



THE CONSENSUS
COUNCIL, INC.



BUSH
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For immediate release:

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The Consensus Council Awards More than \$130,000 in Community Innovation Grants

(Bismarck, ND – April 21, 2015) – The Consensus Council awarded \$131,603 to fourteen organizations in North Dakota through its Community Innovation Grant program. Offered in partnership with the Bush Foundation, the Community Innovation Grant program supports communities to use problem-solving processes that lead to more effective, equitable and sustainable solutions.

“This is a huge investment in North Dakota, on the part of the Bush Foundation,” Consensus Council Executive Director Rose Stoller said. “We are excited to be a partner in this effort, to help North Dakotans develop, build and test out new and innovative ideas. The projects we are funding demonstrate the spirit of inclusiveness, collaboration and resourcefulness in communities and regions across the state through diverse avenues including health, housing, human services, education, faith-based initiatives and the arts.”

The recipients of the Community Innovation Grants are:

Charles Hall Youth Services, Bismarck - \$5,000 for a project to develop relationships between their service program, United Tribes Technical College and five tribal nations in North Dakota

Grand Forks Housing Authority, Grand Forks - \$10,000 for a project to develop a Housing-First option for the community

Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment (REAP) Fund, Dickinson - \$9,400 to explore opportunities for development of a cooperative model childcare program

Faith Forward Network, Fargo/Grand Forks - \$10,000 to improve social and economic justice in North Dakota through faith perspectives

Sanford Health Foundation North, Fargo - \$10,000 for a project to implement a Medical Respite pilot program for people who are homeless and in need of medical care

Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD, Fargo - \$10,000 for the ND Youth Advocacy Project – Protecting Comprehensive Sex Education and Creating Youth Leaders on college campuses in Bismarck and Jamestown

Plains Art Museum, Fargo - \$10,000 for a project to convene community conversations with the Kurdish Community of America, the First Sudanese Lutheran Church and the Fargo-Moorhead Coalition for Homeless Persons in the program “Working From the Outside In: Community Engagement through Art and Museums”

Theatre B, Fargo - \$10,000 to develop a series of workshops and creations to engage, train and empower local storytellers to create new work that impacts their community through the program “Devising: Developing New Creative Muscles”

Quality Health Associates of North Dakota, Minot - \$9,182 to provide education and technical assistance to four Basic Care facilities in ND for the purpose of developing, testing and implementing quality improvement strategies to improve the quality of care

Healthcare Equipment Recycling Organization (HERO), Fargo - \$8,500 for exploring the feasibility of expanded markets in ND for collection and redistribution of donated health supplies to benefit those in need

First Sudanese Lutheran Church, Fargo - \$9,900 to foster youth development for New American youth from Sudan, Liberia, Haiti, Congo and Central Africa through after-school tutoring, learning and activities

World Wildlife Fund, Bozeman, MT - \$9,971 for a project to bring North Dakotans together to share information and develop plans for conservation in the North Dakota Badlands

City of Hettinger, Hettinger - \$10,000 to conduct a feasibility analysis for the Hettinger Armory Renovation Project

The Strom Center at Dickinson State University, Dickinson - \$9,650 for the Bakken Researcher’s Convening to connect researchers regarding current activities, potential collaboration and identification of next steps in meeting research needs on local and community impacts

Nonprofit organizations and government entities of all sizes are eligible to apply for Community Innovation Grants from the Consensus Council ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. A panel comprised of Consensus Council staff and community leaders make final grant decisions and grants will be awarded at the beginning of each of the two remaining rounds. At least 50% of the grants will be awarded to projects and programs that address racial and economic disparities. Two additional grant rounds will be available from the Consensus Council in 2015, the next of which will be open for proposals from May 4 – 29, 2015.

For more information about the Community Innovation Grant program, including how to apply, see www.agree.org/CommunityInnovationGrants.

About the Consensus Council

In 1990, state public and private leaders created the Consensus Council out of concern that public cynicism and partisan discord threatened North Dakota’s ability to address important challenges. Since then, the Consensus Council has developed a statewide and regional presence with occasional national and international projects. For more than 25 years, the Consensus Council has provided assistance to citizens and leaders in building agreements on difficult issues of public policy.

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.