



FACTS

3RD IN
NATION
IN RURAL
CONTRIBUTION
TO STATE
GDP

MORE THAN
15,000
RURAL BUSINESSES
EMPLOY
134,396

2ND IN
NATION
RURAL ANNUAL
COMPOUND
GROWTH RATE
(2010-2018)

SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and
Labor Market Information Center, Job Service
North Dakota, QCEW Unit

RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RDC)

The RDC is charged with facilitating collaboration among governments and the private and nonprofit sectors in the planning and implementation of programs and policies that have an impact on rural areas of the state. Members also monitor, report and comment on policies and programs aimed at addressing the needs of rural areas of North Dakota. The RDC unites the state's private and nonprofit sectors with state, federal, local and tribal governments to strengthen rural America.

THE RDC AND NORTH DAKOTA COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

In 2020, Commerce and the RDC prioritized and advanced several rural incentive and economic efforts. Much of this work was completed by the Commerce Main Street Initiative (MSI) team in collaboration with other state and private entities, maximizing resources and time.

Main Street Community network:

- Provides support and technical assistance to more than 230 people from 80 Main Street communities across North Dakota.
- Continues one-on-one visits with existing and new Main Street communities along with education, joint convenings and online resources.

Partners in Planning (PiP) Grant Program:

- Empowers communities to proactively plan their futures through comprehensive planning, economic development/diversification strategic plans or economic recovery plans.
- The PiP is a result of dialogue with the RDC and recommendations to support community planning efforts and the creation of actionable plans.

MSI Community Vibrancy Grant Program:

- Supports local efforts to increase community vibrancy with seed funding for a small project.
- Builds momentum and inspires additional projects with improved quality of life, attracting and retaining workforce and enhancing community pride.

Supporting statewide COVID-19 efforts:

- Implemented and conducted research and outreach education tools were undertaken supporting communities, small businesses and state leaders.
- COVID-19 webinars providing information for businesses and stakeholders across North Dakota, including resources available for small businesses, social distancing aspects and resources for businesses in rural areas related to online marketing.
- A business impact survey, conducted in partnership with the Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC, helped measure the impact of the pandemic on local businesses and gauge their needs and understand how to best direct resources.

2020-2021 APPOINTED MEMBERS

Teran Doerr of Bowman, executive director of the Bowman County Development Corp.

Janne Myrdal of Edinburg, a farmer and state senator

Luke Anderson of Forman, a farmer with Anderson Seed Farms Inc.

Gwendolyn Crawford of Kathryn, Lisbon auditor and economic development director

Jay Doan of McKenzie, a rancher with Black Leg Ranch

Antoinette Heier of Hazen, executive director of the Hazen Chamber of Commerce

Megan Laudenschlager of Minot, executive director of Strengthen ND

Lindsey Lipp of Casselton, associate scientist in process and product design at Aldevron

Dawn Mandt of Grafton, executive director of the Red River Regional Council

Joyce "Jt" Shining One Side of Dunseith, an educator at Dunseith Public School

Daniel Stenberg of Watford City, McKenzie County economic development coordinator

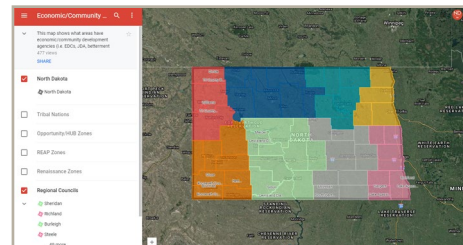
Shawn Wenko of Williston, director of the Williston Economic Development Corp.



Locations of Rural Development Council members.

Economic Development Ecosystem Mapping:

- The Economic Development Ecosystem Map provides a spatial representation of entities that do economic development work in North Dakota at the local, regional and state levels.
- The project emerged out of an RDC recommendation to document the organizations that support economic development work in North Dakota.



North Dakota New Development Budgeting Calculator (ND2C):

- The ND2C assists communities in estimating the long-term costs of new development with a specific focus on infrastructure.
- The technology helps communities understand the magnitude of a project's fiscal impact and compare infill vs. greenfield development more easily.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

Continuing the strong momentum of the past year, future recommendations focus on communicating and developing strong networks between rural communities and regional and state leadership; advocating for opportunities in rural North Dakota; and providing resources and education to support smart, efficient instruction and continued quality of place.

THE FIVE FOCUS AREAS FOR 2021:

