

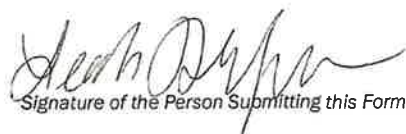
Application for Funding – Cover Page

Applicant Agency

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Business Name | The Fred and Clara Eckert Foundation for Children | Street Address Including City, State, and ZIP Code | 1102 7th Ave E Williston, ND, 58801 |
| Contact Person | Leah Hoffman | Title | Clinical Director |
| Phone | 701-572-7262 | Email | Leah.hoffman@eckertyouth.com |
| Authorized Representative | John Harper | Title | Administrator |
| Phone | 701-572-7262 | Email | John.harper@eckertyouth.com |
| Federal Employer Tax Id # | 45-6016766 | Unique Entity Identifier # | In process |
| Dates of Active Registration in System for Award Management | | | In process – submitted 1/16/25 |

| | |
|---|--|
| Targeted Intervention(s) to be Implemented | Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Therapy (SBIRT) for substance use |
| Total Amount of Funding Request | \$88,550.00 |
| Willing to Accept Less Funding (Y/N) | Yes |
| Evidenced-Based Program/Services (Y/N) | Yes |
| Name and Source of Evidenced-Based Program/Services | SBIRT was developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) |
| School(s) or School District to be Served | Williston High School, Williston Middle School, Watford City High School, and Watford City Middle School |
| Estimated Number of Youth to be Served | 2,800 total enrollments in all schools in 2024 |
| Estimated Number of Minority Youth to be Served | 980 based on 30% minority average from all schools in 2024 |

Signature



Signature of the Person Submitting this Form

Name

Leah Hoffman

Name of the Person Submitting this Form (print)

Date of Signature

01/16/2025

A. Description of the Project

Eckert proposes implementing the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) model at Williston High School, Williston Middle School, Watford City High School, and Watford City Middle School. SBIRT is an evidence-based approach designed to identify, reduce, and prevent substance use among adolescents. This framework includes three core components: screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment. The screening process utilizes validated tools such as CRAFFT 2.1+N and TAPS to identify students at risk for substance use, while the brief intervention component provides structured conversations to increase awareness and foster healthier decision-making. Students requiring additional care are referred to Eckert's outpatient programs or other appropriate treatment providers for the referral to treatment phase.

Eckert staff will dedicate one day per week at Williston High School, one day at Williston Middle School, and one day split between Watford City High School and Middle School. Each school will provide a private office space to conduct confidential sessions with students, ensuring their comfort and security. Eckert has three years of established partnerships with Williston High School, where services have included individual sessions, vaping education classes, and assemblies. The program recently expanded to Williston Middle School in Fall 2024, and conversations with Watford City administrators began in January 2025 to bring similar services to their schools.

Eckert's SBIRT implementation is complemented by its robust outpatient services, being the state's only residential addiction treatment for youth, and its Youth Chemical Awareness Program (YCAP), an educational initiative aimed at first-time offenders with substance-related charges. YCAP, which is required by juvenile courts, provides youth with critical knowledge about the risks of high-risk alcohol and drug choices while holding them accountable. This blend of education, prevention, and treatment ensures a comprehensive approach to addressing substance use in schools.

Data Used to Determine the Need: The need for SBIRT is informed by both local and statewide trends highlighting the prevalence of adolescent substance use. In North Dakota, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) reveals that 29% of high school students report current alcohol use, with 16% engaging in binge drinking. Marijuana use is also rising, with approximately 16% of students reporting usage within the past month. Additionally, 15% of students report using e-cigarettes, reflecting the growing prevalence of nicotine addiction among teens.

At the local level, data collected from school staff and juvenile courts underscore the urgency of addressing these issues. Schools report high rates of vaping-related citations and absenteeism linked to substance use. Juvenile court data shows a consistent number of Minor in Consumption (MIC) and Minor in Possession (MIP) charges, as well as referrals for behavioral concerns like aggression, declining

academic performance, and significant social withdrawal—behaviors often linked to substance use.

Previous Approach: Historically, interventions at Williston High School have been reactive, addressing issues only after students are disciplined or referred by staff. Implementing SBIRT will shift the focus to proactive, preventative measures by screening all students, reducing the escalation of substance use behaviors and their consequences.

