Why Invest in Economic Development?

Diversifying the Economy
Diversification is critical to make sure North Dakota does not become economically dependent upon one or two industry sectors. With tight competition for capital, human, and other resources, it is important to focus on investments that diversify our economy so that the state realizes the benefits of the current activity for generations.

Increasing Our Competitiveness
North Dakota is no longer just competing with other states, but rather competing on a global scale. Companies are under increasing pressure to automate and streamline processes to lower costs. North Dakota’s business climate and primary sector support programs must meet the current challenges facing existing companies and be attractive to companies seeking expansion into the state.

Growing from Within
Motivating individuals to engage in innovation and entrepreneurship is important for business development at the local and state level. Equal opportunities for successful entrepreneurial business development exist statewide regardless if you are a rural community or an urban center. Supporting an attractive and vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem is key to realizing the economic benefits of homegrown innovation.

Meeting Growing Needs
A growing economy requires investment in essential community needs such as workforce, housing, childcare, community services, and quality of life amenities. In this time of unprecedented growth, it is critical that professional economic developers serve as the bridge between the economic development and community development needs of the state.

Linking Industry and Education
Economic developers convene leaders and facilitate necessary discussions to make things happen. With today’s growing workforce needs, economic development professionals serve a critical role of linking growing companies to education resources and research and development capacity. Investing in education creates an essential bond between industry and North Dakota’s educational institutions.

Enhancing Quality of Life
North Dakota has unmatched economic opportunity for industry and individuals. The state must support a quality of life that attracts and retains talent to maximize its growth potential.

The Role of Economic Developers in Our Cities, Counties and Regions

- Serving as an information resource.
- Marketing the area.
- Fostering entrepreneurship.
- Facilitating business start-ups, retention and expansions.
- Attracting and introducing new businesses to the area.
- Linking business prospects with officials and prospective partners.
- Bringing interests together to ensure all needs are addressed.
- Linking prospects with gap financing sources.
- Tracking business project performance.

EDND Board of Directors

ELLEN HUBER, President
City of Mandan Business Development
Mandan • 701-667-3485
ehuber@cityofmandan.com

SHAWN WENKO, Vice President
Williston Economic Development
Williston • 701-877-8110
shawwnw@ci.williston.nd.us

KEITH LUND, Secretary/Treasurer
Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corp.
Grand Forks • 701-746-2722
keithl@grandforks.org

CONNIE OVA, Past President
Jamestown/Stutsman County Development Corp.
Jamestown • 701-252-6861
connie@growingjamestown.com

TERR DOERR, Director
Bowman County Economic Development Corp.
Bowman • 701-523-5880
development@bowmandnd.com

SHANNON DUERR, Director
Cavalier County Job Development Authority
Langdon • 701-256-3475
shannon@utma.com

MATT MARSHALL, Director
City of West Fargo Economic Development
West Fargo • 701-433-8311
matt.marshall@westfargond.gov

EDND Board of Directors

PO Box 1091
Bismarck, ND 58502
701-355-4458
www.ednd.org

2019 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:

1. Encourage further diversification of the economy.
2. Support workforce development, retention and attraction incentives, such as scholarships for high-demand careers.
3. Support manufacturing tax credits for innovations to improve job quality and productivity.
4. Strengthen infrastructure investment.
5. Establish community development matching grants.
6. Invest in N.D. Department of Commerce and Bank of North Dakota programs vital to economic development.

EDND SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING:

Economic Diversification
   a. Continue to invest in entrepreneurial assistance through regional Small Business Development Centers, Center for Business and Technology, InnovateND, N.D. Development Fund, Impact Dakota, the N.D. Trade Office, Agricultural Products Utilization Commission, tourism and other appropriate means.
   b. Support research programs focused on commercializing technology to further innovation.
   c. Advocate for resources to support the advancement of Unmanned Aerial System technology.
   d. Support financing alternatives that enhance venture capital funding to entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Business Financing and Incentives
   a. Continue effective state and local components of the Renaissance Zone program.
   b. Maintain local control of the use of property tax incentives for businesses to encourage building, renovation and new construction or to address site development hurdles.
   c. Support a 21st century workforce incentive to encourage manufacturers’ efforts to adopt innovative technology, remain globally competitive and increase job quality.
   d. Support policies to leverage private sector and local investment for state image and workforce recruitment campaigns.

Infrastructure Development
   a. Enhance funding options, such as the use of Legacy Fund earnings, oil and gas revenue, and recapitalization of the BND infrastructure revolving loan fund, to support local infrastructure projects and growth.
   b. Develop tools to support expansion of natural gas to unserved or underserved communities.
   c. Restore funding for tourism infrastructure grants.
   d. Support policies creating a favorable environment for the expansion of affordable broadband, wireless data and cell phone coverage statewide.

Community Development
   a. Support matching funds for local implementation of the Main Street Initiative.

Pro-Business Climate
   a. Maintain local property tax relief through state support of social services and K-12 education.
   b. Maintain competitive corporate and personal income tax.

The primary purpose of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND) is to promote the creation of new wealth throughout North Dakota. EDND supports the creation of policies and programs that encourage investment in and expansion of North Dakota’s diverse economic sectors. EDND recognizes that healthy, vibrant communities are essential for new wealth creation and therefore supports programs that assist North Dakota communities establish a critical foundation to support effective economic development.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

2019 VALUE STATEMENTS

Economic Diversification
The long-term future of North Dakota is dependent upon planning expanded economic diversification and supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up ventures that bring new wealth to the state. EDND supports investments in applied research and commercialization focused on technology development that will lead to the diversification of North Dakota’s economy. EDND recognizes that broadband infrastructure is essential for workforce development.

Infrastructure Development
Smart, efficient infrastructure that gives North Dakota the capacity to grow is critically important to the health and vitality of the state. EDND encourages statewide support for judicious yet progressive investment strategies that maintain essential infrastructure and create infrastructure for future growth. EDND supports a strong statewide transportation system, which is vital to economic development, and long-range planning. EDND also recognizes that broadband infrastructure is essential to technology growth in the state.

Community Development
Community development generally precedes economic development. The growth potential of North Dakota communities and rural areas depends on the quality of life that exists in those communities. EDND supports funding economic development programs critical. Healthy and vibrant communities are essential in attracting talent to live and work in communities and in revitalization, diversification and creation of new wealth.

Pro-Business Climate
Improving the state’s economic and business climate by supporting a competitive taxation and regulatory environment promotes the creation of new wealth and the diversification of North Dakota’s economy. Support community and private sector choice to better position North Dakota businesses to be globally competitive.

Economic development policy endorsed by EDND directly supports the creation of new wealth and supports infrastructure development and critical growth of life science communities for new wealth creation. EDND places the highest priority on the development of high-wage career opportunities that will retain the States workforce and attract skilled labor from areas outside the state.