



THE CONSENSUS  
COUNCIL, INC.



BUSH  
FOUNDATION

**For immediate release:**

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## **The Consensus Council Awards More than \$135,000 in Community Innovation Grants**

**(Bismarck, ND – December 21, 2015)** – The Consensus Council awarded \$135,482.77 to 15 organizations through its Community Innovation Grant program in North Dakota. Offered in partnership with Saint Paul, MN-based Bush Foundation, the Community Innovation Grant program supports community-based problem-solving processes that lead to more effective, equitable and sustainable solutions.

“The Consensus Council is excited to be a partner in the Bush Foundation’s investment in North Dakota communities,” Consensus Council Executive Director Rose Stoller said. “The projects we are funding demonstrate the spirit of inclusiveness, collaboration and resourcefulness across diverse sectors including health, housing, human services, education, faith-based initiatives and the arts.”

The recipients of the Community Innovation Grants are:

**Heart River Lutheran Church, Mandan** – \$10,000 for a project to develop the first ever Juvenile Justice Open Table Re-entry Model for incarcerated youth in North Dakota

**Fargo/Moorhead (F/M) Coalition for Homeless Persons, Fargo** – \$10,000 for a project to assess the need and feasibility of creating a combined innovation hub and service clearinghouse for people experiencing homelessness, service providers, and other stakeholders

**North Dakota Women’s Network, Bismarck** – \$10,000 for a project to develop a Native American Women’s Leadership program to increase education and outreach to Native American women to build skills to pursue public office

**Valley Community Health Center, Grand Forks** – \$10,000 for a project to offer integrated primary care services and education to residents living in public housing units in Grand Forks

**Family Healthcare Center, Fargo** – \$10,000 for a project to increase identification, treatment, and management of major depression in a high-risk diabetic population in the Fargo-Moorhead area through an intervention that links behavioral health, diabetes education and pharmacy with the

care of the primary care provider

**Great Plains Institute for Sustainable Development, Minneapolis, MN** – \$2,250 for a project to work with the Legacy Fund Initiative participants to develop revised revenue scenarios and projections to share with North Dakotans and with state policymakers

**Kenmare/Mohall Safe Community Coalition, Kenmare** – \$7,605 for a project to bring people together in order to creatively respond to the unique needs of people living in rural communities, particularly in rural Ward and Renville counties

**Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund, Dickinson** – \$10,000 for a project to convene key players in the rural grocer industry (industry leaders, store owners, managers and volunteers, city leaders, local developers, suppliers) in a day-long event to discuss recently completed survey results and to develop a strategy to capitalize on opportunities to improve efficiencies and sustainability of North Dakota's rural grocers

**North Dakota Human Rights Coalition, Fargo** – \$10,000 for a project to increase organizational capacity to improve the human rights environment in North Dakota

**Western Wellness Foundation, Dickinson** – \$10,000 for a project to plan and develop funding resources for an Adult Drug Treatment Court for the Southwest Judicial Court

**The Arc of Bismarck, Bismarck** – \$10,000 for a project to grow knowledge and effective usage of People First language among employees, news professionals and people within the disability community

**Mental Health America of North Dakota, Bismarck** – \$7,750 for a project to develop and administer a survey targeting (behavioral health) consumers and their families, independently collecting their firsthand experiences with North Dakota's behavioral healthcare network

**North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations, Bismarck** – \$10,000 for a project to secure a nonprofit governance expert to offer board of directors' development workshops in four North Dakota communities, including the opportunity to complete board evaluations and have access to technical assistance

**The Nature Conservancy, Minneapolis, MN** – \$10,000 for a project to create an inclusive, broad community that recognizes the value of conservation and comes up with innovative ways to address these needs in North Dakota

**American Legion Matthew Brew Post #3, Dickinson** - \$7,877.77 for a project to begin the steps of a 10-year process to address the revitalization of Patterson Lake in Dickinson

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. At least 50% of the grants will be awarded to projects and programs that address racial and economic disparities. Three grant rounds will be available from the Consensus Council in 2016, the first of which will open in early January.

For more information about the Community Innovation Grant program, including how to apply, see [www.agree.org/CommunityInnovationGrants](http://www.agree.org/CommunityInnovationGrants).

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### **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.