Nationally, SBIRT has been implemented successfully in schools and other settings. For example:

- a) Massachusetts requires annual SBIRT screenings in public schools for students in specific grades, using tools like CRAFFT 2.1+N to identify at-risk youth without stigmatization. This initiative has demonstrated improved early identification and increased referrals for support.
- b) Colorado integrates SBIRT into school-based health centers, leveraging motivational interviewing techniques to engage students and reduce risky behaviors.
- c) Seattle Public Schools use the Check Yourself screening, developed by Seattle Children’s Hospital, to identify students at risk and connect them to services, demonstrating a commitment to early intervention and prevention.

Intended Impact: The SBIRT program is designed to achieve measurable outcomes, including increased early identification of at-risk students, reduced substance-related citations and absenteeism, and improved access to treatment.

B. Project Planning, Design, and Implementation

Eckert’s SBIRT program will be implemented in collaboration with school administrators, staff, and community partners to create a seamless, effective system of support. Planning will involve training Licensed Addiction Counselors (LACs) and school staff on the SBIRT framework, screening tools, and referral protocols. Training sessions will incorporate lessons learned from Eckert’s prior implementation of school based and its outpatient services.

During the implementation phase, Eckert clinicians will be on-site weekly at each school to conduct screenings and provide brief interventions. The CRAFFT 2.1+N and TAPS tools will guide the screening process, enabling counselors to identify risk levels and provide appropriate support. Immediate, evidence-based brief interventions will be offered to students at moderate risk, while those requiring additional care will be referred to Eckert’s outpatient programs or other providers. These services may be delivered in school settings to minimize transportation barriers, or via telemedicine for students in remote areas.

The timeline for implementation is as follows:

1. January 2025: Meetings with Watford City administrators to discuss program expansion and integration.
2. Spring - Summer 2025: Continued existing weekly services at Williston schools, with initial SBIRT planning sessions.
3. Fall 2025: Full rollout of SBIRT across all participating schools, with the first six months focused on evaluation and refinement.
4. Spring 2026: Eckert would intend to pilot this program in the four listed schools for one school year.
 - a. Eckert would propose this program be considered on a school year to year basis with the potential to increase number of schools being served, assuming critical pieces remain in place and outcomes are positive.

Community Partnerships and Support

Eckert's SBIRT program is supported by strong partnerships with schools, juvenile courts, and community organizations. These collaborations enhance the program's reach and effectiveness by providing a multi-tiered network of support for at-risk youth. School administrators at Williston High School and Middle School have expressed enthusiasm for collaboration, citing its potential to improve student outcomes and reduce disciplinary incidents. Watford City administrators have also shown interest, recognizing the value of a proactive, evidence-based approach to substance use prevention and treatment. See attached letters of support.

Other forms funding: Eckert provides the full-time salaries and benefits for each position listed in this proposal. Funding would be requested for a portion of these based on the amount of time spent on this project. Eckert also owns a vehicle that would be used for traveling. Eckert also owns the telemed and computer equipment, electronic health record, printers, and other office supplies.

C. Capabilities and Competencies

Eckert brings over 50 years of experience serving the Williston community, with a proven record of providing trauma-informed, evidence-based care. The organization's comprehensive services include individual and group therapy, low- and high-intensity outpatient treatment tailored to youth, and educational workshops focused on substance use prevention. These programs are grounded in a system-wide trauma-informed care model, ensuring that all interventions are responsive to the unique needs of adolescents and their families.

Eckert is guided by Dr. Leah Hoffman, LMHC, who oversees both residential and outpatient programs. Eckert's residential program, the only one of its kind in North Dakota, operates under a contract with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and addresses the complex needs of youth from across the state. This dual leadership structure allows for a deep understanding of the challenges facing North Dakota's adolescents, ensuring seamless integration of outpatient and residential services.

Eckert's staff includes highly skilled professionals who are integral to the success of its programs:

- Frank Reck Jr., LAC: Provides direct services to Williston schools, including assessments, vaping education, and facilitation of the Youth Chemical Awareness Program (YCAP), a court-mandated educational initiative.
- Carly Collings, MSW: Offers mental health therapy and leads YCAP, working closely with local schools and the juvenile justice system.
- Tудie Crosby, LAC, and Ashley Pierce, LAC: Deliver telemedicine services to ensure accessibility for students facing transportation challenges, eliminating barriers to care.
- Tonja Bopp, LAC, and Terra Ellingson, LAC: Both primarily work in Eckert's residential facility but provide backup and overflow outpatient services. They are available to travel to Watford City to meet program demands.
- Victoria Bone, Outpatient Manager: Brings extensive experience in data tracking, performance evaluation, and compliance, ensuring all programs meet rigorous performance and reporting standards.

Eckert is also preparing to become a provider for the Cannabis Early Intervention Program, a state initiative launching in the summer of 2025. This new program further demonstrates Eckert's commitment to addressing emerging needs and expanding its portfolio of prevention and intervention services.

