



News Release
For Immediate Release
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City Commission allocates \$50,000 for 2020 Community Enhancement Grants

The Williston STAR Fund board of directors and the Williston City Commission have approved up to \$50,000 for 2020 Community Enhancement (CE) grant applications. The total CE funding allocated may be less than \$50,000.

The CE grant program helps nonprofit groups and organizations fund activities and projects that improve the quality of life in the Williston area. Grant recipients in the past include Williston Band Day, Boy Scouts, James Memorial Center for the Visual Arts, Chokecherry Festival and others.

"A number of events I have worked with have benefited from the STAR Fund, and I can tell you it is not just a grant," said Sabrina Ramey, an active volunteer with Williston nonprofit organizations. "It is encouragement from a panel of people who have seen many events and heard about many projects. It is affirmation that you are on the right track and it gives you a strong push toward your project goals, sometimes when you need it most."

The Williston STAR Fund was created to help provide 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.

"The grants are a great financial tool to help nonprofit groups achieve their goals," said Williston Mayor Howard Klug. "Cultural, social and educational activities are vital to supporting the continued growth of northwestern North Dakota and northeastern Montana."

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 fund supports projects and activities that will attract visitors, permanent residents, new businesses and company expansions,” said Williston Economic Development Executive Director, Shawn Wenko.

The deadline to apply is December 13, 2019 by 5 p.m. Applications may be emailed, mailed or delivered to Williston Economic Development. The STAR Fund Advisory Board will evaluate the applications and hold interviews at a date to be determine in January of 2020.

Nonprofit organizations may pick up applications at the Williston Economic Development Office located at 113 4th St. E. or the willistondevelopment.com website. For more information contact Brenda Schmidt at 701-577-8110 or brendasc@ci.williston.nd.us.