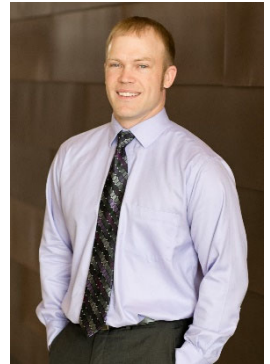


MANUFACTURING *in Lehman's Terms*

Manufacturing COVID-19 Updates



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I hope everyone was able to enjoy the 4th and is getting the opportunity to take in some much-needed vacation time with their families! This summer has been an unusually busy one as the Commerce staff has been busy focusing on the rollout of a couple of grant programs to help our businesses deal with the impact of the pandemic. Both programs are a result of federal funds given to North Dakota to help our businesses through the recovery of the pandemic. Here is a brief overview of the grant programs.

Commerce launches Economic Resiliency Grant program

The Economic Resiliency Grant (ERG) program is available to private companies for costs associated with improvements to their businesses for the purpose of reducing the spread of infection and instilling consumer confidence in the marketplace.. Applications will be open soon.

Grants of up to \$50,000 per eligible business and up to \$100,000 per eligible business with multiple locations will be available to qualifying businesses. The grants will be used to restore consumer confidence and reinvigorate our economy while ensuring the health and safety of customers and employees.

ERG details: <https://ndresponse.gov/sites/www/files/documents/covid-19/ERG/ERG-OneSheet.pdf>

Eligibility questions: https://ndresponse.gov/covid-19-resources/covid-19-faqs?field_faq_category_target_id=60

Eligible expenditures: https://ndresponse.gov/covid-19-resources/covid-19-faqs?field_faq_category_target_id=62

ND Smart Restart Technical Skills Training Grant application window opens

In response to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Commerce received \$1 million in CARES Act funding to provide grant support for workforce training programs. The training is for displaced workers seeking to develop the technical skills necessary to make a career change and remain gainfully employed in North Dakota.

The ND Smart Restart Technical Skills Training Grant program aims to offset the cost for program providers, in order to support and retrain workers to fill available jobs within the state in accelerated, skills-based and hands-on programming.

The grant is designed to support training providers in their efforts to design rapid re-skilling programs, expand capacity in existing programs, and/or move training to virtual platforms in order to train displaced workers who will be re-entering the job market. Programs may be eligible for up to \$100,000 in matching funds.

More information: <https://www.workforce.nd.gov/workforce/NDSmartRestartTechnicalSkillsTrainingGrant/>

If your business has been negatively impacted by the pandemic, as many have, I encourage you to dig into these grants to see how they can best help your business as you navigate through these times. I hope this information helps, and if you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out.

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