

NEWSLETTER



FY 2026 Community Development Block Grant Pre-Application Period Announced!

- The North Dakota Department of Commerce Division of Community Services has announced the opening of the FY2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) pre-application period. Contact Jennifer Schultes at our office for information on pre application guidelines and help with your applications.
- CDBG funding supports projects that strengthen communities through public infrastructure improvements, economic development, and community facilities.
- LMI Survey – If you are considering doing an LMI survey there is a *hard* deadline of May 7th

New Ownership at The Stein Haus in Ashley!

Change is in the air once again in Ashley. On March 1, 2026, the Stein Haus — formerly The Roost — is officially under new ownership. Two generations of a local family came together to purchase the Stein Haus bar/restaurant in Ashley, ND. South Central Dakota Regional Council provided funding to help them with their new venture.

For now, they plan to keep everything the same — employees, menu and hours. As they settle in, they'll look for ways to contribute to the community and make the business their own.

In the meantime, locals can continue to stop in for Monday burger lunches and Taco Tuesday evenings. They pride themselves on serving local, high-quality meats.



Ellendale EMS Building CDBG Project Completion!

The City of Ellendale has completed a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project, resulting in the construction of a new fire hall and ambulance facility to replace the existing aging structure. This modern facility is designed not only to support daily emergency operations but also to serve as a triage center during pandemics or other public health emergencies. South Central Dakota Regional Council-Region 6 administered this grant for them.

The building features two large equipment bays, three bathrooms with shower facilities, a full kitchen available for public use, and a spacious banquet room to accommodate community needs.

The new EMS facility is constructed on city-owned property and significantly enhances Ellendale's emergency response capabilities. It provides infrastructure needed to better protect the community in the event of future public health crises, such as a pandemic similar to COVID-19. The facility can be utilized for triage, vaccination efforts, and coordinated emergency management operations.



State of ND Grants

- **ND Department of Commerce Energy Grants:**

These programs help North Dakota communities modernize infrastructure, reduce energy costs and invest in a sustainable future.

- Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) - Supports building retrofits, streetlight upgrades and EV charging stations. Available to smaller cities and counties; approximately \$340,000 remains. Applications are accepted until funds are expended. No match is required.
- Energy Conservation Grant (ECG): Typically used for LED lighting upgrades by local governments. Covers up to 50% of project costs, capped at \$100,000. Applications are accepted year-round with quick processing. A 50% match is required.
- Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan (EERLF) Funding may be used for retrofit/upgrades which are recommended in an energy audit where expected lifetime savings are greater than the cost of the project financed to improve the physical comfort, energy efficiency or air quality of a building.

Innovate ND:

Innovate ND is a voucher-based reimbursement program designed to help North Dakota entrepreneurs advance their businesses by supporting customer and market research. Each participant may receive up to \$50,000 in reimbursable expenses, administered through the Entrepreneur Centers. The program is divided into two phases, each offering up to \$25,000 in reimbursements. Participants have six months per phase, with a maximum of 12 months to complete the full program. Deadline: May 14, 2026.

ND Rural Health Transformation Program

Information coming soon. We let you know as soon as we have information on the program.

We will be launching multiple funding opportunities as part of North Dakota's five-year RHTP effort.

The funding is designed to support practical, locally driven solutions that help rural and tribal communities through four pillars:

- Strengthen and Stabilize Rural Health Workforce
- Make North Dakota Healthy Again - Preventive Care, Eating Healthy
- Bring High-Quality Health Care Closer to Home
- Connecting Technology, Data and Providers for a stronger ND

Funding opportunities will be released in phases, with individual applications announced over time.



State of ND Finance Programs

- Legacy Investment for Technology Loan Fund (LIFT): The Legacy Investment for Technology Loan Fund (LIFT) provides low-interest, debt financing to support innovative businesses that diversify North Dakota's economy in the following industries: Advanced computing and data management; Agriculture technology; Autonomous and uncrewed vehicles and related technologies; Energy; Health care; Value-added agriculture; Value-added energy; Any industry or area specifically identified by the committee as an industry that will contribute to the diversification of the state's economy. Application Deadline: April 23, 2026

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