expansions."

The deadline to apply is Friday, Dec. 15, 2017 at 5 p.m. Applications may be emailed, mailed or delivered to Williston Economic Development. The STAR Fund board will evaluate the applications early in 2018.

Eligible organizations may obtain applications at Williston Economic Development at 113 4th St. E. or online at willistondevelopment.com. For more information contact Brenda Schmidt at 701-577-8110 or brendasc@ci.williston.nd.us.