



News Release

For Immediate Release

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## **Williston City Commission approves \$50,000 in Community Enhancement Grants**

The Williston City Commission has approved up to \$50,000 from the Williston STAR Fund's Community Enhancement Grant program for 23 projects in the Williston trade region.

Each year, the commission allocates up to \$50,000 for nonprofit groups and organizations to fund activities and projects that improve the quality of life in the Williston area. This year's projects include playground equipment, a powwow, building upgrades, sports equipment purchases, a leadership conference and much more. Recipients are from Williston, Ray, Crosby, Columbus, Sidney and other communities and towns.

Williston Economic Development Executive Director Shawn Wenko says he applauds the commitment of these nonprofits.

"Quality of life development is increasingly important to our economic development efforts," said Wenko. "It's projects like these that make Williston a great place to live."

The Community Enhancement Grant program is made possible through the Williston STAR Fund which provides financial support for economic and community development projects that create jobs. The funds are derived from a voter approved 1% city sales tax through June 30, 2030. Seventy-five percent of the collections benefit infrastructure needs and property tax relief while 25% assists projects that promote a vibrant and sustainable community.

"We say 'thank you' to the projects that received funding this year," says Wenko. "You are vital to our success, so it remains important to our community that you see success as well."

The following received grants from the 2019 Community Enhancement program:

**Northern Plains Oyate** - \$2,000 for annual powwow

**City of Columbus** - \$1,000 for playground

**James Memorial Preservation Project** - \$2,500 for window restoration

**Marketplace For Kids** - \$2,500 for annual event

**Mon-Dak Gymnastics Support Group** - \$3,000 for equipment upgrades

**Upper Missouri District Health Unit** - \$2,000 for the safe seats program

**Missouri Basin Bowman** - \$4,000 for roof replacement

**White Earth Development Corp** - \$1,000 for event pavilion

**Williston United Futbol Club** - \$5,000 for rental and tournament fees

**Richland County Health Department** - \$2,000 for Leadership Summit

**One Million Cups** - \$2,000 for marketing monthly meetings

**Prairie Tumbleweeds Association** - \$1,000 for building improvements

**Crosby Country Club** - \$1,000 for rural water update

**Boy Scouts of America Northern Lights Council** - \$1,250 for operating expenses

**Richland County Boys and Girls Club** - \$2,000 for Friday program funding

**Fort Union Cooperating Agency** - \$2,000 for paper and digital marketing

**First Lutheran Community Playground** - \$2,500 for community playground

**Old Armory Governing Board** - \$2,500 for window treatments

**North Star Caviar** - \$3,250 for equipment updates

**Entertainment Inc!** - \$2,000 for hearing impaired devices

**Williston Chamber Rockin Ribfest** - \$2,500 for event funding

**Williston Council on the Aging** - \$2,000 for the NW Public Transit

**Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture** - \$1,000 for a portable events sound system

**Total 2020 Community Enhancement Allocation** -\$50,000

The next round of Community Enhancement Grant Applications will be accepted beginning in October 2020. The deadline for applications will be announced later.