

# A Harvest of Success

Champion REAP Alliance



*Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones*  
- Center of North American Coalition (CONAC)  
- Southwest REAP Zone  
*Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone*  
*ND Champion Communities*





**U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan**

# Many Partners Creating Opportunities for Rural North Dakota Communities



**US Senator  
Kent Conrad**



**US Congressman  
Earl Pomeroy**



**USDA State Director  
Clare Carlson**



**Department of  
Commerce Director  
Lee Peterson**

Dear Reader:

A Harvest of Success is a demonstration of many volunteers and entities working together to strengthen the economic viability, diversity and competitiveness of our communities. In this booklet you will read about our efforts to create conditions for economic growth and revitalization by providing robust job opportunities, with an ultimate goal of self-sustaining communities.

The Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP), the Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone and the Champion Communities are all about "Team" efforts with all of our partnerships found throughout this document.

In the last six years, REAP has participated in over 250 projects, with numerous partners, in a shared vision of vital rural economy. Many projects, although appearing independent to the reader, are connected by the ultimate goal of maintaining and expanding essential community functions, basic infrastructure, education, healthcare, housing and interactive technology.

As our Team looks to the future, we plan to build upon our past successes to meet our goals by creating self-sustaining organizations, independent of government assistance. Although we are not there yet, the Major Emphasis Programs mentioned in this document indicate we have an excellent start.

Thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who made these projects successful. We would also like to thank the many volunteers and partners who participated in the compilation of this document.

Sincerely,

Timothy C. Faller  
Chairman-REAP Investment Board



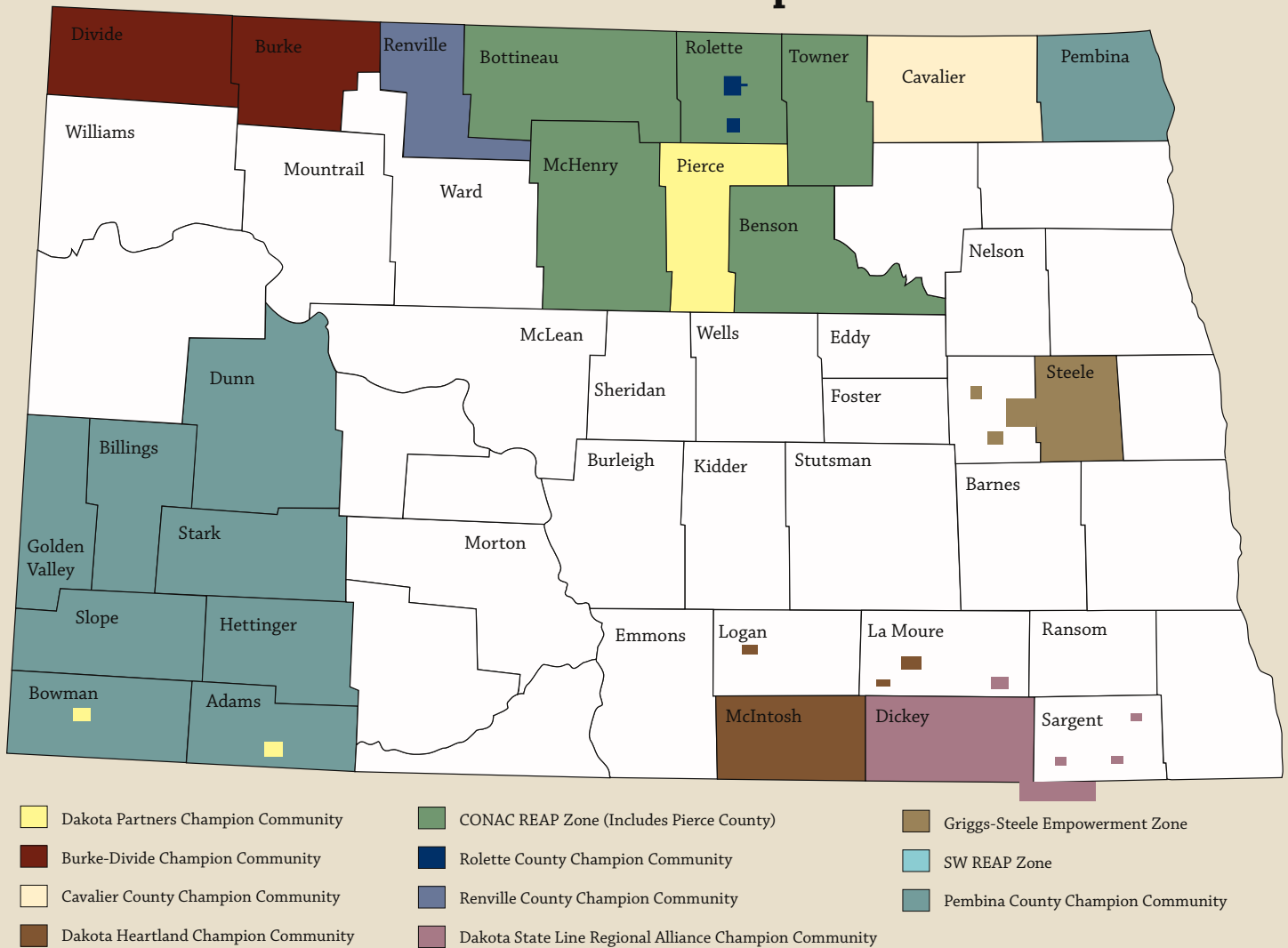
**REAP Investment Board  
Chairman Tim Faller**

**Ground Breaking  
Ceremony at the North  
Central Correctional and  
Rehabilitation Center**



# MAP OF REAP ZONES & CHAMPION COMMUNITIES

## North Dakota Empowerment Program Communities USDA – Rural Development



**Champion REAP Alliance:**  
<http://www.ndalliancelink.com>

**Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone:**  
<http://www.griggs-steeleez.org>





## A Harvest of Success

### USDA REAP Zones

In 1995, two United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pilot revitalization Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones were created in southwestern and north-central North Dakota. They were created to address critical issues related to out-migration, constraints in economic activity and growth, low density settlement patterns, stagnant or declining employment and isolation that led to disconnection from markets, suppliers and centers of information and finance. The two North Dakota REAP Zones were called Southwest and CONAC (Center of North America Coalition for Rural Development).

Subsequently, in 1999, two areas in upstate New York were added as the third and fourth REAP Zones. In 2000, an area in Vermont was designated as the fifth REAP Zone.

Through Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) signed between the Zones, U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan, and the USDA, the Office of Community Development in the Rural Development mission area is the lead Federal Agency to assist the Zones in the implementation of their programs. The pilot project established a collaborative and citizen-led effort to enhance economic development in the REAP Zones.

