Programs & Services

WORKING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTH DAKOTA

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The North Dakota Department of Commerce is the lead agency charged with growing our state and improving the quality of life for our people. Commerce currently provides nearly 80 programs and services to support business, workforce and community development in partnership with local leaders.

COMMERCE LEAD INITIATIVES

EmPower North Dakota – A governor-appointed, 16-member commission with representatives from all state energy sectors who are charged with recommending comprehensive policies to enhance the state's energy industry.

▸ EmpowerND.com

Governor's Workforce & HR Conference – Presents practical, demand-driven solutions for workforce challenges through an annual conference cosponsored with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) chapter of North Dakota.

North Dakota Census Office – Serves as the liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau and is the state repository of census information. The office assists in U.S. Census reporting and responds to public requests for demographic information.

North Dakota Talent Initiative – Coordinates efforts to expand, attract and retain individuals, as well as help them gain the skills needed to fill available job opportunities.

Renewable Energy Council – Provides funding for research, marketing and education to foster development of renewable energy including: wind, biofuels, advanced biofuels, biomaterials, biomass, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal and hydrogen.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE — NDBusiness.com

Business Development – Partners with communities on business development strategies to support start-ups, expansions and attraction of new companies to North Dakota.

Business Retention and Expansion – Supports local efforts to retain and expand North Dakota's existing companies and facilitates new contract manufacturing relationships between in-state and out-of-state companies.

Incentive Certifications – Manages certification process for many of the available state incentives including primary sector, microbusiness, research and development, seed capital investment tax credit, agricultural business investment tax credit, angel fund investment tax credit, automation tax credit and entrepreneurial center certification.

North Dakota Development Fund – Provides flexible gap financing through debt financing and equity investments for new or expanding North Dakota primary sector businesses and others through a variety of financing programs:

- Development Fund
- Rural Revolving Loan
- Rural Incentive Growth Program
- Licensed Child Care Provider Loan Program
- Small Business Technology Investment Program
- New Venture Capital Program

► NDDevelopmentFund.com

Research – Provides business information and market research including industry background, company background and demographics, as well as managing databases related to companies, communities and available buildings.

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Innovate ND – Provides online entrepreneur education, coaching and mentoring from proven business owners to help entrepreneurs successfully launch new businesses.

► InnovateND.com

Research North Dakota – Invests in research, development, demonstration and commercialization projects at higher education facilities, and in partnership with the private sector, to stimulate new business and job opportunities.

► ResearchND.com

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COMMUNITY SERVICES — NDCommunityServices.com

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – Provides technical assistance to private and public agencies to help them meet requirements and provisions of the ADA.

Building Codes – Updates and amends the North Dakota State Building Code.

► NDBuildingCodes.com

Consolidated Plan – Contains a description of the state housing and community development needs and resources, establishes strategies, and prioritizes the use of housing and community development dollars statewide.

Emergency Solutions Grant – Provides federal financial assistance to facilities and programs within North Dakota that provide temporary shelter and/or homeless prevention to homeless individuals.

HOME Program – Creates partnerships between government and the private sector to support affordable housing for low-income individuals.

Individual Development Accounts – Offers matching funds to participating Community Action Agencies to eligible individual development accounts.

Manufactured Home Installation Program – Manages the inspection of new manufactured homes installed in North Dakota.

► NDMHIP.com

Modular Buildings: Third-Party Inspection – Manages inspection for modular residences.

Office of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – Promotes energy efficiency in the public and private sector and facilitates the development and use of renewable energy sources within the state.

Renaissance Zone Program – Encourages reinvestment and redevelopment of downtown areas to attract new businesses and improve housing.

Weatherization Assistance Program – Increases the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income individuals to reduce their energy expenditures and improve their health and safety.

► NDWAP.com

GRANT PROGRAMS

Economic Development & Finance

Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) – Supports new and expanded uses of North Dakota's agricultural products.

► NDAPUC.com

Partners in Marketing – Provides grants of up to $25,000 per biennium to local professional economic development organizations for marketing activities that promote primary sector business or workforce attraction, retention or expansion.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Research North Dakota – Provides grants to North Dakota's research universities for collaboration with private industry on research, development, demonstration and commercialization of technology.

► ResearchND.com

Technology-Based Entrepreneurship – Provides grants to encourage the development of new technology-based start-up businesses within the state.

Workforce Development

Operation Intern – Provides matching funds to help expand the number of internship, work experience and apprenticeship positions with North Dakota employers. Funding is also available for teachers to gain experiences at companies through externships.

