

Significant REAP Zone Partnerships:

- Dakota Women's Correctional Rehab Center- New England, ND
- North Central Correction Center- Rugby, ND
- Richardson Development for Red Trail Energy- Richardson, ND
- MSU-Bottineau Entrepreneurial Center for Horticulture- Bottineau, ND
- MSU-Bottineau Nursing Program- Bottineau, ND
- BTR Elevator, Soybean Crushing Feasibility Study- Leeds, ND
- Prairie Land Home Health- Bottineau & Rugby, ND
- Heart of America Medical Center, Wellness Center- Rugby, ND
- Northern Lights Tower & Interpretive Center- Rugby, ND
- Devils Lake Basin Irrigation Pilot Project- Benson County, ND
- Maddock Tele-pharmacy- Maddock & Rolette, ND
- Towner County Medical Center Computer Lab- Cando, ND
- Towner County Medical Center, Center for Solutions, Cando, ND
- North Central Small Business Development Center- CONAC Counties
- Cowboy Hall of Fame- Medora, ND
- Southwest Healthcare Nurse Recruitment- Bowman, ND
- Prairie Works Art Mall- SW REAP Counties expanded to statewide
- Spice Video Network, Southwest ND Schools- SW REAP Counties
- Rural Leadership North Dakota
- Dickinson State University, Center of Excellence- Dickinson, ND
- Halliday School Adult Welding Course-Halliday, ND

The Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) name implies partnering with other entities to improve the economic conditions within the Zones' 14 counties and reservations. The above partial list recognizes the REAP Zones' early investments in projects, which later were implemented by other partners, and became significant economic and/or social contributions throughout the region. The projects continue to positively affect many employees, customers and communities.



Jim Belquist
Executive Director
PO Box 324
Maddock, ND 58348
(701) 302-0524
jboptions@gondtc.com

Laura Every
Alliance Director
PO Box 324
Maddock, ND 58348
(701) 438-2660
levery@gondtc.com
www.ndalliancelink.com

The Rural Economic Area Partnership Fund, Inc. is a non-profit IRS 501 (c) 3 corporation which is administered by the REAP Investment Board, a committee of independent, non-profit, non-partisan volunteers who work with the two REAP Zone steering committees.

CONAC REAP Zone

George Youngerman, Chairman
David Brien
Dave Cichos
Ken Graywater
Greg Gronos
Dr. Ken Grosz
Alyce Heer
Curt Jacobson
Lucille Loftesnes
Illa McKay
Mark Myhre
Dale Niewoehner
Diane Olson
JoAnn Rodenbiker
Sandra Shively
Bruce Terpening
Charles Trottier

Southwest REAP Zone

Darren Limesand, Chairman
Jerry Erickson
Aaron Krauter
Darlene Mitchell
Dan Nudell
Kim Nunberg
David Twist
Dr. Lee Vickers

Technical Support

Senator Byron L. Dorgan and Staff
North Dakota Department of Commerce
North Central Planning Council- Devils Lake, ND
Roosevelt-Custer Regional Council- Dickinson, ND
Souris Basin Planning Council- Minot, ND

REAP Investment Board

Curt Jacobson, Chairman
Shirley Brentrup
Dave Cichos
Tim Faller
Don Frye
Greg Hagen
Rod Howe
Art Wanner

N.D. Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones

REAP Impact Report

**Executive Summary
1999-2006**



In 1995, two United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pilot revitalization Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones were created in north-central and southwestern North Dakota. They were created to address critical issues related to out-migration and constraints in economic activity. The two North Dakota REAP Zones were named CONAC (Center of North America Coalition for Rural Development) and Southwest. REAP funding commenced in 1999 as a result of federal earmarked funds from US Senator Byron L. Dorgan.



USDA Rural Development is a committed sponsor of the REAP Zone program, providing planning and technical assistance to the Zone communities.

Creating Jobs or Wealth in Rural North Dakota Since 1999

"Without REAP's assistance, we would not have been able to attract the necessary funds to complete the feasibility study for the ethanol project at Richardton. The Red Trail Energy project brings 38 direct jobs to the area and countless support positions that would not have happened without REAP at that critical time of need."

-- Frank Kirschenheiter
CEO Charmark International
Richardton, ND

"Without product development funding, marketing assistance, and continued efforts by our local CONAC/REAP Zone agencies, a new concept for emergency response systems would have never emerged from the drawing board to production and distribution."

—Jim Savaloja, President
TerraCarry ATV
Emergency Transports &
Jackalope Conversions, LLC
Leeds, ND

"By investing in Business Challenge, a week-long Dickinson State University experience teaching students business economics, the Southwest REAP Zone has helped build our economy and showcase career opportunities."

