



BOX BUTTE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Box Butte County Launches “Big Idea” Grant with \$40,000 Funding Boost Entrepreneurs to Benefit from Local and Regional Support

Box Butte County, Neb. — July 8, 2025 — Local entrepreneurs in Box Butte County have a new opportunity to launch or expand their businesses thanks to a combined **\$40,000 grant** awarded to the *Big Idea Box Butte County* program. The funding comes through the partnership of **Eagle Media**, the **Schmidt Foundation**, Hemingford Community Foundation and the **Box Butte Development Corporation**, and will support the initiative over the next two years.

Big Idea Box Butte County is a pitch competition and business incubator designed to help local start-ups and existing businesses secure capital and receive expert mentoring. The program features a single application round, followed by a live pitch event where finalists compete for **cash awards up to \$10,000**, alongside local and expert guidance.

The **Schmidt Foundation**, based in Hays KS, and committed to “*improving the quality of life in our communities*,” is a key backer of the grant program. Eagle Media, serving western Nebraska with both radio and digital platforms, has also committed its support and promotional efforts to ensure entrepreneurs across Box Butte County are reached and engaged.

“By continuing our investment in entrepreneurship, we’re helping fuel economic growth, job creation, and innovation for years to come,” said Hannah Robinson, Executive Director for Box Butte Development Corporate. “We’re proud to spotlight the creativity and drive of Box Butte residents.”

Key program details:

- Applications open **June 2025**, with submissions due by **August 8**. A total of **\$17,500** in cash awards will be offered at the next pitch event on **October 1, 2025**, at Alliance’s West Side Event Center.



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- Winners receive prize money, networking opportunities, and **mentorship from the Nebraska Business Development Center** and local business leadership.

Interested individuals with business concepts—ranging from product innovation to service startups—can apply online at **BigIdeaBoxButte.com**.

Following the live event, the Big Idea Board will continue activities by awarding \$40,000 over the next two grant cycles, providing lasting support to entrepreneurs throughout the county.

With this newly secured funding, the Box Butte county-wide initiative aims to empower innovators, foster regional economic resilience, and build a sustainable future for local businesses.

About the Box Butte Development Corporation

A local nonprofit organization focused on economic development, including entrepreneurship, workforce training, and growth across Box Butte County.

About the Schmidt Foundation

A private foundation dedicated to improving the quality of life in communities through philanthropic support of projects and organizations that promote well-being, development, and innovation.

About the Hemingford Community Foundation

The Hemingford Community Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Hemingford and the surrounding area by supporting projects that promote community growth, sustainability, and pride. Through partnerships, donations, and local engagement, the Foundation works to strengthen the economic, cultural, and social well-being of the community for generations to come.

About Eagle Media

A Nebraska-based, employee-owned media company operating radio stations and news websites across the Midwest, dedicated to community storytelling and local business promotion.