

Central South Dakota Recovery and Resilience

2022

This addendum was prepared by FBS, LLC under contract with the Central South Dakota Enhancement District, with financial support from the United States Economic Development Administration. This content was constructed from viewpoints, opinions, and anecdotes of central South Dakota residents and business leaders and does not necessarily reflect the views of the CSDED or the EDA.

May 2022

www.centralsdrecovery.org



What are Recovery and Resilience?

And why does it matter to central SD?

Economic resilience is the ability to withstand and recover quickly from a disruption to the economic base. The COVID-19 pandemic offered insight into various strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that exist within our region while opening the door to further analysis into what might broaden the economic base of the region, improve the overall business climate, support the development of industries that build on the region's unique assets and competitive strengths, and grow a more resilient workforce. Becoming more resilient is something that cities and counties in South Dakota must do if they are to survive the ebbs and flows of the global economy.

The CSDED Recovery and Resiliency Plan's framework, which includes strategies for economic capacity building and pre-disaster preparedness, may be utilized by cities and counties to organize regional efforts. Projects may be engaged or expanded upon to respond more rapidly to future challenges and to create more economic growth.



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), through a CARES Act grant, is funding the Central South Dakota Enhancement District's economic recovery and resiliency planning efforts. This content was constructed from views, opinions, and anecdotes of central South Dakota residents and business leaders and does not necessarily reflect the views of the CSDED or the EDA.



Executive Summary

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention the first case of COVID-19 appeared in the U.S. on January 21st, 2020. In March of 2020, South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem declared a state of emergency in response to the increasing risk of a COVID-19 pandemic spreading throughout South Dakota. At that time, there were nine known cases with one person having died from the virus. At the end of March, 2020, Governor Noem signed an executive order asking counties, businesses, and hospitals and clinics to restrict operations and put mitigation efforts in place. On April 7, 2020, Governor Noem officially announced that all schools were to remain closed for the rest of the academic year. The COVID-19 pandemic abruptly hindered the daily lives of all South Dakota residents. This ranged from minor inconveniences to life-threatening situations. Each community experienced unique circumstances that brought varied effects to residents and visitors.

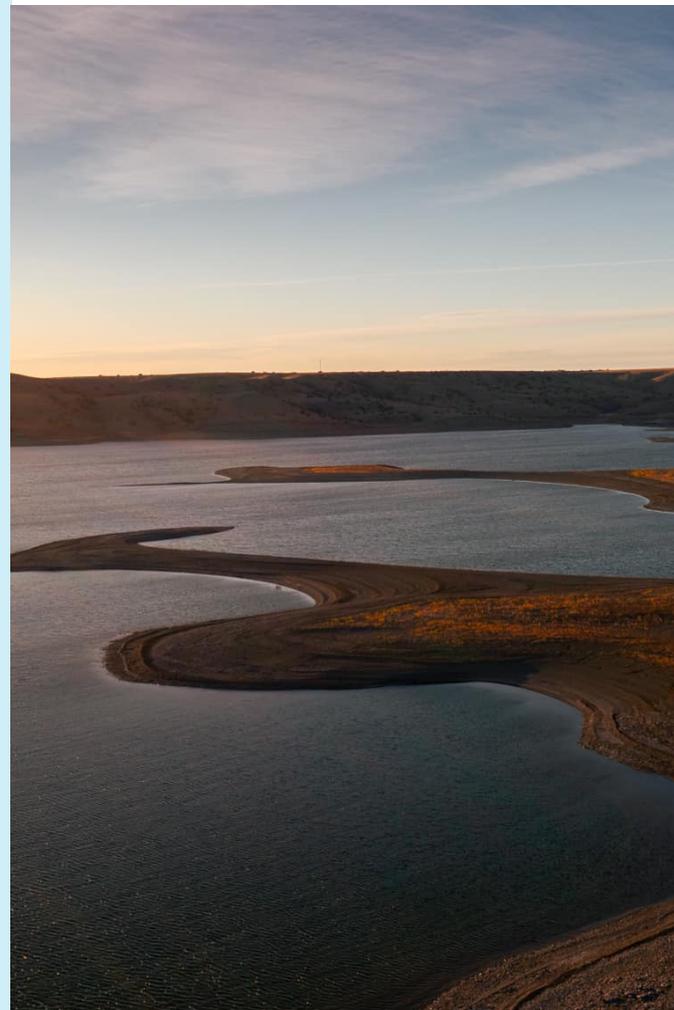
The Central South Dakota Enhancement District (CSDED) requested funding from the EDA that would allow for the solicitation of proposals for contract services assisting in the creation and publishing of a COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency Plan addendum to the Comprehensive Economic Development Plan for the Central South Dakota region. Project funding is provided via grant dollars supplied by the federal Economic Development Administration under CARES Act funding. The COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency addendum is a substantive report compiling local information pertaining to COVID-19 effects on the economy and developing recommendations to build resiliency to the lingering effects of COVID-19 and future disturbances to local and regional economies. The following report will provide a clear understanding of the effects of COVID-19 on central South Dakota communities and their economic situations as it relates to recovery and resiliency efforts.

