



**For Immediate
Release**

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Applications for Community Enhancement Grants due Dec. 14

The Williston City Commission has announced that the Williston STAR Fund is now accepting applications from qualifying nonprofit groups for the 2019 Community Enhancement (CE) grant program. The commission approved up to \$50,000 for requests at its Sept. 25 meeting.

The CE grant program offers financial assistance for eligible nonprofit projects and community activities that improve the quality of life in the Williston trade region. Some of the past recipients include Save the Maah Daah Hey Trail, Vinyl Traffic Signal Wraps featuring original artwork, Williston Band Day and Marketplace for Kids.

The Williston STAR Fund was created to help provide financial support for economic and community development projects. The funds are derived from a portion of the voter approved 1% city sales tax. Seventy-five percent of sales tax collections is dedicated to infrastructure needs and property tax relief through debt reduction while 25% benefits projects that promote a vibrant and sustainable community. Under the STAR Fund's guidelines, a maximum of \$50,000 can be utilized for CE projects.

"The Community Enhancement fund provides incentives for innovative ideas that improve the quality of life in our area," said Williston Mayor, Howard Klug. "Cultural, social and educational activities are vital to supporting the continued growth of northwestern North Dakota and northeastern Montana."

CE applications must show proof of matching funds. The grant monies may be used for capital improvements such as the purchase of land, buildings or equipment, annual or special events, and programs and operating expenses.

The deadline to apply is Friday, Dec. 14 at 5 p.m. Applications may be emailed, mailed or delivered to Williston Economic Development. The STAR Fund Advisory Board will evaluate the applications and hold interviews in January of 2019.

Nonprofit and civic organizations may pick up applications at the Williston Economic Development Office located at 113 4th St. E. or online at willistondevelopment.com. For more information contact Brenda Schmidt at 701-577-8110 or brendasc@ci.williston.nd.us.