



## Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health

**DATE:** July 19, 2021  
**FROM:** Renae Moch, Public Health Director  
**ITEM:** BCBSND Caring Foundation SPARK Grant

### **REQUEST:**

Requesting permission to apply for grant funding from the BCBSND Caring Foundation. Please place this item on the July 27, 2021 City Commission meeting agenda.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND) Caring Foundation will provide a limited number of one-year grants annually of up to \$50,000 to North Dakota communities and organizations undertaking efforts to support health and community-based wellness and prevention. The goal for this funding is to enhance collaborative efforts and community involvement that results in long-lasting change.

Objectives of this grant funding is as follows:

- Invest in community-based initiatives that will support access and opportunity leading to improved habits and healthier lifestyle.
- Strengthen capacity for effective collaborations, coalitions, and partnerships to improve health status and outcomes.
- Expand efforts by local leaders, community health, and communities to improve health equity and access.

If approved, BBPH's application would request funding to cultivate the local farm to school program. "Farm to school" enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education settings. Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities such as school gardens, cooking lessons and farm field trips. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.

### **RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION:**

Recommend approval for BBPH to apply for BCBSND Caring Foundation Spark Grant Funding.

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