

# BUILD DAKOTA MATCHING GRANT



*Elevate the Rapid City region for everyone*



[elevaterapidcity.com](http://elevaterapidcity.com)

Revitalize the skills of your current employees or access talent as they learn your trade at one of the state's four technical Colleges by harnessing the power of the **Build Dakota Scholarship Industry Partners Program**. The Build Dakota Scholarship is a full-ride scholarship for individuals entering high-need workforce programs identified at each of the technical Colleges. Becoming an Industry Partner by sponsoring a student means the business becomes responsible for a portion of the education costs. Elevate Rapid City's Build Dakota Matching Grant cuts the cost responsibility in half. Becoming an industry partner secures a skilled scholar for your business after graduation or even part-time, work-based learning while your scholar is still in school. Ensuring a skilled talent pipeline is essential for businesses that want to sustain current workforce challenges and have ambitions of future growth.



## PROGRAM

To qualify for consideration, employers/business must:

- Be located within 50 miles of Rapid City.
- Support a student in the Build Dakota Scholarship program that has not previously been sponsored.
- Agree to contact the Build Dakota Industry Partner Program manager . . . . of the respective South Dakota technical College of their choosing.

**Lake Area Technical College**  
Melissa Waldner, 605.882.5284

**Mitchell Technical College**  
Clayton Deuter, 605.995.7132

**Southeast Technical College**  
Megan Fischer, 605.367.6040

**Western Dakota Technical College**  
Andrew Kapelewski, 605.718.3061

[LEARN MORE](#)

**For more information contact:**

Taylor Davis // 605-718-8456 // [taylor.davis@elevaterapidcity.com](mailto:taylor.davis@elevaterapidcity.com)

## **PROGRAM**

Employers may choose to utilize the program to benefit a current employee or work with the technical college to identify a Build Dakota Scholarship applicant that currently does not have an industry partner. Employers are strongly encouraged, but not required, to identify the student at the time of application. Employers will be asked to provide student information before any funds are disbursed. All funds dispersed will be paid directly to the technical college on the student's behalf.

Employers facing talent needs that fall outside the Build Dakota Scholarship parameters are encouraged to apply for Elevate Rapid City's Workforce Training Grant.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Applications under the Build Dakota Matching Grant Program must be submitted on the prescribed form with all pertinent documentation provided, including approved documentation from technical college partner, if available. The application must be submitted electronically to: [grants@elevaterapidcity.com](mailto:grants@elevaterapidcity.com).

Elevate Rapid City reserves the right to request additional information if it deems the application information is not sufficient to make a decision upon the grant. Any refusal by the applicant to fully cooperate with Elevate concerning any request for additional information may disqualify the applicant immediately.

Completion of this application constitutes submission for one (1) matching grant for one (1) sponsored student at the technical college of choice.

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

Once an applicant has been successful in obtaining approval from the Elevate Grant Committee for a grant under the Elevate Rapid City Build Dakota Grant Program, the applicant will receive a grant offer letter from Elevate Rapid City contingent on the upholding of the below conditions:

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## **EMPLOYER**

1. Grant amount is determined by program selected and shall not exceed 25% of the total cost of the program, with a maximum grant award of \$8,000 over the duration of academic program.
2. Employer must be located within 50 miles of Rapid City to be considered eligible.
3. Employer will be responsible for furnishing Elevate Rapid City with any information concerning a change in the student employee's standing at the company, if applicable.
4. The grant proceeds shall only be used to support the sponsored students' participation in the approved program at technical college of choice, and may only be applied to tuition and fees.
5. The education program shall be one hundred percent (100%) completed within three (3) years of the date of grant approval by the Elevate Grant Committee, unless an extension for a maximum of six (6) months is approved.
6. Employer must provide proof of student's satisfactory academic standing within 15 days of the start of each new semester while enrolled in the grant program to support disbursement of ERC funds on the students behalf at the designated technical college.
7. The applicant shall keep and retain invoices, student transcripts and other documents which shall clearly indicate how the grant proceeds were utilized during the educational program. Those documents shall be retained by the applicant during the life of the grant and shall be provided to Elevate Rapid City (or its servicing agent) upon request.

## **SPONSORED STUDENT**

1. Student must be intended to employ at a local facility within 50 miles of Rapid City to be eligible for sponsorship.
2. Post program completion, position must be at full-time status and benefit-eligible, and can be either a new or existing role at the business. Employees must be paid a competitive salary for the industry, or a minimum of \$20/hour (\$41,600/year), whichever is higher. For the purpose of this grant, "competitive salary" is defined as a wage within the 50th percentile for the position in our region and will be verified with the employer at the time of application submission.
3. Student must maintain satisfactory academic status, as outlined by designated technical college and Build Dakota requirements, to remain eligible for grant funds disbursement. Failure to maintain satisfactory academic performance will forfeit any future funds not yet disbursed.
4. Student must designate ERC point of contact as eligible to receive academic information on behalf of the student under FERPA guidelines at the designated technical college.

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## **GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

1. The grant proceeds shall only be used for the purposes expressed within the Terms of this application and will remain valid for up to one year from contract execution date or until student is identified for participation in the program.
2. The grant proceeds shall be disbursed directly to the education provider on the student's behalf on a semester basis pursuant the student maintains academic eligibility as set by the Build Dakota Scholarship foundation. Maximum pay out per semester will be reflective of the expenses of the enrolled academic program and will be outlines in a grant offer letter from Elevate Rapid City as the grant application is approved.
3. If there is a status change in terms of academic success and/or employment at any time, or if funds are not applied to their intended use, Elevate Rapid City reserves the right to cease any remaining grant payouts immediately.
4. Elevate Rapid City here within holds the right to provide discretion over the administration of the Build Dakota Matching Grant and its eligibility requirements, and as such can support accommodations as necessary.
5. **HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE:** The applicant, by accepting the grant proceeds, or any part thereof, agrees to hold Elevate Rapid City, its Board, Committees, employees, and agents, harmless from any and all liabilities or claims caused by or resulting from the applicant's performance of the obligations or activities in furtherance of the project work or in the receiving of the grant funds. Further, the applicant will reimburse Elevate Rapid City for any judgments for findings which may be obtained against Elevate Rapid City resulting from the project work or the making of such loan. Further, the applicant agrees to defend against any such claims or legal actions if called upon by Elevate Rapid City to do so.
6. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** No employee of Elevate Rapid City, or members of their families, shall have any interest in, direct or indirect, or be eligible for this grant program. Elevate Rapid City Board members shall disclose any interest, direct or indirect, on grants Elevate is considering.
7. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT:** Please be advised that your company may be highlighted by Elevate Rapid City on social media, in periodic reports or other channels as deemed necessary. Company proprietary or trade secret information **WILL NOT** be disclosed.

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APPLICATION INFORMATION			
Business/Employer Entity Name			
NAICS			
Full Time Employee Count			
PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT			
Name			
Address		City, State, Zip	
Phone		Job Title	
Email			
PROGRAM INFORMATION			
Program Sponsored			
Total Program Cost			
Post-Graduation Job Title			
Post-Graduation Anticipated Starting Salary			
BUILD DAKOTA INDUSTRY PARTNER MATCH			
Build Dakota Industry Partner Match	Yes	No	
If yes, Technical College Name			
If no, give brief narrative (if applicable)			
Have you completed all requirements for the Industry Partner Program at selected technical College?			
Yes    No    N/A			
<i>Failure to do so does not bar you from applying. We need to know to help get the process started for those that have not.</i>			
STUDENT			
Student Name, If Known:			

\_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signatory

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Elevate Signatory

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**For assistance completing this application or for more information contact:**

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