



THE CONSENSUS
COUNCIL, INC.



BUSH
FOUNDATION

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Consensus Council Awards More Than \$157,000 in Community Innovation Grants

Bismarck, ND – Consensus Council awarded \$157,350 in the first round of its 2021 Community Innovation grant program, a partnership with the Bush Foundation. Eleven organizations within North Dakota and Native nations sharing the same geography received funding for projects ranging from collaboration among arts organizations to developing affordable housing in downtown Fargo.

“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. “All of these projects support local residents envisioning and creating the change they want to see to benefit their community as a whole.”

Community Innovation (CI) grants fund community-based problem-solving, enabling people to determine and develop unique solutions to issues impacting them, leading to more effective, equitable, and sustainable solutions.

Consensus Council awards up to \$400,000 annually in its CI grant program in partnership with the Bush Foundation. Nonprofit organizations and government entities of all sizes are eligible for CI grants up to \$15,000. 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.

Remaining grant rounds for 2021 are 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.

The 2021 Round 1 Community Innovation grant recipients are:

African Arts Arena: \$15,000

Grand Forks, ND

Voices of the Silenced: A team of Black/Indigenous/people of color instructors will teach African percussion and dance, poem writing, and storytelling to low-income and minority youth, helping them cope with the stress of the pandemic through exposure to culturally diverse art forms.

Afro-American Development Association: \$15,000

Moorhead, MN

Helping Families & Rebuilding Services: Provide continuity to case management and employment programming for resettled refugees following the closure of Lutheran Social Services of ND, while seeking ways to rebuild resettlement services in collaboration with the State of North Dakota.

Beyond Shelter, Inc.: \$15,000

Fargo, ND

An Affordable Vision for Downtown Fargo: Evaluation, visioning, and implementation planning to meet the affordable housing needs of the diverse population seeking to live in downtown Fargo.

Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota: \$15,000

Grand Forks, ND

Brain Injury in the Criminal Justice System: Develop a strategic plan for the implementation of statewide brain injury screening, identification, referral, and assessment protocols for individuals within the North Dakota criminal justice system.

Dakota West Arts Council: \$14,000

Bismarck, ND

Finding Unity in the Arts Community: Explore arts needs in Bismarck and the broader region by inviting community stakeholders to facilitated conversations, exploring how to collaborate on shared needs and problems, share space and resources, and unify and amplify the arts in the region.

Down Home: \$13,350

Fargo, ND

Empower Up Program: Provide cognitive behavioral and emotional intelligence training to people in Fargo-Moorhead who have experienced or are at risk for homelessness, in addition to transforming a priority space in their home.

Great Plains Food Bank: \$15,000

Fargo, ND

Standing Rock Community Project: Convene community members, leaders, and experts, including those with lived experience of food insecurity and poverty, in a broad-based community assessment to identify ways in which existing community assets can be leveraged and new solutions developed to advance food security.

Heart-n-Soul Community Café: \$15,000

Fargo, ND

Gathering Together for Heart and Soul: Partner with community neighborhoods to offer a Pop-Up Food Truck to serve nutritional, locally grown food in a variety of neighborhoods, providing meals and opportunity for social connections.

HeartSprings Community Healing Center: \$15,000

Fargo, ND

COVID Crisis Care & Recovery Initiative: Provide classes including trauma-sensitive yoga, T'ai Chi Chih, and meditation to Fargo-Moorhead area refugee families and to people in the Fort Berthold Diabetes Program of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation.

Lake Region Community Shelter: \$10,000

Devils Lake, ND

Shelter Restart: Determine a permanent 24-hour shelter location to serve the Devils Lake region following closure of the original shelter due to COVID-19 restrictions, and educate the community on homelessness, affordable housing, generational poverty, and cultural differences.

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa: \$15,000

Belcourt, ND

Turtle Mountain Recovery Center: Provide culturally responsive drug and alcohol treatment services by hiring a project director to lead efforts in site design, implementing Medicaid billing for clients, and identifying staff needed for services.

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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 in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the same geography. Established in 1953 by 3M Executive Archibald Bush and his wife, Edyth, the Foundation supports organizations and people to think bigger and think differently about what is possible in their communities. We work to inspire and support creative problem solving — within and across sectors — to make our region better for everyone. For more information, visit www.BushFoundation.org.