COUNTIES

Jackson
Haakon
Dewey
Stanley
Jones
Mellette
Hughes
Sully
Hyde
Corson

COMMUNITIES

Cottonwood
Belvidere
Interior
Kadoka
Midland
Philip
Isabel
Timber Lake
Fort Pierre
Draper
Murdo
White River
Wood
Blunt
Harrold
Pierre
Agar
Onida
Highmore
McIntosh
McLaughlin



The COVID-19 Pandemic

By March 10, 2020, five cases of COVID-19 had been detected in South Dakota. At that time, some states had already shut down. Some schools in South Dakota had contemplated closing their doors. A world-wide pandemic brought widespread change to central South Dakota. Each community's experience varied and offered unique challenges to local residents. Regional business practices have permanently adjusted to realities of a community-wide pandemic. Key economic adaptations have resulted from this experience, some temporary, some permanent. Central South Dakota communities experienced the following reality adjustments:

SOCIAL

- Limited gatherings/events
- School closures
- Sports cancelations
- Social distancing/masks
- Hospital pressure

ECONOMIC

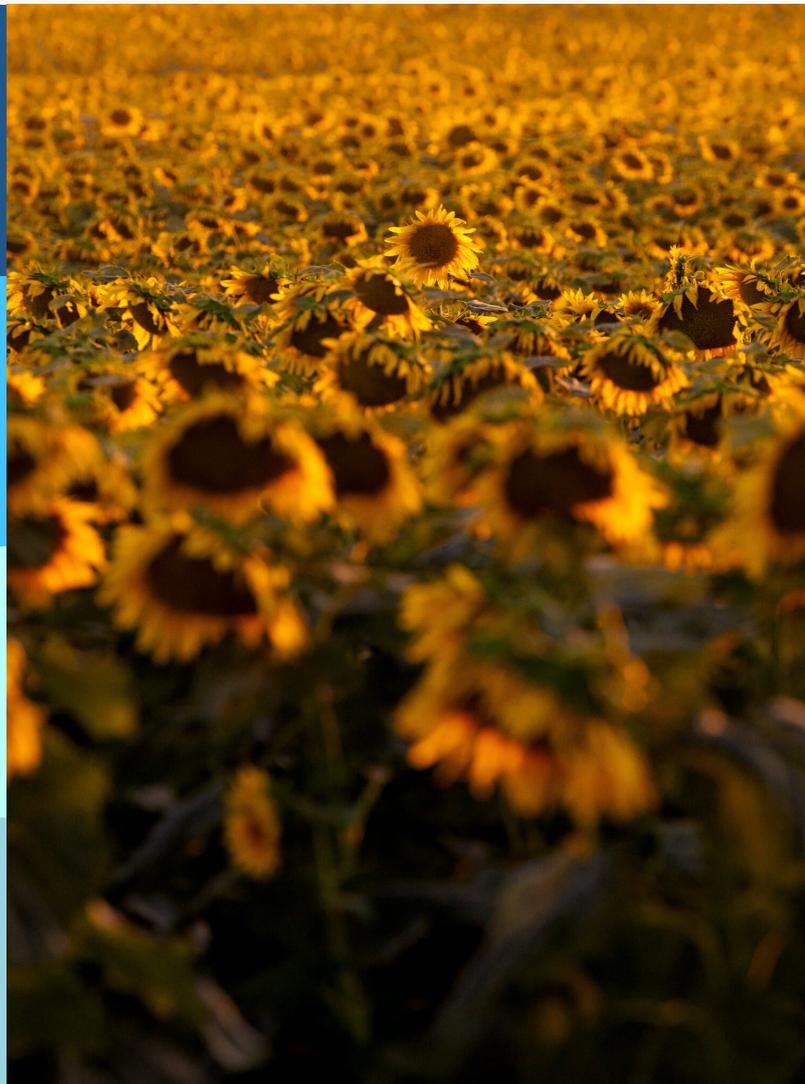
- Business practices
- Budget conservation
- Losing businesses and workforce
- Federal stimulus
- Supply chain disruptions

