

BASE ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

INTRODUCTION

The North Dakota Department of Commerce is requesting proposals for the Base Enhancement Grant Program, established pursuant to Senate Bill 2018 of the Sixty-Ninth Legislative Assembly to support North Dakota communities with an Air Force installation or Air National Guard facilities.

The purpose of the program is to strengthen, enhance, and advance military missions in North Dakota by supporting initiatives that improve installation readiness, community integration, strategic positioning, quality of life, and long-term mission sustainability.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

A total of \$1,000,000 has been appropriated for the current biennium and will be allocated as follows:

- \$600,000 – Eligible organizations in Minot
- \$250,000 – Eligible organizations in Grand Forks
- \$150,000 – Eligible organizations in Fargo

PROGRAM TERM

Grant funds are available during the biennium:

July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be an organization whose mission, programming, or operations support the enhancement and advancement of military missions associated with:

Minot Air Force Base
Grand Forks Air Force Base
Fargo Air National Guard facilities

Eligible applicants may include:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Economic development organizations

- Chambers of commerce
- Political subdivisions

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit a concise proposal letter that includes:

1. Organization name and contact information
2. Requested funding amount
3. Description of project or initiative
4. Impact on military mission enhancement
5. Outcomes and performance measures
6. Project timeline
7. Identification of leveraged funds or partnerships, if applicable

Applications must be submitted electronically by January 21, 2026 to the Deputy Director of Economic Development and Finance, Shayden Akason at sakason@nd.gov.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SCORING CRITERIA

Each proposal will be evaluated based on the following weighted criteria:

Mission Alignment – 22 points

Evaluates how strongly the proposal enhances installation readiness, mission sustainability, or strategic positioning.

Impact and Outcomes – 18 points

Assesses the tangible benefits to the base and community.

Organizational Capacity – 15 points

Measures applicant's experience and readiness to deliver.

Financial Stewardship and Budget – 13 points

Assesses fiscal responsibility and soundness of proposal.

Strategic Value and Sustainability – 12 points

Evaluates longevity and institutional value.

Leverage and Community Benefit – 10 points

Measures partnerships and broader impact.

Veteran Transition and Retention – 10 points

Evaluates how effectively the proposal supports transitioning decommissioned or separating military veterans into civilian life, workforce participation, community integration, and long-term residency in North Dakota.

INTENDED USE OF FUNDS

Funds must support mission enhancement, including:

- Mission advocacy and positioning
- Sentinel preparation
- Community integration
- Quality-of-life improvements
- Recruitment and retention programs
- Strategic advising or studies
- Community programming supporting military families and personnel
- Readiness and infrastructure support efforts

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Grantees must:

- Track expenditures
- Retain documentation for auditing
- Submit biannual progress reports
- Participate in legislative testimony when requested
- Submit a final report by June 30, 2027 summarizing outcomes, expenditures, and remaining balances.