

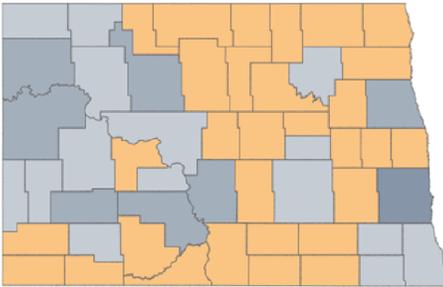
# Eight Regional Councils supporting communities statewide

January 18, 2023

## NDCC 54-40.1

Created by the state in 1973 to establish consistent statewide policy for planning, economic development program, operations, coordination and related cooperative activities of state/local governments to resolve issues and problems transcending individual jurisdictions - but did not include a funding mechanism.

### The State's economic prosperity is focused where there has been population growth



30 counties (in orange) have continued an 80-year trend of population loss between 2010 and 2020. The loss trend has begun to stabilize.

These counties have 50% of the state's land mass. 70% of rural residents live in small towns of less than 1,000 people.

70% of the state's population growth the past decade was concentrated in three counties - Cass (Fargo), Burleigh (Bismarck), and Williams.

### Seeking the state's investment in rural development capacity

#### CURRENT SYSTEMS DO NOT SUPPORT SOLVING COMPLEX RURAL ISSUES

Small towns require ongoing technical support to develop and implement development strategies, plans and projects related to **community infrastructure, entrepreneurship, housing, childcare, workforce development/attraction, housing, tourism, philanthropy and more.**

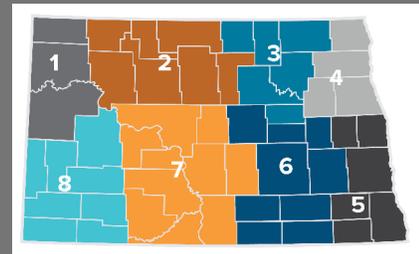
#### What would the funding do?

- Implement existing and recent comprehensive economic development strategies developed every five years by regional leaders - by increasing staff capacity to an estimated 4+ new staff and/or contracted capacity per region.
- Create regional partnerships to address shared issues
- Provide technical assistance to develop plans, projects, secure funding, and implement
- Seek professional development to enhance skills and capacity to create innovative solutions.
- Create rural/urban alliances.
- Maximize the state's prosperous times to rise all areas of the state.

Often rural strategies stretch multiple counties, many miles, and with limited budgets. The local governments are already heavily invested in local development - investing both time and resources. Seeking the state to partner in the creation of rural development hubs as part of the rural ecosystem.

### \$8M in people power

#### EIGHT REGIONAL COUNCILS POSITIONED TO ASSIST



Regional Councils are led by professional staff, mayors, county commissioners, Job Service, hub city representatives, and more.

There is an existing network of long-term, trusted relationships with local and regional leadership to be leveraged for statewide growth.

Invest in proven, long-standing organizations led by local leaders to support community growth statewide

\$52M

Funds secured for communities, businesses and development in 2021 & 2022 alone.

32 Staff

Staff levels vary from 1.8 to 7 people (most have 3) per region. Regions range in size from 3 to 12 counties.

\$148M in Loan Programs

Regional Councils have established loan programs to support business growth.