

## North Dakota

### Statewide Public Space Initiative- Placemaking (SPSI) Planning Grant

#### RESILIENCY/WORKFORCE/ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Purpose:** The North Dakota Department of Commerce, on behalf of the Governor's office, is deploying the Statewide Public Space Initiative- Placemaking (SPSI) Planning Grant. This new program, made possible through U.S. EDA's Statewide Planning Grant Program, supports local governments in completing the planning phase of placemaking that positively impacts economic resiliency workforce attraction and retention, and Covid-19 recovery efforts.

**Mission:** The ND Department of Commerce leads efforts to attract, retain, and expand wealth and improve the quality of life for the people of North Dakota.

**Program Objective:** The Statewide Public Space Initiative grant seeks to support the planning and conceptualization of placemaking efforts and projects necessary to enhance the statewide attraction of businesses, promotion of economic activity, and the retention and attraction of talented workers, thus strengthening the economic resiliency across North Dakota communities as we recover from the economic impacts Covid-19. Community-driven placemaking matters in creating healthy, prosperous communities where people want to live, work, play, and learn. The planning and efforts that result from this proposal will generate economic benefits and is a complementary strategy to aid workforce development.

Placemaking activities are a multi-faceted approach to planning, designing, and managing public spaces, and these community assets are critical to economic resilience and workforce attraction and retention across the state of North Dakota. Placemaking as an economic development strategy, also called place-based economic development, is the practice of using a community's public amenities to make economic progress.

**Eligibility:** The Statewide Public Space Initiative, Placemaking Planning Grant will result in the investment in the planning necessary to enhance the statewide attraction of businesses, promotion of economic activity, and the retention and attraction of talented workers, thus strengthening the economic resiliency across North Dakota communities as we recover from the economic impacts Covid-19. Community-driven placemaking matters in creating healthy, prosperous communities where people want to live, work, play, and learn. The planning efforts that result from this program need to generate economic benefits and serve as part of a complementary and comprehensive strategy to aid workforce development.

**Eligible Entities** – City, County, and Tribal entities

**Non-eligible Entities:** Regional organizations, nonprofits, for-profit entities, individual businesses, political affiliated organizations, and individuals.

**Ineligible Planning projects:**

Comprehensive Planning that does not include placemaking as a component  
Infrastructure Planning  
Implementation of Plans  
Final Architectural or engineering design

**How much funding is available?** Up to \$100,000 per community

**Matching Requirements:** This grant does not require matching funds.

**Timeline:**

- **Applications OPEN – July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**
- Applications **CLOSE** – September 1st, 2022, by 5p.m. CST
- **Award** announcement October 15th, 2022

**Project Timeline: plans and strategies** completed, and funds expended by October 1, 2023

**What makes for a strong application?** Applications that indicate commitment and participation from city leadership as well as other local partners (private businesses, schools, board, park board, JDA) will be scored favorably. The community need for financial assistance with a planning project as well as the need to update a local plan will be considered. Applicants proposing multi-generational, cross-cultural goals to placemaking development plan may be scored favorably. Projects with well-developed budgets will also be scored favorably.

**Granting Agency Involvement:** The ND Department of Commerce maintains the right to be involved in the activities awarded such as:

1. **Collateral Material:** The ND Department of Commerce reserves the right for editorial comment on all aspects of the materials. At minimum, the following statement needs to be included in collateral materials produced with EDA Placemaking Planning funds: *"Produced in partnership with the North Dakota Department of Commerce and U.S. Economic Development Administration."* We also request placement of the ND Department of Commerce logo and U.S. EDA on materials or as a link on websites.
2. **Partner Advertising:** The ND Department of Commerce reserves the right for editorial comment on all aspects of advertising materials.
3. **Public and planning meetings:** Invitations to planning and public meetings will be appreciated.

4: **Participation in regional or stateside convenings:** Commerce will ask participants to provide best practices and insights at various events.

5. **Final Review of Plan.** Commerce reserves the right to review final draft of the plan prior to publication. Commerce requests final plans for record and reserves the right to use the final plans for future references.

**Requirement and Questions to be answered in the application package:**

**SFN Form 62200 and Narrative Description Application Questions:** Please briefly address the following in a separate, typewritten document. Point total is 200.