On behalf of the REAP Investment Board and Champion REAP Alliance, we would like to express our gratitude to all the volunteers who assisted us in the preparation of this publication. We have made every attempt to provide the most accurate description of the projects and we apologize for any errors or omissions that may have inadvertently occurred.

**Jim Belquist**  
Executive  
Director-REAP

**Laura Every**  
Champion REAP  
Alliance Director

## A Harvest of Success

# HISTORY

## Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Fund, Inc.

The Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Fund, Inc. is a non-profit IRS 501 (c) 3 corporation which has as its primary concern the economic and social improvement of two REAP Zones. The non-profit corporation is administered by the REAP Investment Board, a committee of independent, non-profit, non-partisan volunteers who work with the steering committees of two REAP Zones to ensure funds are applied toward market analysis, business plan development, project research, feasibility studies and other items identified in the budget.

## Empowerment Zone

The Community Empowerment Zone Program was enacted into law in August 1993. In January 1994, the opening of competition for Round I designations was announced. To be eligible, communities had to have high rates of poverty. Their applications consisted of comprehensive strategic plans that were developed with the active participation of low-income community residents. No areas in North Dakota qualified for the program.

Round II of application were accepted in 1997. Indian reservation lands were made eligible for Round II (they had been excluded by statute from Round I), and one new rural Zone could be designated based on population "emigration." North Dakota was awarded one of five Empowerment Zones from this round of applications. The successful application was from an area located in Griggs and Steele Counties. Congress appropriated first year grants of \$2 million to each of these five rural Zones. Subsequent annual appropriations to the communities

## Champion Communities

**In 1994, more than 220 rural American communities organized and completed a strategic planning process as part of their application for Round 1 of the USDA Rural Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program. Despite their non-selection, to acknowledge the work of the communities, they were designated "Champion Communities" eligible for Rural Development assistance. Similar processes occurred in 1998 and 2002 during which eight North Dakota communities were designated as Champion Communities.**

## Alliance Board

**The Alliance Board was created as a combined effort of volunteer leaders from the USDA Champion Communities, the REAP Zones and Native American regions in North Dakota. The Board assists its membership with community and economic development projects and provides a source for regional communication. The Alliance Board is comprised of 12 volunteer members representing the Champion Communities.**



# REAP PARTNERSHIP INVESTMENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA







# MAJOR EMPHASIS PROGRAM: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 14 Counties In REAP Zones

The project assisted in the creation of two technology centers, two information technology strategic plans and the hiring of two technology coordinators. In addition, the project created 17 computer lab centers located in the following communities: *Amidon, Anamoose, Beach, Cando, Dickinson, Granville, Killdeer, Marmarth, Medora, Mott, New England, Regent, Rock Lake, Rolla, Rugby, St. John's and Velva.*

The project also established 13 Interactive Video (ITV) sites; *Bisbee, Bottineau, Bowman High School (2), Cando, Dickinson High School, Dickinson State University, Hettinger High School, Hettinger Research Center, Maddock, Mott, Rugby and Scranton.*

In addition, the project created one website, dozens of information technology workshops and classes and provided 2,000 workbooks for class attendees. In addition, financial assistance was provided to 29 low-income students to allow them to participate in the classes.

Approximately 3,000 people use the computer labs each year and over 500 people are provided educational opportunities using the ITV centers.

## Project: Information Technology Project

**Grant Amount:** \$615,000  
**Total Budget:** \$1,017,374  
**Other Partners:** Department of Commerce, schools, counties, universities, local development corporations, other grant funds and individuals attending classes.



Video System being used at the Maddock Business and Technology Center to collaborate with a business in Fargo. Lanny Faleide of AgriImaGIS and Terry Hermanson of Herm's Repair communicate from Maddock via video conferencing with Lanny's AgriImaGIS staff in their Fargo office.

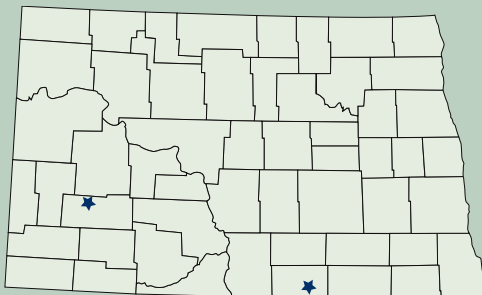


# TechLink<sup>INC.</sup>

In September 2004 the REAP Investment Board purchased *TechLink, Inc.*, a data processing company with production centers in Ashley and Dickinson.

*TechLink, Inc.* has been operational since June 1997 when it secured a federal subcontract with Noridian Administrative Services to verify Medicare Part "B" Healthcare claims. *TechLink* also has a major contract with Dakota Imaging in Columbia, MD.

The REAP Investment Board intends to use the present *TechLink* business model, along with current technological capacity in other communities, to procure other Federal and State data processing contracts and expand the company with centers in other REAP Zone communities.



## MAJOR EMPHASIS PROGRAM: PURCHASE OF BUSINESS Ashley/Dickinson

### Project: Purchase of TechLink, Inc.

Purchase of Business:

\$78,937.87



Jim Belquist, REAP Investment Board Executive Director, presents a check for the purchase of Techlink to Sidney Gross, Chairman of the Ashley JDA, as Jason Dockter, CEO of Techlink, looks on.



# MAJOR EMPHASIS PROGRAM:

## Project: CONAC Capital Fund

**Loan Amount:** \$225,000

**Total Budget:** \$225,000

**Other Partners:** Rolla JDA, Bottineau EDC, United Community Bank of N.D., Northern Plains Electric Co-op, Otter Tail Power Company, CEO Praxis, Griggs-Steele Enterprise Zone and Rugby JDA

The Center of North America Capital Fund (CONAC Fund) is a community development venture capital fund that provides early stage and expansion stage equity investment to promising businesses located throughout North Dakota. The mission of the Fund is to retain investable capital in the region and to benefit the communities of the region by providing the seed capital necessary to assist businesses in growing and creating new jobs. All North Dakota businesses may participate with special emphasis toward businesses within the two North Dakota REAP Zones.

As of September, 2004, four investments have been made, leveraging approximately \$3 million in other equity loans and grants.

## Project: Rural Leadership North Dakota Program (RLND)

**Grant Amount:** \$15,000

**Total Budget:** \$275,000

**Other Partners:** Department of Commerce, NDSU Extension Service, NDSU, numerous businesses and organizations.

The project made it possible for 10 rural North Dakotans to participate in the RLND Program. The state-wide leadership program was created to prepare and develop effective leaders to strengthen rural communities. The funds were used to provide \$750, per year for two years, in scholarships to each of 10 participants. A total of 25 people participated, representing eight counties in the REAP Zones and 21 counties state-wide.