Eckert's strong track record of managing grant and contract funding underscores its dedication to transparency and accountability. The organization has successfully navigated multiple funding streams, ensuring effective program implementation and compliance. Detailed reporting and financial accountability are embedded in its operations, with a focus on measurable outcomes and continuous improvement.

By leveraging its robust infrastructure, experienced staff, and trauma-informed care model, Eckert is uniquely equipped to deliver impactful services that address the complex needs of youth in both Williston and Watford City. This foundation ensures that the SBIRT program will be implemented effectively and sustainably, meeting the highest standards of care and compliance.

D. Plan for Collecting Performance Data and Continuous Improvement

The SBIRT program aims to achieve clear and measurable outcomes, including the early identification of at-risk students, a reduction in substance-related citations and absenteeism, and improved access to treatment. Eckert will utilize its comprehensive tracking systems and Electronic Health Records (EHR) to manage data collection, supplemented by collaboration with schools to gather relevant metrics.

Screening data will include demographic information and assessed risk levels, while intervention records will document the type, frequency, and outcomes of services provided. Anonymized school metrics, such as attendance rates, disciplinary actions, and substance-related incidents, will be analyzed quarterly to measure program impact. Additionally, qualitative feedback will be gathered through surveys and focus groups with students, staff, and administrators to provide a nuanced understanding of the program's effects.

Eckert's commitment to continuous improvement will ensure the program remains responsive and effective. Quarterly leadership reviews will evaluate performance against key objectives, identifying areas for refinement such as enhanced staff training, improved referral processes, or adjustments to screening tools. These insights will guide program modifications to optimize outcomes.

To meet grant reporting requirements, Eckert will prepare and submit detailed quarterly reports that summarize program activities, highlight progress, and address challenges. These reports will include specific performance measures, such as:

- The number of students screened, provided brief interventions, and referred for additional services.
- Changes in school-wide metrics, including attendance, disciplinary incidents, and substance use-related infractions.
- Feedback from stakeholders, including students, parents, and school personnel.

Eckert's extensive experience in managing grants and contracts demonstrates its strong commitment to accountability and transparency. Eckert will ensure all documentation complies with funding guidelines and reflects the program's outcomes accurately. Eckert is well-positioned to establish the SBIRT program as a model for school-based substance use prevention.

Budget Summary

Applicant: The Fred and Clara Eckert Foundation for Children

Project Period: March 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026

| | Grant Request | Match | Total |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Budget Categories: | | | |
| Personnel | 75,000.00 | - | 75,000.00 |
| Fringe Benefits | 7,750.00 | - | 7,750.00 |
| Travel | 5,100.00 | - | 5,100.00 |
| Supplies | 700.00 | - | 700.00 |
| Subaward/Contractual | - | - | - |
| Other Direct Costs | - | - | - |
| Indirect Costs | - | - | - |
| Total Grant Funds | 88,550.00 | - | 88,550.00 |

Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative

Applicant: The Fred and Clara Eckert Foundation for Children

Project Period: March 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026

| Personnel | | | | Total Grant Period | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|----------|
| Position | Name | Annual Salary | Grant Allocation % | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| Licensed Addiction Counselor | Frank Reck Jr. | 80,000 | 40 | \$40,000 | | \$40,000 |
| Licensed Addiction Counselor | TBD | 75,000 | 20 | \$18,750 | | \$18,750 |
| Outpatient Manager | Victoria Bone | 65,000 | 20 | \$16,250 | | \$16,250 |
| | | | #DIV/0! | | | |
| | | | #DIV/0! | | | |
| Total Personnel Costs | | | | \$75,000 | \$0 | \$75,000 |

Personnel Narrative:

The time frame represented from March 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026 is 15 months. Frank's workload represents 1 day per week at Williston High School and 1 day per week at Williston Middle School. This consumes 2/5 of his work days, for 40%. The second provider is listed as TBD at this time while we determine which of our clinicians will be making the trip to Watford City 1 day per week. Victoria Bone, the Outpatient Manager, is estimated to spend 1 day per week on organizing/scheduling youth for all locations, managing their paperwork, and completing grant compliance requirements.

| Fringe Benefits | | | | Total Grant Period | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|---------|
| Position | Name | Annual Benefits | Grant Allocation % | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| Licensed Addiction Counselor | Frank Reck Jr | \$8,000 | 40% | \$4,000 | | \$4,000 |
| Licensed Addiction Counselor | TBD | \$8,000 | 20% | \$2,000 | | \$2,000 |
| Outpatient Manager | Victoria Bone | \$7,000 | 20% | \$1,750 | | \$1,750 |
| | | | #DIV/0! | | | |
| | | | #DIV/0! | | | |
| Total Fringe Benefits | | | | \$7,750 | \$0 | \$7,750 |