HOME

- Shelter in place
- Altered behaviors (youth/elderly)
- Purchasing habits
- Online shopping expansion
- At home testing/decision making

BUSINESS

- Curbside pickup
- Federal assistance (PPP, Ag relief, etc.)
- Online storefront (Chamber)
- Working from home reality
- Unemployment insurance claims

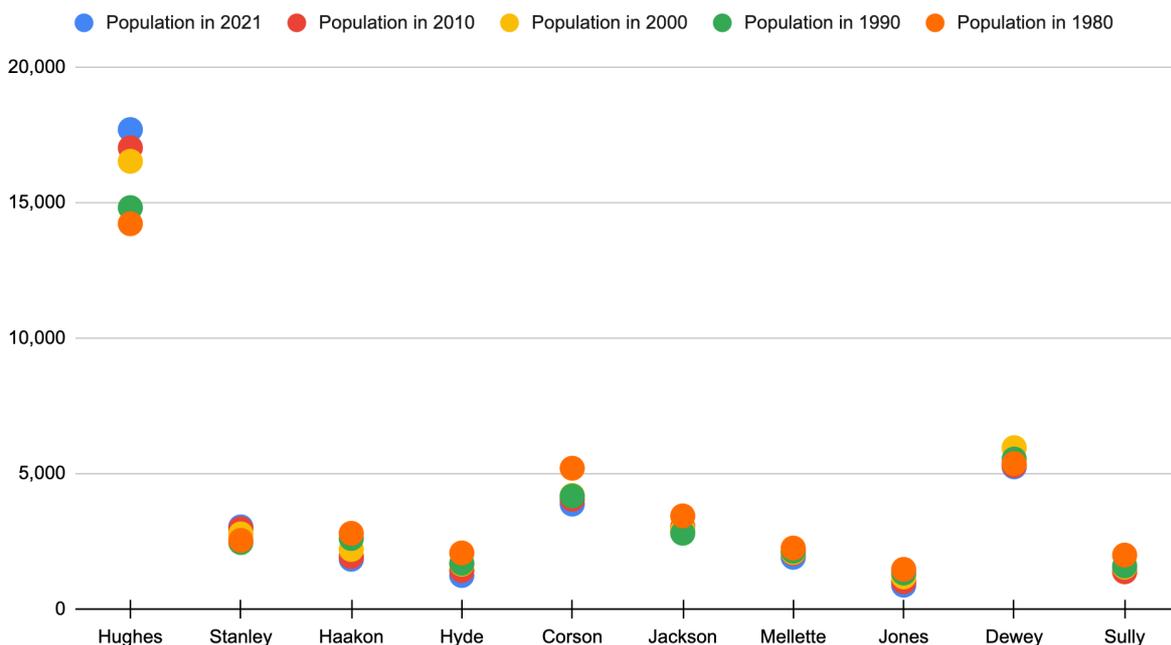


CSDDED Background

Central South Dakota
Enhancement District

The Central South Dakota Enhancement District (CSDDED) is a voluntary association of local governments serving a nine county area in central South Dakota. Member communities work together to improve the quality of life, create job opportunities, and increase the services and opportunities available to their residents. Member communities served by CSDDED include (but are not limited to): Jackson County Serving the communities of Cottonwood, Belvidere, Interior and Kadoka; Haakon County and the communities of Midland and Philip; Dewey County and the communities of Eagle Butte, Isabel, and Timber Lake; Stanley County and the community of Fort Pierre; Jones County and the communities of Draper and Murdo; Mellette County and the communities of White River and Wood; Hughes County and the communities of Blunt, Harrold, and Pierre; Sully County and the communities of Agar and Onida; Hyde County and the community of Highmore; Corson County and the communities of McIntosh and McLaughlin. The CSDDED is led by a professional staff responsible for preparing and maintaining a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), assisting in implementation of strategies identified in the CEDS, and providing technical assistance to economies throughout the region. CSDDED is governed by a board of directors that consists of county commissioners, city officials, private citizens, education and chamber representatives from its member organizations. CSDDED is funded by annual memberships from the counties and the communities it serves, state and federal contracts, and fee-for-service activities from public and private sources. The region served by CSDDED is largely rural with county populations ranging from 917 (Jones) to 17,765 (Hughes). The total population of all member counties is 72,487, which is down 4.19% since 2010. This region, as a whole, is largely composed of siloed economies, individually working toward economic stability, resilience, and prosperity under the auspices of their respective leadership teams and budgets.