### RLND 2003-2005 Participants

Jean Brandt, Scott Bullinger, Marty Campbell, Keith Draeger, Brent Ekstrom, Heather Feiring, Kurt Froelich, Susan Goplen, Dawn Jarolimek, Rene Johnson, Deborah Kantrud, Jeffrey Klemetsrud, Donald Longmuir Jr., Michelle McCormack, Becky Meidinger, Vicki Monsen, Merri Mooridan, David Olson, Allen Orwick, Patricia Patrie, Kelli Schollmeyer, Lori Wagner, Beth Wieland, and John Zetocha.

## Leeds/Grand Forks

Project: Golden Plains Frozen Foods

**Loan Amount:** \$ 50,000

**Total Budget:** \$600,000

**Other Partners:**

ND Development Fund,

Grand Forks Development Fund,

Northern Plains Electric,

Northern Potato Growers



The company produces perogies for retail markets. Perogies are a frozen food product made with a pasta shell stuffed with mashed potatoes. Perogies are an ethnic food that originated with people of Eastern European heritage. Valley Specialty Foods has signed a three-year contract with Golden Plains Frozen Foods in Leeds to produce perogies utilizing Valley Specialty Foods-owned equipment.

## Maddock

Project: Sheyenne Valley Marketing, LLC

**Grant Amount:** \$ 20,000

**Total Budget:** \$213,000

**Other Partners:**

CONAC, ND Development Fund, Bank of North Dakota, Ramsey Bank, North Star Community Credit Union of Maddock, Benson County Job Development Authority, Maddock Economic Development Corporation.

Sheyenne Valley Marketing, LLC was created to provide local Dakota cattle producers a market outlet for premium cattle. The beef marketed by Sheyenne Valley Marketing has no added hormones and is animal by-product free, providing a premium product for the health conscious individual.



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS



# COMMUNITY

## Beach, Belfield, Dodge, Dunn Center, Golva, Killdeer, Marmarth, Medora, Mott, Richardton, Scranton, South Heart and Taylor

### Project: Community Strategic Planning

**Grant Amount:** \$ 33,000

**Total Budget:** \$143,000

**Other Partners:** Each community contributed approximately \$3,000 in funding and in-kind volunteer hours valued at \$3,200. SW REAP matched the community cash funding level. The Forest Service's Rural Community Assistance program provided grants of up to \$5,000 to each community for these planning activities.

Community strategic planning provides for the development of a plan of action and implementation process that encourages citizen involvement in the planning and development of their community. SW REAP has supported 13 community strategic plans over the past four years.

Over 91 projects have been undertaken by approximately 450 volunteers in these communities. Projects include community beautification, building projects, increasing tourism, RV parks, improving recreation, new libraries, adult education, economic development, and housing.

Specific outcomes include additional housing in South Heart; a car-wash in Mott; a tele-pharmacy and an annual "Spirit of the West" celebration in Beach; a library, new park rest-rooms in Dunn Center; welcome signs, an RV park, better cell phone service in Dodge; a Scranton community health fair; South Heart June Jamboree; and Taylor adult computer classes.

The cities of Dodge and Beach were named North Dakota City of the Year in 2002 and 2003 respectively by North Dakota League of Cities after completion and implementation of their plans.



Jessica Geis, Kari Tangen and Lisa Kastrow discuss plans to provide day care services in Medora.

## Bottineau

### Project: Upgrade software and computers

**Grant Amount:** \$12,474

**Total Budget:** \$24,947

**Other Partners:** St. Andrew's Health Center, MSU-Bottineau

The funding was used to upgrade software and computers at St. Andrew's Health Center, a 25-bed, acute-care hospital in Bottineau.



## Spirit Lake

### Project: Purchase of Bus

**Grant Amount:** \$ 9,400

**Total Budget:** \$47,000

**Other Partners:** Department of Transportation

The funds for this project were used to purchase a 15-passenger vehicle to transport abused women and children to work, GED classes, evening schools and doctor appointments.



## Hettinger / Adams County

### Project: City Building Renovation

**Grant Amount:** \$48,500

**Total Budget:** \$84,775

**Other Partners:** USDA Rural Development, City of Hettinger

The project involved a building located on Hettinger's Main Street to which the City obtained ownership through delinquent taxes. To make the building habitable, the interior required renovation, including electrical, plumbing, air-conditioning, walls, ceilings and floor covering.

After the renovation, the building was sold and is housing a retail quilting support store – Dakota Cabin Quilts. The building is now on the tax rolls. Without the renovation, the building would have required a demolition and created a vacant lot on Main Street.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Towner

#### Project: Towner Hardware Hank

**Loan Amount:** \$26,600

**Total Budget:** \$80,000

**Other Partners:** Towner Area Community Development Corporation, Western State Bank, Souris Basin Planning Council

The community of Towner lost a hardware store to fire. The previous owners had no interest in reestablishing the business, so local leaders went about seeking new owners and provided them with a new building in the same location. REAP provided gap financing for the new business.

The project provided the community of Towner the opportunity to keep an essential business on Main Street, along with an opportunity for the new owners to be successful with affordable financing.

### Velva

#### Project: Velva Drug Company

**Loan Amount:** \$ 50,000

**Total Budget:** \$255,000

**Other Partners:** Velva Community Development Corporation, Peoples State



The community of Velva, through the retirement of a previous drug store owner, was in danger of losing this business on Main Street. Two previous residents of Velva (a mother and daughter) were registered pharmacists and wished to move back to their home community. REAP provided affordable gap financing for the purchase of the business.

An essential Main Street community business was retained and allowed previous residents to relocate home and run a successful business.

## Anamoose

### Project: Sage Hill

**Loan Amount:** \$20,000

**Total Budget:** \$45,000

**Other Partners:** Owner, United Community Bank

The bed and breakfast located in Anamoose required significant updating and remodeling. The funds were used to replace the central air, replace three windows, remodel the restroom, concrete work and provide for handicapped accessibility.



## Dunn Center/Regent/SW REAP Zone Counties/ Standing Rock/Fort Berthold

### Project: Prairie Works

**Grant Amount:** \$15,111

**Total Budget:** \$73,611

**Other Partners:** USDA Rural Development, Enchanted Highway, Sew What

Prairie Works is a new non-profit organization working to take North Dakota artists and artisans into the national and international markets. It provides a centralized source of easy, practical business assistance for rural artists. A support system is provided to each artist and entrepreneur through a virtual art community with access to markets, vendors, inclusion in brochures, catalogs, and on a web site. One store-front is currently in operation in Dunn Center, with the second due to open on March 1, 2005 in Regent.

