



For Immediate Release

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Williston STAR Fund allocates \$118,500 to Seven Projects

The City of Williston has awarded up to \$118,500 in STAR Fund grants to seven projects in Williston. The Williston City Commission and City Administrator approved the allocations on Tuesday, March 27. The approved grants will help fund projects with an estimated private investment of \$1.8 million dollars. The projects range from the relocation of a women's fashion boutique to the opening of an upscale men's barber shop.

"There has been a considerable uptick in business development in 2018. The diversity of the projects listed below are an example of the diverse nature of entrepreneurial activity we are experiencing on a daily basis," said Shawn Wenko, Williston Economic Development executive director.

The STAR Fund grants were awarded to the following projects:

- Grace & Glam, a boutique that features women's clothing, will receive up to \$33,528 through the Flex PACE Interest Buydown program to purchase and remodel a building in Downtown Williston. Grace & Glam is preparing to move from the Harvest Plaza to 220 Main St (formerly Grand Slam Gaming, Cards and Comics).
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- Man Cave For Men is a startup that will receive up to \$5,000 through the Mini Match program to provide haircuts, colors, hot shaves and facial waxing for men. The business will be located in the Harvest Plaza.
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- Destiny Med Spa is a new medical spa business owned and operated by Dr. John and Victoria Clair. The startup will receive up to \$5,000 from the Mini Match program for remodeling costs at the Landmark Building. The spa will celebrate its grand opening April 9.
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- Exhale Yoga & Wellness is a hot yoga studio located in the Harvest Plaza. Kari Hauge will receive up to \$5,000 from the Mini Match program to help fund equipment and remodeling costs.
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- Edman Commercial Holdings is a general contractor in Williston that will receive up to \$32,000 from the Flex PACE Interest Buydown program to purchase the building the company is currently leasing.
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- Lutheran Social Services will receive up to \$25,000 from the Community Growth program to help fund the remodel the basement of an office building on Main Street for a day care center.
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- Williston Economic Development will receive up to \$13,000 from the Community Growth program to help hire a consultant to assess The Downtown potential for a public plaza. Roger Brooks International will tour Williston and meet with community leaders in June.

The STAR Fund helps leverage millions of dollars in private investment in Williston. The STAR Fund is financed through a portion of the one cent city sales tax. Up to twenty-five percent of the sales tax proceeds may be allocated to projects that create jobs and improve the quality of life in Williston. The STAR Fund is administered by a seven-member board.

For more information about the STAR Fund program and other financing programs offered through the City of Williston, Bank of North Dakota and Small Business Development Center, visit willistondevelopment.com or call 701-577-8110.