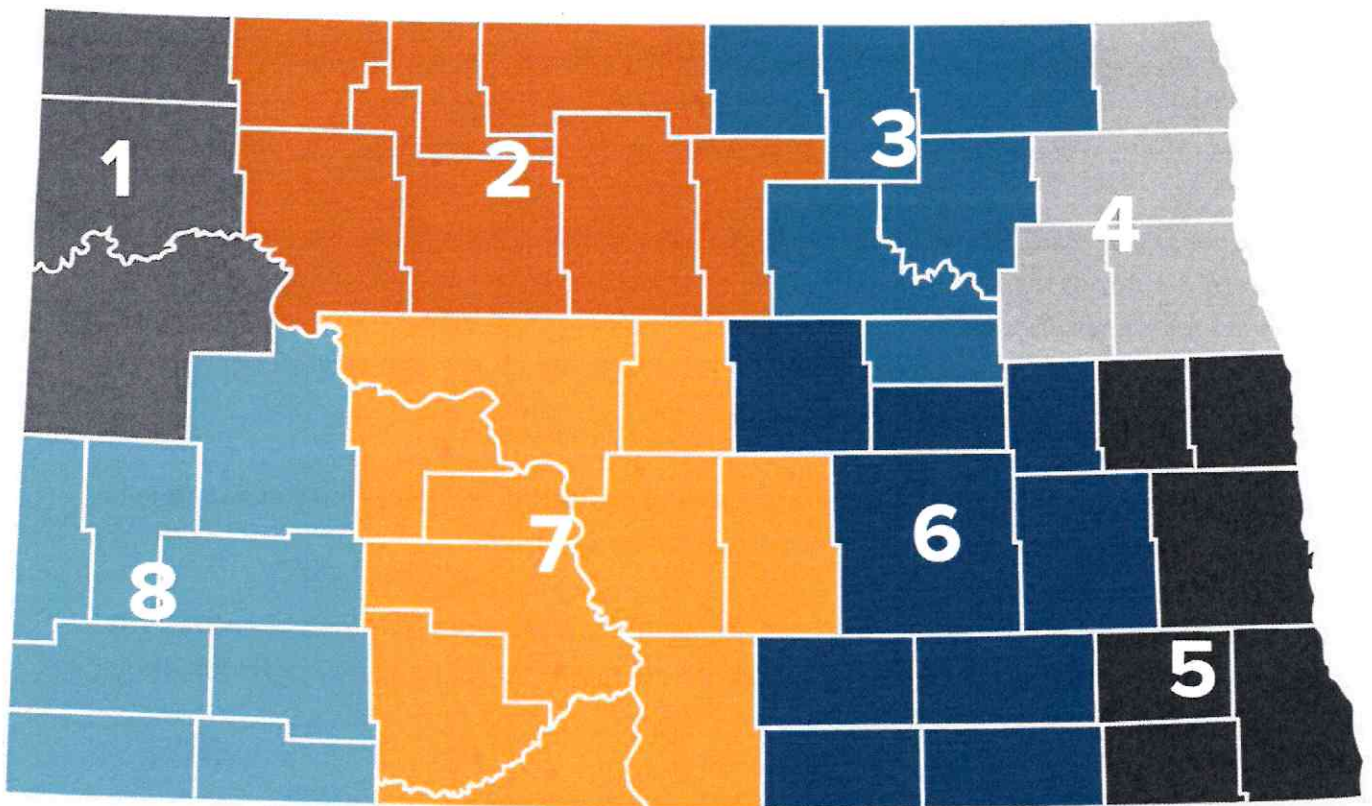


2025-2027 BIENNIUM

Building North Dakota Regions

January 2025



PROPOSED BY:

1. Tri County Regional Council
2. Souris Basin Planning Council
3. North Central Planning Council
4. Red River Regional Council
5. Lake Agassiz Development Group
6. South Central Dakota Regional Council
7. Lewis and Clark Development Group
8. Roosevelt Custer Regional Council









ASSOCIATION
OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

Contact: Dawn Mandt, Chairwoman •
dawn@redriverrc.com •
701-520-0487

2025-2027 REQUEST

Each region will tailor positions to its most pressing needs—housing, tourism, workforce, business development, or entrepreneurship, based on its CEDS Plan and work plan. These roles will be embedded in communities, attending local meetings, securing funding, and driving projects forward.