Services are provided to each artist who, alone, would have a difficult time obtaining marketing opportunities, business assistance, wholesale purchases of inventory; inclusion on web site, brochure, and catalog development. The project will empower artists/crafters so that together they may find additional markets and, in turn, allow them the opportunity for additional income.

## St. John

### Project: Business Incubator

**Grant Amount:** \$11,125

**Total Budget:** \$29,875

**Other Partners:** USDA Rural Development, Otter Tail Power, St. John Corporation, Western State Bank, Souris Basin Planning Council

Purchase a former school to increase the business space in St. John to encourage retention, expansion and start-up entrepreneurial businesses.

## SW Zone Counties

### Project: Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)

**Grant Amount:** \$68,000

**Total Budget:** \$68,000

**Other Partners:** Small Business Development Center of Dickinson, economic developers, Innovative Environmental Consultants and Government Marketing Services Corporation.

The Southwest REAP established a Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) pilot project. The board provided funding and primary training to a local company interested in and trying to secure federal contracts. Along with county economic developers, they worked to identify, match and connect federal procurement needs to the products and services available in the area. Select businesses were identified for participation and supported through the initial registration stages of federal procurement.

The pilot identified several barriers for small businesses to obtain federal contracts, namely necessary technology or credit card machines. Small businesses are simply unable to commit the time and money necessary to seek federal procurement without some kind of promise of success.

The SW REAP Zone is working towards a statewide PTAC and will be seeking new partners in this endeavor.

## EDUCATION

### Rolla

#### Project: Day Care Preschool Program

**Grant Amount:** \$10,000

**Total Budget:** \$21,000

**Other Partners:** United Telephone, Rolla Job Development Authority, Rolla Day Care and Coordinating Community Service Committee

The project implemented an education, pre-school program into the daily schedule of the day care. It provided a program of activities, materials and guidance necessary to ensure school readiness for the children being served.





## Bottineau/Regional

### Project: Prairieland Home Healthcare

**Grant Amount:** \$34,208

**Total Budget:** \$43,708

**Other Partners:** Bottineau County Job Development Authority, Area Community Hospitals and Doctors

Prairieland Home Healthcare, an existing non-profit home healthcare organization, incorporated Telehealth into existing patient care services with this REAP investment.

Prairieland operates in Bottineau, Rolette, Towner, Renville, McHenry, Pierce, Benson, Wells, Eddy, Foster and Sheridan Counties and provides in-home healthcare options such as blood pressure, pulse and temperature monitoring for patients. Because of the long distances, Telehealth has become essential in the provision of quality patient care in rural areas of North Dakota.

## Maddock/Benson County

### Project: Maddock Telepharmacy

**Grant Amount:** \$ 5,000

**Total Budget:** \$191,000

**Other Partners:** Blue Cross Foundations, North Central Planning, Rolette State Bank, Other Grants and Contributions, Maddock Drug & Gift Inc., City of Rolette, IsoRX and ?????

Established a Telepharmacy, a central pharmacy located in Maddock staffed by a pharmacist, with a remote site in Rolette connected via computer, video and audio links. The project brought prescriptions, over-the-counter, and related health care products to a population that did not have these services.



## Rugby/Pierce County

### Project: North Central Correctional and Rehabilitation

**Grant Amount:** \$ 25,000

**Total Budget:** \$150,000

**Other Partners:** USDA Rural Development, Rugby Job Development Authority, Pierce County, McHenry County, Wells County, Rolette County

REAP/CONAC was a partner in participating in the facility planning phase of the North Central Correctional and Rehabilitation Center. The Center, when built, will be a 100-bed multi-county minimum security and court ordered meth/alcohol rehabilitation facility.

The project meets a critical need in rural North Dakota where there was an overcrowding of jail facilities with no minimum security options, and no rehabilitation program for related drug and alcohol crimes. This facility provides those options for incarceration and rehabilitation in a facility closer to home and family.



## Rolla

### Project: Presentation Medical Center

**Grant Amount:** \$14,093

**Total Budget:** \$39,765

**Other Partners:** Rolla JDA, Presentation Medical Center

The project entailed the purchase of computer hardware, printer and software to add pharmacy software. The software system allows the pharmacy to address and reduce opportunities for medication errors, thus increasing patient safety.

## New England

### Project: Dakota Women's Correctional Center

**Grant Amount:** \$14,093

**Total Budget:** \$39,765

**Other Partners:** Dakota Women's Correctional Center

The Dakota Women's Correctional Rehabilitation Center is creating Industries Program. An Industries Program strives to be an independently run business within the prison system that provides employment to the inmates. Many industries programs also employ local people in their facilities.

Prison based businesses have restrictions that prevent them from entering into known and profitable markets currently available. The Industries Program will need to find allowable and profitable businesses that provide adequate income for the business(es) and provide employment for an unusual workforce.

The SW REAP funding provided for technical assistance and other tasks necessary to investigate and target new industry and determine the feasibility of such work. The business and marketing plan implementation will provide for consultants or technical assistance or other purchases as outlined in the business and marketing plan. A volunteer board assists the Industries Program in this and members are from area communities including New England, Hettinger, Dickinson and Bismarck.



## New England

### Project: Dakota Women's Correctional Center-ITV System

**Grant Amount:** \$20,000

**Total Budget:** \$20,000

**Other Partners:** None

The Dakota Women's Correctional Rehabilitation Center located in New England used SW REAP funding to provide for an interactive TV system. This system allows the Center to provide inmate attendance at hearings and other necessary interactions required by the prison system. The system can be used for medical purposes such as mental health appointments or health education.

The use of the system reduces the mileage and staff costs necessary for transporting individual inmates to Dickinson, Bismarck and other places.

The system will be used for the training, educational or other meeting purposes of the staff and inmates.

The SW REAP Board has stipulated that the community of New England also have access to the ITV system. A community advisory group assists and manages the public use of the system.



# HOUSING

## Rugby

### Project: The Courtyard

**Grant Amount:** \$ 5,000

**Loan Amount:** \$ 10,000

**Total Budget:** \$508,800

**Other Partners:** USDA Rural Development, ND Division of Community Services, Affordable Housing Developers, Inc.

Affordable Housing Developers, Inc., a non-profit corporation, purchased three existing four-plexes in the community of Rugby, rehabilitated the units with a combination of loan/grant REAP funds, State HOME funds and USDA funds.

The project provided the units as affordable housing to tenants unable to pay traditional rental rates. This has been a successful venture in providing quality and affordable housing to low-income residents.