► OperationIntern.com

Pre-Kindergarten Community – Provides grants to certified pre-kindergarten programs that serve low-income children.

Tribal College – Provides funding to the five tribally controlled community colleges for workforce training and entrepreneurial assistance.

Workforce Enhancement – Provides funding for designated two-year colleges to develop or expand training programs that address the needs of business and industry in North Dakota. The grants require a dollar-for-dollar match from industry.

Community Services

Child Care Facility – Provides funds to assist in the expansion or creation of child care facilities.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – Provides financial assistance to eligible units of local government to support housing, public facilities and economic development.

Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) – Provides assistance through Community Action Agencies to implement locally designed anti-poverty programs including emergency assistance, money management, housing counseling, self-sufficiency services, case management and outreach and referral services to low-income individuals and families.

Domestic Violence Shelter – Provides grants to organizations that provide shelter to victims of domestic violence.

Energy Conservation – Assists North Dakota political subdivisions in making energy efficiency improvements to public buildings.

Homeless Shelter – Provides federal financial assistance to facilities and programs within North Dakota that provide temporary shelter and/or homeless prevention to homeless individuals.

Tourism

Tourism Events – Provides grants for tourism and community partners to expand their marketing and promotions for events and festivals.

Tourism Infrastructure – Provides grants for local non-profit organizations to fund infrastructure and building needs at new or expanding tourist and recreational facilities.

Tourism Marketing – Provides grants for individual businesses, communities and tourism marketing organizations wanting to promote North Dakota tourism attractions and activities.

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TOURISM — NDtourism.com

Advertising and Marketing – Promotes North Dakota and its Legendary brand through development and distribution of promotional materials, e-marketing and mixed media advertising. Cooperative advertising opportunities are also developed and distributed with state partners.

AgriTourism – Provides assistance in turning farms, ranches and gardens into tourism destinations.

Digital Marketing and Promotion – Builds brand identity and awareness of North Dakota as a travel destination while engaging travelers at NDtourism.com and on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, travel blogs, mobile sites and electronic newsletters.

Group Travel – Provides assistance for groups, preparing them for their adventure through North Dakota with planning, expanding or building tours within the state.

International Travel – Actively promotes the state to international markets, focusing in the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Italy. Active in hosting familiarization and media tours.

Literature Distribution – Distributes brochures, guides and maps through tourism industry partners at highway rest areas and via the website.

Outdoor Promotions – Promotes the state's outdoor activities and adventures through representation at sport shows, working with adventure writers, and through niche publications and online advertising.

Public and Media Relations – Provides complete information of what North Dakota offers to the media and visitors through news releases, familiarization tours and online. Proactively encourages feature stories and works with writers, bloggers and photographers on their North Dakota stories.

Tourism Development – Helps develop new visitor experiences and locations, as well as expansions to existing attractions, by connecting potential operators with available resources.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT — NDWorkforce.com

AmeriCorps – Engages volunteers in direct service to help communities address unmet needs in the areas of education, public safety, health and the environment.

- NDAmeriCorps.com

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives – Connects faith-based and community organizations with resources to help address critical local community service gaps in areas such as workforce, education, public safety, health and the environment.

Workforce Intelligence Coordination – Connects workforce partners to critical North Dakota workforce data to improve accessibility and use in decisions, policy making and planning.

Youth Office – Works as a liaison for partners to collaborate and communicate with youth by making it easy for students, parents and educators to quickly identify opportunities focused on keeping youth in North Dakota.

