



For Immediate Release  
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## **Grants Available to Benefit Golden Valley, Slope, Hettinger, Grant, Morton, and Oliver Counties**

Bismarck, ND., April 19, 2023 – The North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) is pleased to announce that it will be administering Grid United’s Community Investment Program (CIP), providing grant dollars to support communities in Golden Valley, Slope, Hettinger, Grant, Morton, and Oliver Counties. Grid United is an independent transmission company that builds new long-distance, interregional transmission lines to enhance grid reliability and resiliency. The CIP will support the six North Dakota counties in which Grid United’s North Plains Connector – a transmission line connecting the U.S. eastern and western electric grids in Montana and North Dakota – will be located.

Grid United is dedicated to partnering with participating communities and as a result, CIP funds will support innovative projects that enhance quality of life while strengthening communities in this corner of Southwest North Dakota.

“We are thrilled to partner with the North Dakota Community Foundation on the North Plains Connector Community Investment Program,” said Michael Skelly, Chief Executive Officer of Grid United. “We aim to foster long-term partnerships with the communities in which we develop projects and look forward to helping address community needs in Golden Valley, Slope, Hettinger, Grant, Morton, and Oliver Counties. Through input from local voices, the program hopes to fund innovative projects that enhance the quality of life in North Plains Connector communities.”

NDCF’s existing community foundations in this part of the state will distribute the CIP grant dollars in the following counties: the Golden Valley County Community Foundation, the Bowman & Slope County Community Foundation, the New England Community Foundation (Hettinger County), and the Mott-Regent Community Foundation (Hettinger County). Each local community foundation has an advisory committee of 5-9 local residents who know the needs in their area and will review grant applications and recommend awards.

In those areas where a local community foundation doesn’t already exist, NDCF is working with area leaders to create a process for the distribution of Grid United CIP grant dollars. The intent is to have local residents connect with area non-profits and service organizations and guide the allocation of the funds to those projects/programs that provide the greatest benefit to the area.

Grant application deadlines vary by community and each community will have two grant rounds every year. Grant applicants must be either a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or government entity. Organizations that provide community services but that are not either entity may apply through a fiscal sponsor. Only

online applications will be accepted. More information will be announced in the future regarding the individual grant rounds.

Eligible projects must have a broad impact on the quality of life for a significant number of people in Golden Valley, Slope, Hettinger, Grant, Morton, and Oliver Counties. Ineligible projects include religious, partisan, or sectarian programs along with one-time events that are not part of longer-term economic and community development goals. Grants will not be awarded to individuals.

While grants must be used for projects benefiting communities in Golden Valley, Slope, Hettinger, Grant, Morton, or Oliver County, the grantee organization does not need to be based within these areas.

“Grid United’s incredible gift to these rural communities will help improve the quality of life for many area residents,” said NDCF President & CEO Kevin Dvorak. “We are honored that Grid United chose to utilize the North Dakota Community Foundation’s network of local volunteers and committees to accomplish their charitable-giving goals.”

For more information or an updated granting schedule, please contact the chair of your local community foundation or NDCF’s Regional Director in Dickinson John Heinen at 701-590-4614 or [John@NDCF.net](mailto:John@NDCF.net)

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**About Grid United:** Grid United is an independent transmission company aiming to modernize the United States’ power grid to create a more resilient and efficient electric system that uses the nation’s abundant and geographically diverse natural resources to the benefit of all consumers. For more information, visit [www.gridunited.com](http://www.gridunited.com).

**About North Plains Connector:** The North Plains Connector is an approximately 385 mile and up to 525 kilovolt high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line connecting the U.S. eastern and western electric grids in Montana and North Dakota. The North Plains Connector will be open to all sources of electrical power generation and will be able to transport power in either direction along the line. For more information, visit [www.northplainsconnector.com](http://www.northplainsconnector.com).

**About the North Dakota Community Foundation:** Established in 1976, the North Dakota Community Foundation is a public, non-profit tax-exempt corporation which receives and distributes charitable funds to support a wide range of programs that benefit North Dakotans. It manages over \$113 million in assets in over 850 component funds, including 69 local community foundations, organizational endowment funds, donor-advised funds, and scholarships. It has made over \$99 million in grants since its inception with the mission of improving the lives of North Dakota citizens and their communities through charitable giving and promoting philanthropy. For more information, visit [www.NDCF.net](http://www.NDCF.net).