—Colleen Rodakowski,
Business Challenge Coord.
Dickinson State University

"After the 911 disaster, our company started to falter due to loss of customers and increased costs. We needed to buy more customer lists in an effort to enlarge our customer base. The CONAC Zone came through with a timely loan. Since then, things have turned around and we are doing much better."

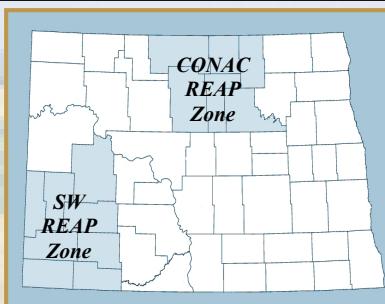
—Lori Berentson, CEO
Deva Lifewear, Inc.
Westhope, ND

MISSION:

Research and invest in opportunities to attain economic and social improvements within the North Dakota Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones.

ND REAP Zone Strategies

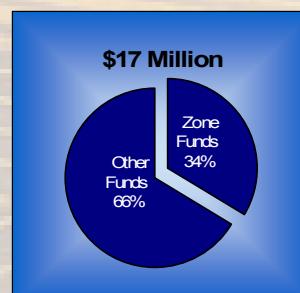
- Create jobs or increase wealth
- Attain new funds and partners, leverage resources and realize investment returns to provide program funds and create self-sustainability
- Advance community leadership and workforce training
- Foster social and economic improvements with special emphasis on health care, elderly and youth issues
- Engage in renewable and natural resources' projects



Major Impacts Since 1999:

\$5.7 Million Leveraged to \$17 Million

The two REAP Zones tripled the initial federal investment to over \$17 million dollars, creating larger project investments and results.



446 Jobs Created

Investments in communities and companies in the two REAP Zones have created and/or retained 446 jobs in 14 counties. The new jobs helped retain employees in economically-stressed areas and kept families in the regions.

388 Projects Completed

The projects include a broad range of activities, including assistance in keeping local restaurants, grocery stores and other vital rural businesses in operation via the REAP Revolving Loan Fund, to projects involving feasibility studies, strategic planning, and creating wellness and computer lab centers throughout the Zones.

388 Projects

Economic Development	136
Community Betterment	119
Technology/ Education	105
Health/ Housing/ Other	28

Other Impacts Since 1999:

50 New Business Start-ups Established

The CONAC and SWREAP Zones created a priority on business development to enhance the overall region. The Zones also funded micro-loans that continue to be available to start-up businesses and employers to enhance and grow their communities.

64 Studies Completed

The Zone boards have funded and provided technical assistance for community and county-wide strategic planning. The planning has assisted communities in leveraging their resources for additional services.



Major REAP Zone Initiatives:

- Created 17 computer labs for public use and 13 interactive video sites.
- Purchased a for-profit company (TechLink, Inc.)
 - Data processing
 - Inbound and outbound call-center
 - 26 Employees
- Established CONAC Capital Fund
 - Invested \$215,000 in 4 companies
 - Funds matched with \$1.1 million equity: \$1.4 million debt
 - 22 employees
- Formed a Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)
 - 2003- Implemented pilot project to identify businesses' needs
 - 2005- Expanded PTAC to both Zones
 - 2006- Expanded PTAC to entire state
- Created a Revolving Loan Fund
 - Established with \$477,000
 - 21 loans
 - Average loan \$30,000
- Established two Micro-loan Programs in 2004 & 2007
 - \$200,000
 - Low-interest-rate loans
 - Start-up and small businesses
 - 26 loans
 - \$5,000 maximum loan

"The REAP funding we received has been critical to our growth at Schepp's Dakota Deli. Marketing monies we received have enabled us to gain new in-state customers, as well as provide marketing opportunities in previously untapped areas. The funding helped with new equipment for more efficient manufacturing, thereby giving us opportunities to hire more local help, which supports our rural economy. Because of REAP's help, we look forward to a possible 100% increase in business this year."

-- Jerylyn Schepp, Owner
Schepps Dakota Deli-Bottineau,
ND

"The Southwest REAP Zone Micro-Loan program allowed me to expand into new markets."

--RayAnn Kilen, Owner
Innovative Environmental
Consultants, Inc.
Dickinson, ND

"The grant funds we received from the SW REAP Zone have made a great impact on our every day business at Dakota Women's Correctional Rehab Center (DWCRC) in New England. With the funds we purchased an interactive video system which allows us to connect with others for professional support. The REAP Zone is important to DWCRC, but it is even more important to the small community of New England."

—Colby Braun,
Operations Administrator
Dakota Women's Correctional
Rehab Center,
New England, ND

"CONAC REAP saw our potential when others only saw the risk of developing the east side of Devils Lake."

Bill Wood, Owner
Eastbay Campground
Warwick, ND