- NDYouthForward.com

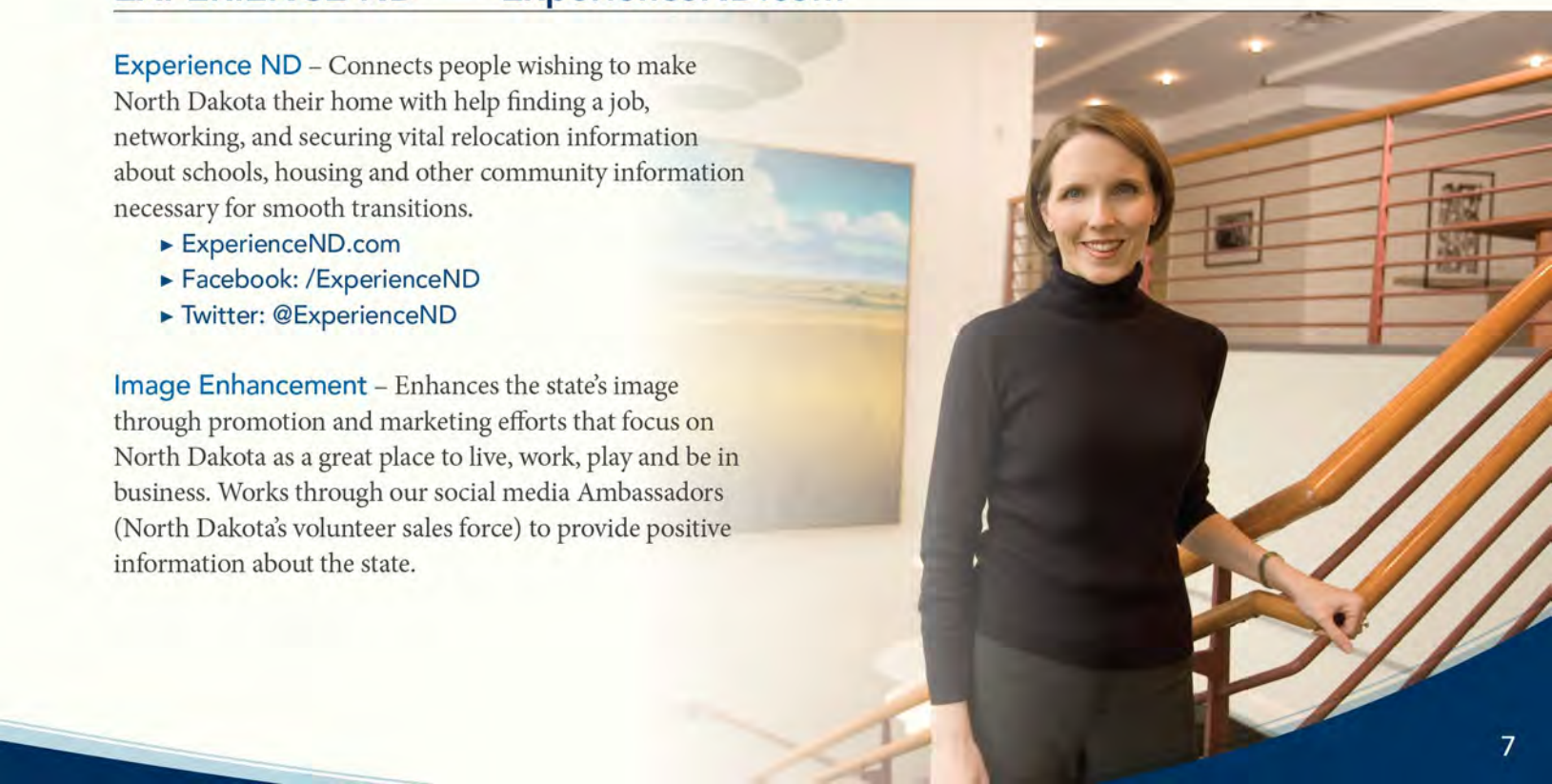
Recruiters Network – State network of recruitment professionals working together to develop the workforce our business and industries need.

EXPERIENCE ND — ExperienceND.com

Experience ND – Connects people wishing to make North Dakota their home with help finding a job, networking, and securing vital relocation information about schools, housing and other community information necessary for smooth transitions.

- ExperienceND.com
- Facebook: /ExperienceND
- Twitter: @ExperienceND

Image Enhancement – Enhances the state's image through promotion and marketing efforts that focus on North Dakota as a great place to live, work, play and be in business. Works through our social media Ambassadors (North Dakota's volunteer sales force) to provide positive information about the state.



PARTNER PROGRAMS

American Indian Business Development Office – Connects American Indian business owners with opportunities to grow their businesses and create new jobs on and off reservations located throughout North Dakota.

► AmericanIndianBusiness.com

Center for Technology and Business – Partners with individuals, businesses, communities, local and state agencies, job development authorities and nonprofit organizations to build North Dakota's economic future through leadership, technology and women's business development.

► TrainingND.com

Impact Dakota – Provides manufacturers and other new wealth-creating companies with technical assistance services to maximize business performance, including growth, innovation, productivity and profitability.

► ImpactDakota.com

North Dakota Rural Development Council – Furthers collaboration and partnerships among federal, state, local and community-based organizations to ensure that benefits from state and federal programs are equally available to rural communities.

► NDRDC.org

North Dakota Trade Office – Identifies export markets best suited for the products and services of North Dakota companies by conducting international market research and collaborating with universities, state and federal government agencies and private export service professionals.

► NDTO.com

Small Business Development Centers – Provides high-quality assistance to help individuals start, manage and grow their businesses, resulting in expanded job creation and increased economic wealth.

► NDSBDC.org

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