Funding Level	What it Will Provide – each level adds new roles
<p>\$4M</p>	<p> Two Rural Development FTEs per region Expands support for rural project development and grant funding, ensuring more communities receive direct assistance to tackle infrastructure, community, workforce, and business needs.</p> <p>Both roles will be actively engaged on the ground, attending local meetings, working alongside community leaders, and driving projects forward.</p>
<p>\$5.75M</p>	<p> Workforce & Housing Coordination (Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8) Adds dedicated staff to address housing solutions, workforce attraction, childcare expansion, and economic mobility in rural communities.</p> <p> Rehab & Energy Efficiency Management (Region 5) Works to secure funding for commercial rehabilitation and energy efficiency upgrades, revitalizing local business districts.</p>
<p>\$7M</p>	<p> Regional Tourism Coordination (Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 8) Strengthens local tourism networks, supports tourism businesses, and promotes regional attractions to drive economic growth.</p>
<p>\$8M</p>	<p> Communications Management Helps communities improve outreach, share funding opportunities, and engage residents in economic development efforts.</p> <p> Incubator Coordination (Region 4) Supports entrepreneurs and startups with funding access, mentorship, and resources to grow local businesses.</p>

*Funding per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) was calculated at an estimated \$125,000 per year, which includes salary, fringe benefits, and overhead costs.

STATEWIDE IMPACT | 2019-2023

Regional Councils have a long history of driving impactful economic and community development across North Dakota. With a strong foundation of success, we are committed to expanding our reach, ensuring even more rural communities have the support, expertise, and resources needed to thrive.



FUNDING APPLICATIONS ASSISTED	1,410
-------------------------------	-------

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED WITH REGIONAL COUNCIL ASSISTANCE	\$364,751,823
--	---------------

ADDITIONAL FUNDS LEVERAGED	\$531,557,176
----------------------------	---------------

TOTAL INVESTMENT IN NORTH DAKOTA	<u>\$896,308,998</u>
----------------------------------	----------------------

JOBS CREATED OR RETAINED	5,122
--------------------------	-------

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS CREATED	55
--	----

PUBLIC FORUMS, MEETINGS, & PLANNING SESSIONS	411
--	-----

TOTAL ATTENDEES ENGAGED	5,900
-------------------------	-------

TOTAL ATTENDEES ENGAGED	202
-------------------------	-----

REGIONAL COUNCILS CREATE RESILIENCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

- Business development
- Zoning and land use planning
- Grant writing and technical assistance
- Housing development
- Child care support
- Workforce development
- Infrastructure planning
- Tourism and placemaking initiatives
- Disaster recovery planning
- Community leadership development



Expanding Business Support: Providing Access to Capital for Small Businesses

In response to COVID-19 challenges, Souris Basin Planning Council (SBPC) secured \$1.28 million through the CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund to provide critical financing for small businesses. This funding helped businesses survive during and after the pandemic by offering accessible capital.

Since launching, SBPC has provided financing to 15 businesses and technical assistance to over 120. The program's impact has been significant, creating or retaining 148 full-time jobs and attracting \$13.8 million in additional investment. Now in its revolving phase, the fund continues to support business growth in Region 2.

This program accelerates growth and creates lasting community impact by offering flexible capital and ongoing support. It highlights how regional councils help businesses access funding and contribute to local economic development. This successful model was also replicated in six other regions with similar results.

Six other regional councils established CARES Act RLF programs with similar results.



Regional Councils Assist in Assuring State Program Access and Success

Regional councils play a key role in helping communities access funding and complete important projects.

When the ND Department of Commerce launched the **Regional Workforce Impact Program (RWIP)**, Roosevelt Custer took the lead. Without charging administrative fees, they brought counties together, guided applicants, and ensured funding reached the most impactful projects. However, when the state later removed regional coordination, the process became disorganized—applications were incomplete, funds went unused, and there was little transparency.

A similar success happened with the **ND Department of Agriculture's Regional Livestock Planning Program**. Regional councils helped counties work together, submit strong applications, and smoothly implement projects. Unlike RWIP's second round, this program provided administrative funding, recognizing the councils' value in connecting local needs with state resources.

These examples show why investing in regional councils matters. With strong local relationships, they make sure funds are used effectively, cut red tape, and help rural communities succeed. This keeps the message clear, engaging, and to the point. Let me know if you'd like any tweaks!