Fringe Benefits Narrative:

The above amounts for each employee include: Life Insurance, Health Insurance, 401k Contributions, FICA

| Travel | | | Total Grant Period | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------|-------|---------|
| Purpose | Location | Expense Type (Hotel/Mileage/Per Diem) | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| From Williston to Watford City | 112 miles round trip | Mileage | \$5,100 | | \$5,100 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Total Travel Costs | | | \$5,100 | \$0 | \$5,100 |

Travel Costs Narrative:

Williston to Watford City is 112 miles round trip. For the purpose of this proposal Eckert will plan to make this trip one day per week; however, there may be weeks where no trips are made and others where more than one trip is made. Eckert has an outpatient vehicle but is requesting .70 per mile. The time frame represented is 15 months, which translates to 65 weeks. Not represented here is in town travel to Williston High School and Williston Middle School as that is minimal.

| Supplies | | | Total Grant Period | | |
|---|----------|---------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Item | Quantity | Per Unit Cost | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| Curriculum: Teen Intervene Fourth Edition | 1.00 | \$700 | \$700 | | \$700 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Total Supply Costs | | | \$700 | \$0 | \$700 |

Supply Costs Narrative:

The fourth edition of Teen Intervene provides an easily administered, low-cost SBIRT program that helps teens self-identify a substance use disorder, provides a brief plan for intervention, and guides the referral to treatment. Teen Intervene is designed expressly for young people ages 12-19 who display the early stages of substance use problems. Tested, time-efficient and evidence-based, the program is ideal for education, mental health, youth treatment and juvenile justice settings.

ISBN-13: 9781616499952

| Subawards/Contracts | | Total Grant Period | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Description/Purpose | Computation | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total Subaward/Contractual Costs | | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Subaward/Contractual Costs Narrative:

| Other Direct Costs | | Total Grant Period | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Type | Computation | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total Other Direct Costs | | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Other Direct Costs Narrative:

| Indirect Costs | | | Total Grant Period | | |
|----------------------|------|------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Description | Base | Rate | Grant Request | Match | Total |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Total Indirect Costs | | | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Indirect Cost Narrative:

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Alison Johnson. I am one of the school social workers at Williston High School for the Williston Basin School District #7. Eckert has been coming to our campus and working with our students for 3 years now. We would like to continue to have Eckert services on our campus weekly as they are creating a positive connection with our students in need.

Eckert has been timely with their services, helpful with connecting students to supports, and contacting our staff if needed. Eckert has been a positive organization coming into our school building. We would like to continue their services for our students.

Please contact me with any other questions or concerns,

Thank you,

Alison Johnson, MSW
WHS School Social Worker
Williston Basin School District #7
Alison.johnson@willistonschools.org
701.572.0967 ext. 11321



To whom it may concern,

My name is Rachel Atkins, I currently work as a school social worker at Williston Middle School Central Campus (WMSCC). Over the last couple of years, our campus has been utilizing local service providers to add additional supports for our students. This year WMSCC has had the pleasure of working with Eckert Outpatient to provide education and addiction counseling services to many of our at-risk students.

Having supportive resources such as Eckert come into the school helps guarantee that the student will be able to receive these services on a more consistent basis, helping to foster progression in their treatment and removing barriers for transportation. Bringing resources into the school also provides a chance for collaboration between the provider and supportive staff at WMSCC. Working closely with our outside providers gives the opportunity to build a more adequate plan for the youth both inside and outside of school. The partnership between the provider and supportive school staff has also led to planning community events that will assist parents and others who may be interested in education around substance usage in teens.

The need for education and treatment for substance use among school age children is becoming more prevalent every day. Having providers like Eckert in our school is an exceptional asset to reach these students and enrich their lives. It is our hope that Eckert staff will continue coming into the school to provide services as it has proven to be a valuable asset to the students who struggle with substance usage.

Rachel Atkins, LBSW



Watford City Middle School

☎ 701-444-3626 opt. 2

✉ noelle.green@k12.nd.us

📍 100 3rd St NE, Watford City, ND

🌐 watford-city.k12.nd.us

January 14, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I hope this message finds you well. Watford City Middle School is interested in exploring the possibility of working with Eckert to have your team provide services on-site.

We would love to discuss this opportunity further and see how we might collaborate to benefit our students and community. Please let us know a convenient time to connect.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Noelle Green
WCMS Principal