## Spirit Lake Reservation/Benson County

### Project: Demo Homes

**Grant Amount:** \$ 5,000

**Total Budget:** \$25,000

**Other Partners:** Fannie Mae, Spirit Lake Tribe

Spirit Lake Housing Authority has developed a site to handle 32 homes. Twenty homes were received from the Minot Air Force Base and were set up on foundations. It would take \$5,000 per home to rehab and establish utility hookups. This project establishes three homes as demos to subsequently sell and use the proceeds to purchase additional units from Minot Air Force Base.



## Leeds/Benson County

### Project: Jackalope

**Grant Amount:** \$ 5,000

**Total Budget:** \$176,500

**Other Partners:** Owner, Benson County JDA,  
Small Business Development Center

Jackalope builds victim recovery trailers used by search and rescue units. The trailers can also be modified to accommodate special equipment used by border patrol and rural fire departments. The funds will be used to build several prototypes to demonstrate uses to various governmental agencies and other potential customers.



## St. Michael

### Project: Tenderfoot Sock

**Grant Amount:** \$ 5,000

**Total Budget:** \$13,659

**Other Partners:** Owner

Tenderfoot Sock Company was created when the company founder was diagnosed with Type II diabetes. The founder searched for a sock that would benefit sensitive feet. Finding none, she created Tenderfoot Sock Company. The funds were used to complete the patent paperwork and helped create a booth to market the product at trade shows.



## Westhope

### Project: The Guardian

**Grant Amount:** \$3,000

**Total Budget:** \$6,000

**Other Partners:** Owner

The project helped to expand and increase marketing of the Guardian Pole Tender, an ice fishing rod-holder that the owner invented and produces.

## Westhope

### Project: Deva Lifewear

**Grant Amount:** \$ 5,000

**Loan Amount:** \$ 57,400

**Total Budget:** \$166,348

**Other Partners:** Owner, Peoples State Bank, Bottineau EDC, Small Business Development Center

Deva Lifewear, Inc. has been in business for 25 years offering natural cotton clothing to men and women through catalog sales. The funds from the project were used to purchase or exchange almost 3,000 names. The names were used to increase the customer base via the increase in catalog mailings.



## Bottineau/Lansford

### Project: Schepp's Pride Marketing

**Grant Amount:** \$25,000

**Total Budget:** \$52,111

**Other Partners:** Owner (Additional funds for building expansion were provided by USDA and Department of Commerce)

Pride Dairy is a farmer-owned cooperative located in Bottineau. It produces butter and 22 flavors of ice cream. Shepp's Dakota Deli is a wet salad manufacturer in Lansford. The funding for this project will assist in developing and implementing a marketing plan to market to out-of-state customers.



## Dickinson

### Project: Ultra Tec GSA Contract

**Grant Amount:** \$17,025

**Total Budget:** \$34,050

**Other Partners:** Ultratech

UltraTec Products, Inc. is a start-up company that has designed, researched, engineered and produced plastic board products. The products are made from a patent pending formula mix of virgin resins. Two types of board products were produced; one used as frame lumber for military products, the other used as side-boards for dump trucks and trailers.

The project allowed UltraTec to obtain outside assistance for the completion of a GSA application. The contract allowed UltraTec to begin marketing its products to government organizations, including the military services.



# Richardton

## Project: Red Trails Energy, LLC

**Grant Amount:** \$40,000

**Total Budget:** \$80,000

**Other Partners:** Richardton Development Company

The research and development grant was presented to the Richardton Development Company to look into ethanol production in its community. Red Trail Energy, LLC will use North Dakota lignite coal as its energy source. It will use coal to fire the boiler, heat the air, make steam, dry the co-product and generate electricity. The use of the coal will dramatically lower the energy costs of the plant and provide a long-term stable energy source.

The by-product of the plant is a nutritional feed source for livestock and will provide increased profitability for livestock producers. The plant will use 18 million bushels of corn annually to make 50 million gallons of ethanol.

## TECHNOLOGY

### Velva/McHenry County

#### Project: Velva Seniors' Technology Center

**Grant Amount:** \$ 2,000

**Total Budget:** \$15,850

**Other Partners:** Velva Senior Center, Xerox Foundation, Helen Bader Foundation, Dr. Scholl Foundation

The project involved purchasing and installing computers for the technology center in Velva.



### Towner/Towner County

#### Project: Growing Technology in Towner

**Grant Amount:** \$1,901

**Total Budget:** \$7,782

**Other Partners:** Towner County EDC

The project involved purchasing and installing technology equipment for various Towner County businesses.

### State of North Dakota

#### Project: Bizpathways

**Grant Amount:** \$23,000

**Total Budget:** \$40,000

**Other Partners:** Benson County Job Development Authority, Cavalier County Job Development Authority, Forward Devils Lake Corp., Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce, Grafton Economic Development Office / City of Grafton, North Dakota Telephone Company, Park River Development Corporation, Towner County Economic Development Corp., Walsh County Job Development Authority, Pembina County Job Development Authority, Red River Regional Council, and Lake Region State College.

The North Dakota Bizpathways Network is both an interest-based community network for peer support (Entrepreneurial Community Champions™) and an Internet portal (<http://nd.bizpathways.org>) with advanced technology tools to guide and incubate entrepreneurial activity. There are 85 registered users in North Dakota.

Minnesota Rural Partners, the originators of the Virtual Entrepreneur Network and Bizpathways, has partnered with the Northeast Workforce Training Partnership to host, maintain, improve, and promote the North Dakota Bizpathways web site and Community Champions. Lake Region State College has provided staff time, office space, office equipment and support for staffing to promote and maintain this project.





## Bottineau County, Rolette County, Towner County & Rendezvous Region in N.E. North Dakota

### Project: Master Nature Tourism Plan

**Grant Amount:** \$10,000

**Total Budget:** \$40,000

**Other Partners:** New Economy Initiative, Garrison Diversion, the Cities of St. John and Walhalla, County JDAs of Pembina and Cavalier, USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Services, Turtle Mountain Tourism Association, Ducks Unlimited and other private donations.

The project involves creating a nature-based tourism plan for the area. The plan will be a guide for local groups to continue developing their tourism plans and will also be marketed as part of the North America trails program.

## Anamoose/Drake

### Project: Tourism booklet

**Grant Amount:** \$4,000

**Total Budget:** \$9,500

**Other Partners:** Quad County EDC

Funds were used to prepare a booklet for automobile routes to observe North Dakota birds.

