

North Dakota Department of Career and
Technical Education
Recovery Plan

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund
2023 Report

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

1. Program Information

- Approved Program Plan number – CPFFN0155
- Program start date – January 1, 2022
- Program end date – June 30, 2025
- Actual CPF funds allocated to this Program - \$68,276,228

2. Executive Summary

As the funding was approved the beginning of June 2023, no funds were distributed during the 2022-23 fiscal year. What can be reported, is in anticipation of release of the funds, project applications were submitted to and approved by the State Board for Career and Technical Education, for the purpose to build multipurpose facilities, with a focus on providing more access to Career and Technical Education and training to students and adults across North Dakota. Program guidance is linked below:

[FederalCoronavirusCTECenterGrantPacket.pdf \(nd.gov\)](#)

Thirteen applications were approved in the spring of 2022 anticipating a timely release of funds. Since the release of funds did not occur in the summer of 2022 as anticipated, many projects stood dormant until funds became available. Others moved forward, utilizing the match dollars that were a requirement set in place by the North Dakota State Legislature.

The primary challenge was construction inflationary costs. These project applications were submitted in December 2021 and approved in the spring of 2022. Due to the delay in access to funds, many projects needed to scale back projects or raise additional funds to meet expectations. The State Legislature did allocate additional dollars to support inflation, which will help, but some projects may still need to scale back costs.

3. Uses of Funds

As previously mentioned, no funds have been distributed during this performance period as the funds were first made available in June 2023. The primary object of the multipurpose facilities is to provide Career and Technical Education to students and adults residing in the region. Once these facilities are operational, metrics will include the number of individuals that receive education and training. Also, to keep in line with the intent of the Coronavirus Capital Projects Grant guidance, sub-recipients will need to report how health monitoring is provided and public access to Wi-Fi is met and how much it is being utilized.

Activities planned for the next period is for projects:

- Begin construction for projects currently not started.
- Continuation of construction for projects currently in progress.
- Potential completion of projects currently in final phases of construction.

Enrollment and utilization data will be provided for projects completed in the 2023-24 reporting year.

Again, the primary challenge is the cost of construction. This is being addressed with an infusion of state dollars to address costs, additional match dollars being pledged, and identifying costs savings in the project while still providing all services.

Another challenge is supply chain issues. This is simply being addressed by being patient and moving back timelines.

4. Promoting Equitable Outcomes and Addressing Critical Needs

The approved applications were to include the region, school districts and communities they were to serve and how the project was going to deliver Career Technical Education to populations that may not have had access in the past. Sub-recipients were to ensure they were providing services to surrounding rural communities, providing access to education, and helping students and adults get on a career path that would meet a critical need in the community as well as provide a living wage for the individual.

Objectives:

Projects selected for receipt of a multi-purpose community facility project grant have a critical need for the services provided due to an absence of such facilities in the region, or the current inadequacy of existing facilities. A focus of these projects is to provide access to rural students, who often lack access to diverse Career and Technical Education programming. Many projects are focusing on the Native American population to ensure they also have access.

5. Labor

Subrecipients are aware of the expectation of using strong labor standards, and this will be monitored during the construction process and site visits.

6. Community Engagement

As previously stated, since the funds first became available in June 2023, many projects are in the early phases of construction and determining timelines for completion and providing services.

During the application process, community involvement included student and employer surveys, which was used to determine what programs should be provided within the CTE Centers.

The single most apparent community involvement was the grant match requirement. The community was required to secure match, either through private donations, building funds or other means, to ensure the local community saw this as a needed facility.

7. Civil Rights Compliance

As the sub-recipients of the funds are educational entities, sub-recipients ensure all students have equal rights and are entitled to equal opportunities regardless of race, religion, sex, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or other status protected by law.