



News Release
For Immediate Release
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Williston City Commission approves \$650,000 in STAR Fund Incentives

The Williston City Commission has awarded up to \$651,850 in STAR Fund incentives to 13 projects at its meeting on Tuesday, February 25. The projects included a new daycare center, the re-opening of a full-service coffee shop and a second location for a pet groomer.

Williston Economic Development Executive Director Shawn Wenko says 2020 is off to a very solid start.

"We are picking up right where we left off of in 2019," said Wenko. "We are still seeing a lot of interest in the Flex PACE Interest Buydown program which leverages Bank of North Dakota funds. For every dollar we commit, BND matches at a rate of nearly two to one. It's a great program for our community and our local lenders."

The STAR Fund offers a variety of incentive programs including Child Care Renewal, Mini Match, Community Enhancement, Community Build/Growth, C4 Façade Incentive Program, C4 Technical Assistance Incentive Program and Flex PACE. The commission approved six Flex PACE projects, two Community Build/Growth, two Mini Match and three Child Care Renewal projects in February.

"Notable projects this month included Busy Bees Hot Oil Inc., Daily Addiction, Genesis, Light of Christ Lutheran Church, Lolo Peak Properties, PRK Tool Sales LLC and Zoom Groom LLC," said Wenko.

The following projects and programs received STAR Fund allocations at the City Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 25:

Brook McFarlin Chiropractic – up to \$5,000 from the Mini Match program for signage.

Busy Bees Hot Oil Inc - up to \$72,000 from the Flex PACE Interest Buydown program for owner Richard Ceynar to purchase an existing oilfield hot oil firm in Williston.

CHI St. Alexius Health Williston Foundation – up to \$10,000 for a software upgrade and new equipment to be utilized at the Birthplace at CHI St. Alexius Health Williston.

Daily Addiction – up to \$12,500 from the Flex PACE Interest Buydown program for owner Sydney Owan to purchase a full-service coffee house (Daily Addiction) located in Downtown Williston.

Debra Beard – up to \$1,000 from the Child Care Assistance program.

Genesis – up to \$21,000 for owner Lenny Johnson to buy out his business partner at Starboard. The retail store, now known as Genesis, is locally owned and operated by Johnson. Genesis sells name brand apparel, footwear and accessories.

Light of Christ Lutheran Church – up to \$400,000 from the Community Build/Growth program to build out the basement of the church for a childcare facility that will accommodate up to 70 children.

LMNOP Preschool – up to \$600 from the Child Care Assistance program.

Lolo Peak Properties – up to \$62,000 from the Flex PACE Interest Buydown program to purchase and rehabilitate an existing Schlumberger building for an oilfield business that sells and rents equipment.

Miss Lissa’s Daycare – up to \$750 from the Child Care Assistance program.

PRK Tool Sales LLC – Up to \$42,000 from the Flex PACE Interest Buydown program to move an existing business to a larger location (next to the Sign Shop in Williston).

Safety-First Daycare – up to \$5,000 from the Mini Match program for flooring updates.

Zoom Groom LLC – up to \$20,000 from the Flex PACE Interest Buydown program for owner Victoria Ingraham to add a second location in Downtown Williston. The site will offer pet grooming and retail sales.

While WED is off to a brisk start; it is preparing to get even busier. The Sloulin Field Redevelopment (AKA Williston Square) is generating a lot of interest.

“In 2020 we will be spending a significant amount of time and resources at Williston Square. The interest is high and moving a lot faster than we anticipated,” said Wenko.