



**TO:** Mayor Shaun Sipma  
Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Kelsey Mahone YWCA Minot Board President

**DATE:** June 18, 2020

**SUBJECT:** **YWCA MINOT DOD DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT PROGRAM (G&A022)**

**I. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

We request approval to apply for the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), Department of Defense Program entitled “Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot” (DCIP) using the City of Minot as a pass-through entity. The primary purpose of this program is to improve the quality of life for military families, and we believe that creating a YWCA Minot Campus will significantly enhance the quality of life enhancement not only for Minot Air Force Base but for all of Minot and the surrounding areas. We will request funds to build the new YWCA Minot Campus. If our proposal is selected to move on to a grant application, we would bring the required Grant Agreement for Sub-award back to council for approval.

**II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS**

Kelsey Mahone, YWCA Board President, (504)-231-9478  
Meghan von Behren, Executive Director, ywcaminoted@gmail.com, (310)-227-6944

**III. DESCRIPTION**

A. Background

The YWCA Minot is the only women and children’s homeless shelter in the region. The center provides Emergency Shelter, a Community Closet, the Dakota Diaper Pantry and the Fresh Start Shower Program. YWCA Minot is proposing to build a new campus because the needs of the community have pushed the current 11,250 square foot shelter to its breaking point. The building can comfortably house 14 women at a time, however due to the high demand for shelter, it is usually closer to 30 women and their children. In 2019, the Center of Hope provided 3,403 nights of shelter.

B. Proposed Project

This grant will provide the funds to acquire the land and build the YWCA Minot Campus. The campus will provide a state-of-the-art approach to eliminating socioeconomic barriers in the community. The design allocates 15,184 square feet to living space, there will also be a community resource center housing the Dakota Diaper Pantry and other programs, play areas for children and ADA accessible services. The innovative building will also be energy efficient achieving LEED Gold or higher status, through the use of 360 solar panels and geothermal energy provide a self-sufficient building. The excess power will be returned to the community and the grid. The military and community need for the YWCA Minot’s services is growing at an exponential rate, our facility needs to expand to continue to provide life changing services to our community. If awarded the grant, we would be able to start construction immediately.

#### **IV. IMPACT:**

##### **A. Strategic Impact:**

Imagine a world where the YWCA was not able to exist. Over a 100 women and children forced to survive a North Dakota winter on the streets. An active duty family with two kids in diapers has to choose between using their paycheck on diapers or on food. A dependent living on base who was sexually assaulted but feared calling Security Forces because her spouse was well acquainted with the squadron. Imagine all of these problems going unresolved. The community and military members moving to Minot deserve more. They deserve better. YWCA Minot's mission is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and providing peace justice freedom and dignity for all. Through all of our programs we embody this mission and firmly believe that the quality of life is greatly improved for those who seek assistance from the YWCA, and will only improve further when there is a facility capable of meeting the needs of the community.

##### **B. Service/Delivery Impact:**

Our historic flagship program is the Emergency Shelter. Those beds are predominately used by women suffering from alcoholism or addiction, domestic violence, chronic homelessness, and mental illness. In 2019, 45% of the women at the shelter identified as a domestic violence victim. Data shows that military members and their families face challenges that have been proven increase the risk of a domestic violence occurring. "In FY2018, DOD reported 16,912 incidents of spouse and intimate partner abuse."<sup>1</sup>

The YWCA Minot Community Closet serves men, women and children, providing needed times, such as clothing, personal care items and household goods, at no-cost to them. In 2019 the closet served 27 individuals, but from January 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020, the Community Closet has served over 170 members of our community.

The newest program at the YWCA is the Dakota Diaper Pantry opened in May of 2020; it has continued to grow at a steady pace. The diaper pantry is the only program of its kind in Western North Dakota and only the second in the state. Dakota Diaper Pantry was created to help eliminate the diaper need crisis. One in three American families struggle to afford diapers. A "survey of North Carolina military families found that 63% of respondents felt having enough diapers was a significant concern."<sup>2</sup> according to the Diaper Bank of North Carolina. In the first month, the pantry provided over 350 diapers, 3 cloth diaper kits, and more than 1150 wipes. Currently 14% of our diaper program alone are active duty or dependents.

##### **C. Fiscal Impact:**

The YWCA Minot is requesting 18 million dollars from OEA for the land acquisition and the construction of the campus.

Administrative costs accrued by the City will be reimbursed through the grant award.

#### **V. ALTERNATIVES**

In order to be eligible for the grant, it requires that an applicant be a "state or local government or a not-for-profit, member owned utility services", it goes on to state that "entities other than those

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<sup>1</sup> Kamarck, K., Ott, A., Sacco, L. "Military Families and Intimate Partner Violence: Background and Issues for Congress". Congressional Research Service, Version 1, 2019 p.1.

<sup>2</sup> "Military." Diaper Bank of North Carolina, <https://ncdiaperbank.org/all-programs/military>. Accessed 15 June 2020.

identified above as eligible to receive direct funding under this notice may partner with an eligible entity for project proposals.” Which is what the YWCA Minot asking from the City. Without the City of Minot, the YWCA is dedicated to helping our community and will find a way to apply. However, with the City of Minot’s support, the YWCA will have a much stronger opportunity to receive the funding and change lives in the Magic City.

**VI. TIME CONSTRAINTS**

The deadline for submission of the proposal is Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Construction Concept Drawing by Height Construction, LLC