**I. SFN Form 62200**

**II. Placemaking Location (15 points)**

- a. Before pictures &/or video of location/area that is being considering for grant are encouraged along with maps.
- b. Location in relation to the commercial and residential districts in your community
- c. Is this location greenfield or will it require removal of barriers
- d. Pedestrian and vehicle traffic patterns
- e. Zoning of district (will there be a need to adjust zoning to accomplish the project).

**III. Description of community and organization (25 points)**

- a. Please provide a clear, concise description of your community's vision for its future.
- b. Please provide a clear, concise description of your organization and the role that it will play in the development and/or implementation of this plan.
- c. Please describe any challenges your community has experienced in retaining and attracting talent, including those associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and any efforts you have undertaken to address these challenges.
- d. Please list and describe the places and spaces within your community that make it unique and a great place to work, live, and play.

**IV. Placemaking in the Community (50 points)**

- a. Please describe your project and what goals are you planning to achieve by this placemaking project in your community?
- b. How will your improvements and growth in placemaking result in economic development and overcome the address the challenges of COVID in the future.
- c. How will your placemaking project bring visitors to your community and increase your long-term economic activities?
- d. How does this influence and attract workforce in your community?

- e. If awarded this funding, will you contract with an external organization or complete the project in-house? If you will be contracting, have you identified the contractor you will be utilizing.

#### **V. Community Involvement (25 points)**

- a. If awarded, please describe briefly how you plan to engage a diverse representation of your community in the planning process.
- b. Please describe how you intend to engage youth (21 and under) in a meaningful way during this process.
- c. Please describe any placemaking, community beautification, or economic development efforts you have undertaken in the past 3 to 5 years. How has the community been engaged in these efforts?
- d. If awarded grant funds, what plans does the community have in place for project long-term sustainability.
- e. Please identify any partnerships in sustaining this project in the future.

#### **VI. Project Budget and Timeline (10 points)**

- 1) Please provide a detailed project timeline, showing when, if funded, you anticipate the planning project would commence and be completed. Please include interim and major milestones in the planning process.
  - a. Please describe the timeline past the planning stage into implementation regarding goals and milestones for your project.
  - b. Include in the project timeline and budget any partners including private and public entities.

#### **VII. Need for Project Funding (15 points)**

- a. Does your community have the financial resources to fund this project without assistance from the Department of Commerce? Please explain.
- b. Please explain how funds will be provided, if the project requires funding above the grant amount.

#### **VIII. Main Street Initiative (30 points)**

- a. Is your community engaged in the Main Street initiative?
  - i. No
  - ii. Yes- we are a Main Street Community (we have signed up, had a visit from the state, and have agreed to share updates)
  - iii. Yes- we are a Main Street Champion Community (we have done all the above plus we have issued a formal Main Street Proclamation and submitted our Main Street Action Plan)
    - i. Signed Main Street Community Proclamation submitted?
    - ii. Completed Main Street Action Plan submitted?

- c. Please describe how, if awarded, your community plan will incorporate the following elements:
  - i. Smart, efficient infrastructure development
  - ii. Healthy, vibrant community
  - iii. 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce
  - iv. Diversify, economic capacity of community region
  - v.

**Supplemental Materials required: (30 points)**

**2. Most recent community plan(s) (10 points)**

- a. Please submit or link to a copy of your community's most recent plan(s) (strategic, economic development, comprehensive, etc.)

**3. Letter of support from local organizations and/or political entities**

- a. **Please provide a letter of support, indicating participation in the process and specifically referring to this grant application, from any of the following partners: (20 points)**

- i. Local school district
- ii. Local Park and recreation district (or similar)
- iii. JDA, chamber or other economic and/or community development organization
- iv. City and/or County Commission/Council

**Application Deadline:** Please ensure that you address each of the questions above in your application *on a separate document*. All application materials must be received at the Department of Commerce office no later than **5:00 pm CT on September 1st, 2022**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered by the review committee.

*Mailing Address:* North Dakota Department of Commerce  
Attn: Tammy Heick EDA Public Space Initiative  
1600 East Century Ave #6  
Bismarck, ND 58503

*To email your application:* Tammy Heick – [communitydevelopment@nd.gov](mailto:communitydevelopment@nd.gov)  
Please include ***“EDA Public Space Initiative-Placemaking Planning Grant Application”*** in the subject line of the email submission

*For more information:* Melinda Padilla Lynch  
701-204-3599  
[mpadillalynch@nd.gov](mailto:mpadillalynch@nd.gov)