The Central Dakota Birding Trail is located near the center of the state where Highway 14 and Highway 52 intersect. Within the region, you will visit the towns of Drake, Anamoose, Butte, Balfour, and Karlsruhe. The Central Dakota Birding Drive is composed of three inviting birding routes — the Antelope Lakes Route, the Lonetree Route, and the Wintering River Route. Each route leads you through a mosaic of prairies, wetlands, and woods and across expansive plains landscapes. Along the way, you will visit three national wildlife refuges — Wintering River, Cottonwood Lake, and Sheyenne Lake National Wildlife Refuge — plus the expansive Lonetree wildlife Area. All of these prime public sites are exciting destinations to search for birds and enjoy memorable birding experiences.

## Bottineau

### Project: Turtle Mountain Birding Festival

**Grant Amount:** \$2,000

**Total Budget:** \$6,370

**Other Partners:** MSU-Bottineau

Seventeen birders from across the country gathered at MSU-Bottineau for three days of guided birding in surrounding hills and prairies. The group came from both coasts and states in between including Maine, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and North Dakota.

Paul Konrad, former editor of *WildBird* magazine, was the keynote speaker and presenter one evening. He shared a slide show of his birding pictures from around the world, which the group enjoyed immensely.



## Bottineau

### Project: Nursing Program

**Grant Amount:** \$ 20,000

**Total Budget:** \$143,946

**Other Partners:** Bottineau EDC, St. Andrews Hospital and Good Samaritan Center, MSU-Bottineau



With the assistance of the Center of North America Coalition (CONAC), MSU-Bottineau was able to bring back a nursing curriculum to the local area as a collaborative member of the Dakota Nursing Consortium. The Consortium consists of four community colleges in the University System. Until 1971, a program had been available through cooperative efforts with St. Andrew's Hospital in Bottineau.

In the Fall of 2004, the Bottineau campus enrolled 16 students in the one-year practical nursing (PN) certificate program. Plans for Fall 2005 are to add the two-year associate degree nursing curriculum (AND) that will prepare students for licensure as registered nurses (RN). In addition, the college intends to begin a PN program in Rugby, ND, in cooperation with Heart of America Medical Center.

## Halliday

### Project: Adult Welding Technology Program

**Grant Amount:** \$16,697

**Total Budget:** \$33,394

**Other Partners:** Halliday Public School, Halliday Community



The REAP program helped to partner with the Halliday Welding Technology Program and provided startup funds that enabled the welding program to offer different types of welding instruction. The Halliday Public School Welding Technology program was implemented after the Job Development Authority Director from Dunn County presented to the school board members the need for qualified welders in power plants across the state, and in other businesses in surrounding cities. The Halliday Public School had the facilities to offer a Welding Technology program, and a master welder residing in the community qualified and certified to teach the program. In conjunction with the Career and Technical Education Department in North Dakota, the initial program was established.

The program includes up to 1,000 hours of instruction of different types of major welding processes, using the Hobart Welding Technology curriculum. The goals of the program are to provide training for a steady workforce over a time span of several years; to provide Technical Welding education equal to at least a two-year technical college education; to provide an opportunity to create jobs in area and surrounding communities and thus stop the flow of out migration in rural communities

Thirteen students were enrolled in the first 180 hours of classes. Enrollment jumped to 22 students for the following 108-hour course. Students came from the communities of Halliday, Dodge, Stanton, Zap, Dunn Center, Hazen, Beulah, Killdeer, Richardton, Golden Valley, and one from Minot (over 130 miles away). The program is a success because of the volunteer work of many in the community to help update the facilities in order to be able to offer the program to more than 20 students each session. The REAP grant enabled the purchase of new equipment required to train according to the Hobart Institute of Technology curriculum. REAP has also offered scholarships to the students to help with the cost of tuition.

## Bowman

### Project: Journeyman Plumbing Course

**Grant Amount:** \$2,750

**Total Budget:** \$5,500

**Other Partners:** Partners were the Bowman County Development Corporation, Adams County Development Corporation, Career & Technical Education and the high schools in Bowman, Scranton, and Hettinger, and Dickinson State University. This project has been endorsed by the State Plumbing Board.

When it became known that many of the master plumbers in the SW REAP Zone area would soon be retiring, a survey was conducted, which indicated a need for a journeyman plumbing class. Through the REAP Interactive TV system, a master plumber was able to teach a 14-week course from Bowman High School to ITV sites in Dickinson, and Hettinger. Eleven plumbers from the communities of South Heart, Reeder, Belfield, Bowman, Hettinger, and New England attended the class. The class fee was \$500 and SW REAP provided \$250 towards the fee for each attendee.

## YOUTH

## Rugby/Pierce County

### Project: Youth Entrepreneurship Program

**Grant Amount:** \$5,000

**Total Budget:** \$5,000

**Other Partners:** Rugby Job Development Authority, Rugby Public School,  
Financial institutions in the community

To promote youth entrepreneurship, the community of Rugby has established a loan pool for residents who are between the age of 14 to 35 (and have not started their second year of college) for business start-ups. Zero percent loans up to \$1,000 (matched by the community) are given to emerging business ventures after completing a successful business plan.

The project promotes entrepreneurship (working for themselves instead of others) and exposes young people to writing business plans, becoming responsible for financing and running a business.



## Bottineau/Rolette/St. John/Rugby/ Bisbee/Towner/Harvey/Others

**Project:** Youth Tech Summit — 2004

**Grant Amount:** \$6,852

**Total Budget:** \$7,928

**Other Partners:** MSU-Bottineau



As part of the information technology strategic plan, a youth tech summit was organized and hosted by MSU-Bottineau. Thirty-one students participated. The intended benefits include the potential to keep the students in North Dakota after graduation.

Twenty-six students from 12 high schools and nine counties attended the 2004 Tech Summit at MSU-Bottineau. Students participated in classes covering web page design, JavaScript, computer hardware, operating systems, GPS, and chemical water analysis. The success of the 2004 Summit has resulted in the planning for a 2005 Youth Tech Summit, with a grant and total budget of \$5,620 and \$6,920 respectively.

## Dickinson

### DSU Business Challenge

**Grant Amount:** \$ 5,700

**Total Budget:** \$106,000

**Partners:** Dickinson State University, Butler Machinery Company, ND Department of Public Instruction, Qwest Corporation, Reiten Television, Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, United Bancor, Ltd., American State Bank & Trust, American Agricultural Credit Corporation, American Insurance, Inc., Bank Center First, Trust Center of America



Business Challenge is North Dakota's week-long entrepreneurial business experience. Students learn about the American Free Enterprise System and how the business economy affects them. Students and educators return to their home communities with a better understanding of career choices.



# Champion Community and Empowerment Zone Partnership Investments in ND

## CHAMPION REAP ALLIANCE

### Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone

**Project:** La Rinascente Pasta – Hope, ND

**Grant Amount:** \$ 150,000

**Total Budget:** \$2,800,000

**Other Partners:** Bank of North Dakota, North Dakota Development Fund, Lake Agassiz Regional Council, City of Hope, Hope EDC, Steele County JDA and local investors.

