

# SBARE Priority for NDSU Extension

**CRITICAL PRIORITY: Restoration of the Governor's 10% recommended budget reduction.**

**PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST: SBARE's sole request for NDSU Extension is an additional \$1,400,00 in ongoing operating support.**

## Operating Support

NDSU Extension is on the front lines — supporting farmers and ranchers, developing youth and leaders, providing health and nutrition information to families, and strengthening communities in every county. Operating funds are not optional overhead; they are the infrastructure that enables local delivery.

With additional operating support, North Dakotans will benefit from more field visits, expanded programming, faster disaster response and additional access points to research-based education in agriculture, health and youth development.

## Why This Matters Now

Operating costs for travel, technology, educational materials, training and local office support continue to rise. At the same time, demand for Extension services has increased:

- Weather volatility and market shifts require real-time agricultural guidance.
- Rural communities face growing mental health, financial, and workforce challenges.
- Youth need structured leadership and workforce readiness experiences now more than ever to ensure they are truly beyond ready for the future.

## What Operating Support Makes Possible



### Agriculture and Natural Resources: *Protecting a \$41 Billion Industry*

Agriculture powers North Dakota's economy. Extension specialists and agents deliver research-based solutions that protect yields, reduce input costs, and strengthen soil and water stewardship.

- Yield improvements in soybeans and spring wheat alone translate into hundreds of millions of dollars in added farm income reinvested in local communities.
- Livestock risk management education has resulted in ranchers and livestock producers accessing more than \$12 million in livestock indemnity payments.
- Disaster response efforts following blizzards, wildfires and tornadoes helped producers and the state of North Dakota secure critical federal assistance.



### Family and Community Wellness: *Reducing Long-Term Costs*

Extension educators provide prevention-focused programming in nutrition, chronic disease management, parenting and aging.

- Diabetes prevention programming saves approximately \$8,000 per participant per year in Medicaid costs when type 2 diabetes is avoided.
- Extension Aging in Community programs generate significant public savings by delaying institutional care.
- Participants in Extension leadership programs are 2.2 times more likely to serve in leadership roles; rural participants are four times more likely to lead in the state's smallest communities.



### 4-H Youth Development: *Building North Dakota's Workforce Pipeline*

One in four North Dakota youth engages in 4-H programming. Youth involved in 4-H are more likely to pursue STEM careers, serve in leadership roles and contribute to their communities.

- Extension reaches over 37,000 youth each year.
- Thousands of exhibits, camps, leadership events and STEM experiences delivered annually.
- More than 1,540 screened 4-H volunteers ensure safe, high-quality programming each year.