

# MANUFACTURING *in Lehman's Terms*

## Economic Resiliency Grant Update

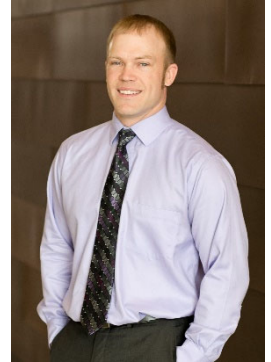
As the leaves start to change and we roll into month six of the COVID-19 pandemic, Commerce has been busy working on the Economic Resiliency Grant (ERG) and the ND Smart Restart Technical Skills Training Grant. These grants were made possible by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding provided to North Dakota. For this month's newsletter, I just wanted to provide a brief status overview of these two grant programs.

The first grant I'm going to cover is the ERG. The spirit of this grant is to instill consumer confidence to safely bring customers back into the marketplace. Although many manufacturing operations may not have a direct marketplace, they are an important part of the supply chain and as such have been allowed to apply. There was just over \$66 million set aside for the grant which opened for submissions Aug. 12. By the time the grant window closed on Sept. 17 there were 2,716 applications submitted requesting more than \$96 million. So far, Commerce has adjudicated nearly 1,000 applications and awarded more than \$15 million to over 750 businesses. A second funding round will be dependent on the availability of the funds at the completion of the round one review. At this point, it is too early to tell if there will be a second funding round for the ERG. Information pertaining to the ERG can be found at <https://NDResponse.gov>.

The second CARES Act funding grant Commerce is focusing on is the Smart Restart Technical Skills Training Grant. Commerce was approved \$1 million in CARES Act funding to administer the grant, which is designed to support accelerated skills-based and hands-on workforce training programs that prepare displaced workers for full-time employment in North Dakota. Grant recipients for the first round of funding include:

- Emerging Digital Academy software development training, \$100,000
- North Dakota State College of Science – TrainND CDL training, \$30,000
- NESET Consulting Services Tioga Wind Turbine Technician Training, \$48,265
- Sanford Health nursing assistant training, \$100,000

Funding is still available, and a second application window is open now through Sept. 23, 2020. New programs and existing programs that began after March 1, 2020, may qualify for this grant to support operating expenses and scholarships for participants.



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More information and the application for the ND Smart Restart Technical Skills Training Grant can be found at <https://belegendary.link/NDInternships>.

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