La Rinascente Pasta plant, formerly from New Jersey, re-located to Hope, and is the only U.S. manufacturer of fideo/fidelini pasta, a folded pasta that is a favorite of Caribbean Hispanic people. The plant started with 21 full-time and five part-time employees.



### Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone

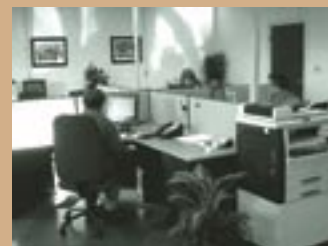
**Project:** Metro-Trak, LLC – Cooperstown, ND

**Grant Amount:** \$170,000

**Total Budget:** \$420,000

**Other Partners:** Bank of North Dakota, North Dakota Development Fund, South Central Dakota Regional Council, Otter Tail Power Company, Cooperstown EDC, Dakota CDC and Security State Bank

Metro-Trak, LLC manufactures and rents or sells electronic monitoring devices which track the movements of offenders under house arrest. The HomeLink system from Metro-Trak involves a small transmitter for the offender worn around the ankle. Metro-Trak currently has 10 employees in Cooperstown and plans to add additional employees.



### Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone

**Project:** Northland Products – Finley, ND

**Grant Amount:** \$ 77,635

**Total Budget:** \$544,000

**Other Partners:** Bank of North Dakota, North Dakota Development Fund, Citizens State Bank, Finley EDC, City of Finley, Steele County JDA and Otter Tail Power Company

Northland Products is a manufacturing company that relocated its Manufacturing facility from Winona, MN to Finley. Northland Products manufactures wood stakes used in construction and surveying industries around the country. Recently it added Redi-Flame Fire Logs to its production line that uses the waste materials from making the wood stakes. Northland Products employs nine people from the Finley area.



## Cavalier County Champion Community

### Project: Rural Utilities Services Distance Learning Langdon, ND

**Total Budget:** \$192,337.82  
(federal funds \$110,000;  
local funds \$82,337.82)

**Other Partners:** Cavalier County JDA, Langdon  
School District Foundation, Langdon  
NDSU Research Extension Center,  
Cavalier County Memorial Hospital



The project created a technical and educational facility to provide distance learning capabilities for a nine-county community. The hub is located at the Langdon NDSU Research Extension Center, with connecting sites at the Langdon Area Public School and the Cavalier County Memorial Hospital.

## Cavalier County Champion Community

### Project: County Strategic Plan Langdon, ND

**Total Budget:** \$76,340  
(federal funds \$37,406.60;  
local funds \$38,933.40)

**Other Partners:** Farmers & Merchants State Bank, City of Langdon, Cavalier Rural Electric Co-op and  
Cavalier County JDA.

The Cavalier County JDA acquired technical assistance to implement the funding processes necessary to complete community development projects as outlined in the County Strategic Plan Program of Work.

## Cavalier County Champion Community

### Project: Create a Revolving Loan Fund Langdon, ND

**Total Budget:** \$200,000 (federal funds \$98,000; CC Loan Pool funds \$102,000)

**Other Partners:** USDA, three local banks and one utility

The project created a revolving loan fund as an additional economical development tool for Cavalier County to assist in retaining and expanding existing economic base.

## Dakota Heartland Champion Community

### Project: AmeriCorps Project

Ashley, Edgeley, Kulm, Lehr, Napoleon, Wishek & Zeeland, ND

**Other Partners:** Communities, churches, community/civic groups, and city governments. Other partners included local businesses who donated materials or supplies.

An AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) team of nine young adult members from all over the United States came to the Dakota Heartland Champion Community for a 10-week period from June through August 2004, and worked for each community to complete a variety of community betterment projects in these communities. They ranged in age from 19 to 24 and were very motivational in the communities. The team members painted, landscaped, roofed, provided technical assistance to community volunteers, etc., and provided an outstanding attitude of volunteerism to each of the communities.

For all the team members, this was their first visit to the state of North Dakota and they were better able to understand the rural culture, helped the communities tremendously, and really enjoyed the time they spent in the communities.



## Dakota Heartland Champion Community

### Project: Tourism Conference

Ashley, Edgeley, Kulm, Lehr, Napoleon, Wishek & Zeeland, ND

**Other Partners:** Each community provided volunteers to help organize the event. Other partners included the City of Wishek, the individual communities who provided door prizes and initial funds to help develop advertising and marketing for the event; USDA and North Dakota Tourism staff and local newspapers in four of the DHCC communities who provided advertising for the event at a reduced rate.

The Dakota Heartland Champion Community sponsored the 5th Annual Alternative Tourism and Rural Enterprise State-wide Conference in Wishek in April of 2004, and worked together as an expanded community to provide assistance to help the conference become a reality. This annual, statewide conference was held to provide educational training and networking opportunities for individuals and businesses who were interested in starting or expanding a rural enterprise business, or establishing a tourism enterprise. The event hosted several speakers, including two national speakers, who spoke on topics that provided the participants with new opportunities, ideas and resources.

The event was attended by approximately 100 people from around the state who were given tools and information on how to start and market their own business, how to write a successful business plan, where and how to secure funds to get a business started, how to increase tourism to the communities, and how to help entrepreneurs get started in new businesses. As a result, there were three new entrepreneurial businesses established within the region.

## Dakota Heartland Champion Community

### Project: Strategic Planning

Ashley, Edgeley, Kulm, Lehr, Napoleon, Wishek & Zeeland, ND

**Total Budget:** The approximate value of the time, travel, materials, food and rent for the room is estimated at \$2,400, which was all donated by the individual participants, the DHCC communities and the facilitator.

**Other Partners:** The City of Lehr donated their community center space for the day of the event, the individual communities provided refreshments and the meals for the event, and the supplies and materials for the planning were contributed by the Heartland Rural Assistance Program. USDA provided two staff persons who attended the event, the local development groups sent some of their board members to attend the planning event and some regional council members attended as well.

The Dakota Heartland Champion Community board members invited community leaders, and various regional and state staff to develop an updated strategic plan for the DHCC. A group of approximately 25 individuals representing local community leadership, USDA staff, and regional economic development people were able to identify several new goals and objectives for the group. These include developing better leadership capacity, housing issues in all rural communities.

## Dakota Heartland Champion Community

### Project: SEI Pilot Project

Wishek, ND

**Other Partners:** The Wishek JDA invested \$50,000 of its resources, the Wishek Economic Development Corporation offered a \$25,000 low interest loan, and SEI is investing significant dollars in both the building renovation and equipment for the project.

