

# SBARE ASK: Program Support Funds for 4-H Youth Development

**With your support for operating funds, we can continue to build youth who are “Beyond Ready” for life, work and leadership — connecting what they learn today to the careers, colleges and communities they’ll shape tomorrow.**

We are reaching more youth and families than ever before. Without continued investment in core operating dollars, we risk losing the infrastructure that makes this growth possible—the systems, staff, and support that keep youth safe, programs high-quality, and opportunities accessible in every community.

## North Dakota 4-H: Building Youth Who Are Beyond Ready

**One in four North Dakota youth is learning, leading and thriving through 4-H.**



- **6,842 enrolled 4-H members** and **over 40,000 total youth** reached statewide
- **1,387 screened adult volunteers** and **71 youth leaders** support programs
- **439 youth participated in camp** where 92% learned something new and 83% of campers made new friends.
- **68 Air Force youth participated** in hands-on 4-H learning experiences at 4-H Day on the Grand Forks and Minot Air Force Bases.
- **92% of youth** reported 4-H shooting sports taught them to handle equipment more safely.
- Four **Engineering Design Challenge Kickoff events** were held across the state, **reaching 69 youth**.
- **82 youth** participated in the 2025 **State 4-H Consumer Decision Making Contest**.

### 4-H Makes a Difference

2025 National Index Study, N = 7,369

**Because of 4-H, Youth Feel Supported and Connected**



- 95% felt respected
- 83% said adults expect them to have a positive future
- 76% believed they would make a difference

**4-H Builds Life and Workforce Readiness**



- 92% learned how to act professionally
- 68% said 4-H influenced their ability to care for their emotional health and 71% said the same for their physical health
- 87% reported 4-H influenced their desire to engage in their community 83% credited 4-H with helping them use their time wisely
- 87% reported taking responsibility for their actions, and 85% could be counted on to follow through

### Why Operating Support Matters



- Rising costs for travel, training and hands-on learning materials require strong operating support to keep high-quality youth programs accessible statewide.
- Participation is growing—more youth, more volunteers, more exhibits—requiring a reliable infrastructure to sustain safe, high-impact learning in all 53 counties.
- Operating support prevents rising program costs (transportation, supplies, food) from shifting to families, ensuring 4-H remains affordable and equitable.

### Emerging Needs



- **AI safety** education and awareness
- **Mental wellness support** for youth and volunteers

**Every dollar invested in North Dakota 4-H multiplies into opportunities for youth to learn, lead and thrive.**



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