



Rural Catalyst Grant 2025-2027 Biennium

Purpose: The purpose of the Rural Catalyst Grant program is to support quality of life improvement and economic development projects for rural communities in the state. This is a reimbursable grant.

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

Program Objectives:

- Strengthen rural communities addressing critical needs in the areas of community and economic development, health and wellness or for the purpose of preserving or reopening rural grocery stores.
- Support quality of life improvement such as improving access to healthcare, essential services, education, housing or transportation within the community.
- Encourage partnerships and collaboration between local organizations, businesses, and government entities.
- Support innovative approaches to address unique challenges faced by rural areas.
- Foster community development and revitalization efforts in rural regions.

This grant will not fund debt of the applicant, planning grants, or miscellaneous fees. It will not fund salaries, business operating expenses and is not intended to fund childcare.

Eligible Entities – Political subdivisions, Tribal entities, and Regional Councils

How much funding is available?

Up to \$500,000 per *rural* applicant.

****Rural** shall be defined as any community or region, based on the application, with a population of 4,500 or fewer. Note: 50% of these grant funds must be awarded to rural communities with a population of 1,500 or fewer.*

Matching Requirements: A one-for-one non-state funded match is required. This can be provided by public, private, or other nonprofit support, and includes in-kind donation.

Project Timeline: All projects must be completed within 18 months of being awarded and reimbursements must be completed by June 30, 2027.

Application Window (Two Rounds, if funds remain):

1st Round Opens: Applications will be accepted beginning Tuesday, October 28th, 2025 at 3 PM CST.

1st Round Closes: The last day to submit an application for consideration of award is Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 5 PM CST.

1st Round Award: Applicants will be notified of award acceptance or declination by Friday, February 6, 2026.

If additional funds remain:

2nd Round Opens: Applications will be accepted beginning Monday, March 2, 2026 at 3 PM CST.

2nd Round Closes: The last day to submit an application for consideration of award is Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 5PM CST.

2nd Round Award: Applicants will be notified of award acceptance or declination by Friday, April 30, 2026.