

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

AmeriCorps – Engages volunteers in direct service to help communities address critical unmet needs in the areas of education, public safety, health and the environment.

Community Labor Availability Studies – Provides matching funds to communities who participate in Standardized Community Labor Availability Studies which identify core data elements including consistent standards for conducting the surveys and timeframes for keeping them current.

Experience North Dakota – Aims at attracting former North Dakotans and others to fill state job openings while enhancing the state's image.

North Dakota Talent Initiative – Improves the quality and quantity of training and education programs to expand, attract, retain and gain the skills needed to fill available job opportunities.

Operation Intern – Connects North Dakota higher education students with North Dakota businesses that offer work experience and career opportunities with internships.

State Commission on National and Community Service – Connects North Dakotans with community service organizations to help address critical local issues or problems in areas such as education, public safety, health and the environment.

Workforce Development Council – Supports efforts to increase employment, retention, earning, and occupational skills to improve workforce quality, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance productivity and competitiveness through statewide and local workforce investment systems.

Youth Development Council – Makes recommendations on youth employment and training policy as a permanent standing committee of the North Dakota Workforce Development Council.

PARTNER PROGRAMS

Dakota Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) – Gives North Dakota manufacturers quick, cost-effective solutions to manufacturing challenges.

North Dakota Trade Office – Identifies export markets best suited for the products and services of North Dakota companies by conducting international market research and collaborating with the state universities, state and federal government agencies and private export service professionals.

American Indian Business Development Office (NDAIBDO) – Connects American Indian business owners with more avenues to grow their businesses and create new jobs on and off various reservations located throughout North Dakota.

Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) – Provides high-quality business assistance to help individuals start, manage and grow their businesses resulting in job creation, retention and economic wealth.



1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 2 • PO Box 2057 • Bismarck, ND 58502-2057

Phone: 701-328-5300 • Fax: 701-328-5320

Business Hotline: 1-866-4-DAKOTA (1-866-432-5682) • www.ndcommerce.com



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The North Dakota Department of Commerce is the lead agency charged by the Governor and Legislature with growing our state and improving the quality of life for our people. Commerce serves businesses and communities statewide through four divisions: Community Services, Economic Development and Finance, Workforce Development, and Tourism. The agency has hundreds of partners—local, state, federal, public, private, and non-profit—and is the primary facilitator for all entities involved in the economic and community development process. These partnerships enable Commerce to provide the 45 programs and services listed to improve the quality of life for the people of North Dakota. For more information visit www.ndcommerce.com or 1-866-4-Dakota (1-866-432-5682).

GRANTS AND FINANCING PROGRAMS

Agriculture Products Utilization

Committee (APUC) – Creates wealth and jobs through the development of new and expanded uses of North Dakota's agricultural products through the administration of grant programs in the following categories on a quarterly basis: basic and applied research grants; marketing and utilization grants; farm diversification grants; and an agricultural phototype development grant program.

Community Development Block

Grants (CDBG) – Provides financial assistance to eligible units of local government with the primary beneficiaries being very low and low-income individuals. Examples of projects funded are:

Housing – housing rehabilitation;

Public Facilities – water and sewer projects, removal of architectural barriers, fire stations, ambulances, etc; and

Economic Development – loan/grant funds to businesses which create jobs.

North Dakota Development Fund – Provides flexible gap financing through debt and equity investments for new or expanding North Dakota primary sector businesses.

North Dakota Rural Revolving Loan – Provides gap financing to primary sector businesses, with the exception of production agriculture, located in communities of 8,000 people or less.

Partners in Marketing – Provides grants of up to \$25,000 per biennium to local professional economic development organizations for marketing activities that promote primary sector business attraction, retention or expansion.

Tourism Infrastructure Grants – Provides grants for local non-profit organizations to fund infrastructure and building needs at new or expanding tourist and recreational facilities.

Matching Grants – Creates opportunities for tourism and community partners to expand their marketing or event promotions.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Americans with Disabilities Act – Provides technical assistance to private and public agencies to help them meet requirements and provisions of the Act.

Building Codes – Updates and amends the North Dakota State Building code.

Community Food and Nutrition Program – Supports projects to meet nutrition needs and coordinates private and public food assistance resources for low-income populations through grants from the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Community Services Block Grants – Provides assistance through Community Action Agencies to implement locally designed anti-poverty programs including emergency assistance, money management and housing, counseling, self-sufficiency services, case management, and outreach and referral services to low-income households and people.

Consolidated Plan – Contains a description of the state housing and community development needs and resources, establishes strategies, and prioritizes the use of housing and community development dollars statewide and by planning region.

Emergency Shelter Grants Program – Provides federal financial assistance to facilities and programs within North Dakota which provide temporary shelter to homeless individuals.

HOME Program – Creates partnerships among governmental entities and the private sector to make affordable housing available to low-income individuals.

Manufactured Home Installation Program – Manages inspection program for new manufactured homes installed in North Dakota.

Modular Buildings: Third-Party Inspection – Manages inspection for modular residential structures.

Office of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – Promotes energy efficiency in both the public and private sector, and facilitates the development and use of renewable energy sources within the state.

Renaissance Zone – Encourages reinvestment and redevelopment of downtown areas to attract new businesses and improve housing.

Weatherization Assistance – Increases the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income individuals to reduce their total residential energy expenditures and improve their health and safety.



TOURISM

Advertising & Marketing – Promotes North Dakota and its Legendary brand in the United States and Canada through development and distribution of promotional materials, mixed media and advertising involving print, radio, TV and online. The website is the most powerful promotions tool with more than 390,000 unique visitor annually. Cooperative advertising opportunities are also developed and distributed with state partners.

Culture & Heritage Marketing – Highlights and celebrates the state's regional differences, unique history, ethnic cultures and more in a statewide program, also involving promotion of the Lewis & Clark Trail.

Group Travel – Allows groups to adventure together through North Dakota by providing assistance with planning, expanding or building tours within the state.

International Travel – Promotes the state in the Nordic countries of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland, Germany, as well as Australia.

Learning-Based Vacations – Caters to groups or individuals looking to combine fun and learning into their customized North Dakota vacation.

Literature Distribution – Distributes brochures, guides, maps and more through tourism industry partners, at highway rest areas, and via the Web site to potential state visitors.

Outdoor Promotions – Promotes the state's outdoor activities and adventures through representation at sport shows, working with adventure writers and through niche publication advertising.

Public and Media Relations – Provides complete information of what North Dakota offers to the media and visitors through news releases and familiarization tours. Proactively encourages feature stories of North Dakota and works with writers and photographers on their North Dakota stories.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE

Business Development – Partners with communities to implement business development strategies targeted toward start-up, expansion and new companies relocating to North Dakota.

Center for Technology & Business – Focuses on providing technology resources and technical support to rural economic development professionals, small businesses, communities and residents

Data Center – Provides information on publications, searchable databases, and lists of activities and news such as new business startups and expansions that can be found on www.growingnd.com.

Innovate ND – Provides direct assistance to North Dakota people who have business ideas through online entrepreneur education, coaching and mentoring from proven business owners.

North Dakota Rural Development Council – Provides outreach to rural communities, developers and small businesses to assure that state, federal and regional programs are made available statewide.

Research – Provides information and market research in support of business development activities including industry background, company background and demographics, as well as managing databases related to companies, communities and available buildings.