SEI will be running four pilot projects in North Dakota (Wishek, Steele, Rugby and Valley City) to explore the idea of using at home workers to take drive-through orders for a national fast food chain. This will be a four to six month pilot project that, if successful, will ramp up to 4,000 workers in North Dakota. Wishek could realize as many as one hundred at-home workers and associated support staff.

The Wishek JDA purchased a vacant building in our downtown business district and has worked out a lease agreement with SEI. "We are hopeful SEI's pilot project is a success and that they choose to expand the idea," said Wishek JDA economic development coordinator Tom Lovik. "This could mean new job opportunities for people in Wishek and the surrounding area. SEI appears to be a very progressive, solid company and we are thrilled it chose Wishek as one of its pilot project locations." The company is in the hiring stage for three management personnel now and will be advertising for six to 10 at-home agents in January 2005. It is anticipated the work will start sometime in February 2005.



## Dakota Partners Champion Community

### Project: One-day Bismarck/Mandan Bus Shopping Trip Hettinger/Adams County, ND

**Grant Amount:** \$1,000

**Total Budget:** \$4,135

**Other Partners:** Bus Participants, Merchants, Adams County Development Corp., Hettinger Chamber, DB Visitors Co.



The project brought three bus loads of women (150) from Bismarck/Mandan area (population 80,000) to Hettinger (population 1,350) to shop. The purpose was to expose more of the state's residents to shopping opportunities in Hettinger, which has some very unique specialty stores. The event, which was held in conjunction with the Hettinger Area Chamber of Commerce's "Kick off to Summer Fun and Food Festival," brought new dollars to the local Hettinger economy.

The project also brought state-wide publicity to the community, which should increase tourist traffic coming through Hettinger from the interstate to destination points such as the Black Hills of SD.

## Dakota Partners Champion Community

### Project: Hettinger Theatre Hettinger/Adams County, ND

**Other Partners:** Hettinger High School Alumni and local residents and organizations



A local Theatre Committee spearheaded the fund-raising for the purchase and renovation of an existing building on main street. The majority of the labor involved in the renovation was done by volunteers at night and weekends.

The new Hettinger theatre seats 145 people and has a new digital sound system. Hettinger Theatre is one of the only locations in the southwest portion of the state which sports such state-of-the-art equipment.

## Dakota Partners Champion Community

### Project: Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing Killdeer/Hettinger, ND

**Total Budget:** \$950,5000

**Other Partners:** EDA, USDA-Rural Development, Stark Development Corp., Bismarck Vision Fund, Mandan Growth Fund and Department of Commerce



Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing (KMM) opened a satellite location in Hettinger in 2001. It is a certified supplier of high-reliability and high-performance electronic assemblies. A new 10,000 sq. ft. building was built on Hettinger's Main Street. Funding for the project consisted of a 523,500 EDA grant and a 400,000 zero percent loan from USDA-Rural Development through Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc. KMM currently has 40 employees at the Hettinger location.

## Dakota Stateline Regional Alliance Champion Community

Project: Oakes Ambulance  
Oakes, ND

**Total Budget:** \$275,000

**Other Partners:** Dakota Valley Electric, private donations, sales taxes and fund-raisers

A new ambulance garage and training center was built. The new facility houses four ambulances and also has office and training facilities for the staff.



## Dakota Stateline Regional Alliance Champion Community

Project: Outdoor Power and Sales  
Oakes, ND

**Total Budget:** \$175,000 (esp)

**Other Partners:** Dakota Valley Electric, Frank and JoAndrea Larson Foundation and private equity

The new business opened in the spring of 2004 and features the sales and service of outdoor lawn and garden equipment. In addition, other recreational equipment is sold by the company.



## Dakota Stateline Regional Alliance Champion Community

Project: Milnor City Sewer Renovation  
Milnor, ND

**Other Partners:** USDA-Rural Development and Department of Commerce

The project will replace antiquated sewer, realign damaged sewer and add new sewer in Milnor.



## Pembina County Champion Community

Project: KBJ Partnership  
Pembina, ND

**Total Budget:** \$650,000

**Other Partners:** Community Development Block Grant Loan funding and local bank financing.

The project consists of the construction of a building for a farm equipment dealership, on a six-acre site located on the south edge of Cavalier.

## Pembina County Champion Community

### Project: Tarna USA – Pembina, ND

**Total Budget:** \$300,000

**Other Partners:** Community Development Block Grant Loan funding, City of Walhalla, Pembina County Job Development Authority.

The project consists of the manufacturing of bumper hitch trailers designed to carry goods. The trailer can be pulled by both auto and pickups. It had created 30 new jobs Walhalla.

## Pembina County Champion Community

### Project: Soybean Feasibility Study – Pembina, ND

**Total Budget:** \$80,000

**Other Partners:** Agriculture Products Utilization Commission, North Dakota Soybean Council and Private

The project will study the feasibility of developing a soybean processing plant in northeast North Dakota.

## Renville County Champion Community

### Project: Bike the Border Tour 2005 – Renville County, ND

**Other Partners:** Mohall, Tolley, Kenmare, Bowbells, Sherwood, and Antler communities are unified in rider accommodation efforts and funding. Renville, Ward, Burke, and Bottineau Counties are unified in coordination support. ND Tourism, ND Dept of Transportation, ND Highway Patrol, City and County Law Enforcement agencies are providing coordination and technical assistance.

Create and establish a family-oriented recreational bicycle tour to attract people to the area. Bike the Border Tour cyclists will ride through six communities and four counties in North Western North Dakota during the June 24-26, 2005 weekend. The ride is limited to 150 full-tour riders and 50 day-riders.

The project will revitalize community spirit and attract visitors to the area. It is anticipated that average daily expenditures for meals, refreshments, souvenirs, lodging and fuel/transportation per rider would be between \$60 and \$80.

## Renville County Champion Community

### Project: Turtle Mountain Poverty Reduction Summit – Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indian Reservation

**Total Budget:** \$10,000

**Other Partners:** Renewal Community Project, Tribal Planning, 5th Generation, Belcourt Schools, Tribal Courts, local business owners, ND Job service and the Turtle Mountain Community College.

Turtle Mountain Community College hosted the Turtle Mountain Ventures Poverty Reduction Summit. The three-day event brought an average of 400 community members each day. The Summit's main objective was to engage the community in the development of a comprehensive poverty reduction plan for the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indian Reservation.

Areas of discussion included education, health, economic development, youth, elders, land development, environmental protection, infrastructure development and several other issues. All the information and ideas will be major ingredients to the overall poverty reduction plan that will be submitted to the North West Area Foundation (NWAFF) in September 2005.

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