



**BUSH
FOUNDATION**

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Contact: Ann Crews Melton – amelton@agree.org, 701-391-3875

Consensus Council Announces 2021 Grant Program, Awards More Than \$127,000

Bismarck, ND – Consensus Council will award \$400,000 to nonprofit organizations in its 2021 Community Innovation (CI) grant program in partnership with the Bush Foundation. Applications will be accepted during three grant rounds in 2021, and nonprofit organizations in North Dakota and Native Nations sharing the same geography are eligible to receive up to \$15,000.

In addition, Consensus Council awarded \$127,100 to 10 North Dakota organizations (listed below) in the third round of its 2020 CI grant program.

“Community Innovation grants allow local citizens to craft their own solutions to community issues, highlighting on-the-ground expertise and collaboration,” said Ann Crews Melton, Consensus Council Executive Director. “Through designated funding from the Bush Foundation, organizations can try out new ideas and develop creative solutions, which has never been more needed than during these challenging times of pandemic.”

CI grants support community-based problem-solving processes, enabling people to determine and develop unique solutions to issues impacting them, leading to more effective, equitable, and sustainable solutions.

Nonprofit organizations and government entities of all sizes are eligible for Consensus Council’s \$500 to \$15,000 Community Innovation grants. At least 50% of the grants are awarded to projects seeking to actively reduce structural and/or systemic gaps in access, outcomes, opportunities or treatment based on race/ethnicity or economic standing.

Grant rounds for 2021 are January 7 – February 8, May 20 – June 21, and September 2 – October 4. For more information about Consensus Council’s Community Innovation grant program, including how to apply, visit [agree.org/community-innovation-grants](https://www.agree.org/community-innovation-grants).

The 2020 Round 3 Community Innovation grant recipients are:

Amachi Mentoring: \$15,000

Devils Lake, ND

North Dakota Peer Support Association — Foster the growth and adoption of the newly created North Dakota Peer Support Certification and provide information, resources, and support for Certified Peer Support Specialists.

Community Uplift Program: \$13,000

Fargo, ND

Improving Outcomes for LGBTQ+ Youth — Create infrastructure across North Dakota to ensure queer youth have places they can turn, and adults and schools have the necessary tools to support queer youth and to identify and prevent problems.

High Plains Fair Housing Center: \$15,000

Grand Forks, ND

Discrimination: Marginalized Populations — Stop housing discrimination and promote equitable housing access for marginalized communities not protected by the Fair Housing Act (e.g., LGBTQ, public assistance, criminal backgrounds) through targeted education activities, victim advocacy, and coalition building.

Indigenous Association: \$15,000

Fargo, ND

Revitalization of Indigenous Programs — Reinvigorate and reimagine Native-centric programming, create access and availability for the community to participate, and unify the Indigenous community through culturally appropriate programming.

Jeremiah Program Fargo-Moorhead: \$15,000

Fargo, ND

Jeremiah Program Virtual Expansion — Advance virtual programming capabilities and utilize new technologies to reach single mothers and their children in geographically underserved areas, especially rural areas and Native Nations.

Keeping the Promise: \$10,000

Bismarck, ND

Parent & Caregiver Education Series — Offer virtual education on guardianship, alternatives to guardianship, health care transition from pediatric to adult services, housing, and finances to caregivers of youth with autism spectrum disorder and developmental disabilities, including space for self-advocates and caregivers to share their stories.

Minot Alliance of Nonprofits: \$11,600

Minot, ND

The Nonprofit Fragility Project — Create an accessible, collaborative community conversation distributed publicly via video and podcast featuring local nonprofit leaders, government officials, granting agencies, donors, and other stakeholders seeking a solution to nonprofit fragility.

Mountain Plains Youth Services (Youthworks): \$15,000

Bismarck, ND

N8V Youth Circle — A program for older Indigenous youth (ages 18-24) organized by Indigenous staff to collaborate on cultural projects and share teachings from elders.

North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium: \$7,500

Bismarck, ND

Virtual Legislative Training Institute — Educate and empower citizens with disabilities to become more active participants in state government while in the midst of a pandemic.

North Dakota Women’s Network: \$10,000

Bismarck, ND

NDWN Youth Advisory Council — ND Women’s Network board members will serve as mentors to inspire, equip, and mobilize youth to become more civically engaged, and NDWN will gain perspective from youth advisors on how best to address challenges and opportunities facing youth and young adults.

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About Consensus Council

Consensus Council offers three decades of established success in bringing every voice to the table, teaching citizens and leaders to listen, converse, and collaborate across political divides. As a mission-driven organization we help nonprofits, advocacy coalitions, and public sector entities make a lasting impact. Through public policy work and public programs, Consensus Council facilitates conversations and builds agreements to empower people, transform communities, and advance the public good. Learn more at agree.org.

About the Bush Foundation

The Bush Foundation invests in great ideas and the people who power them. Established in 1953 by 3M Executive Archibald Bush and his wife Edyth, the Foundation encourages individuals and organizations to think bigger and think differently about what is possible in communities across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the same geographic area.