CSDDED County Populations Change



CSDDED Service Area Statistics

	Hughes	Stanley	Haakon	Hyde	Corson	Jackson	Mellette	Jones	Dewey	Sully
Total Population 2021	17,694	3,032	1,835	1,236	3,872	2,878	1,908	879	5,246	1,476
Population Growth or Decline 2010 to 2021	3.90%	2.20%	-5.30%	-13.00%	-4.40%	-5.00%	-6.80%	-12.60%	-1.00%	7.50%
Households 2020	7,475	1,443	758	616	1,205	815	675	419	1,731	591
Labor Force (persons) Ann. Avg. 2021	9,881	1,919	1,041	649	1,314	1,215	729	522	2,288	810
Unemployment Rate Ann. Avg. 2021	2.4	3	2.8	2.6	4.7	4.4	4.5	3.4	5.9	3.8
Per Capita Personal Income 2020	\$55,872	\$60,870	\$66,588	\$64,756	\$31,442	\$30,705	\$33,840	\$59,264	\$45,889	\$100,301
Manufacturing - Pct. All Jobs in County 2020	0.50%	0.00%	9.10%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%
Manufacturing - Avg Wage per Job 2020	\$36,608	\$0	\$43,545	\$0	N/A	\$0	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0
Transportation and Warehousing - Pct. All Jobs in County 2020	0.20%	1.30%	0.50%	0.60%	0.80%	0.80%	0.30%	1.00%	0.40%	0.40%
Transportation and Warehousing - Avg Wage per Job 2020	\$62,231	\$35,468	\$53,543	\$43,965	\$40,058	\$40,931	\$32,575	\$38,149	\$39,730	\$42,458
Health Care, Social Assist. - Pct. All Jobs in County 2020	12.70%	0.00%	0.00%	10.30%	7.30%	0.00%	1.70%	0.00%	10.50%	0.00%
Health Care, Social Assist. - Avg Wage per Job 2020	\$56,680	\$0	\$0	\$30,545	\$69,127	\$0	\$54,421	\$0	\$76,935	\$0
Finance and Insurance - Pct. All Jobs in County 2020	4.80%	1.90%	4.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.90%	0.00%	0.00%
Finance and Insurance - Avg Wage per Job 2020	\$83,870	\$47,642	\$59,899	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$48,455	\$0	\$0

<https://www.statsamerica.org/USCP/comparison.aspx>

South Dakota relief

In total, South Dakota has been allocated \$11.08 Billion. This stimulus money has gone to South Dakota agencies or local governments, organizations, and citizens. Below is the fund distribution to CSDED service area counties. A total of \$4.3 Million in CARES funding and \$8.06 Million in ARPA funds have been distributed to CSDED counties as of the date of this report.

County	CARES Act (as of March 31, 2021)	ARPA Allocation (as of June 17, 2021)
Corson	\$245,288	\$793,658
Dewey	\$189,773	\$1,144,452
Haakon	\$162,119	\$368,858
Hughes	\$2,610,526	\$3,404,220
Hyde	\$116,324	\$252,704
Jackson	\$160,992	\$649,533
Jones	\$122,734	\$175,397
Mellette	\$238,465	\$400,325
Stanley	\$318,238	\$601,750
Sully	\$138,110	\$270,185

South Dakota's Allocation

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (CPRSAA)

\$5.85 MILLION

Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (PPHCEA)

\$63.18 MILLION

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

\$64.92 MILLION

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260)

\$647.82 MILLION

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

\$6.88 BILLION

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

\$3.42 BILLION



SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) is a summarized assessment of communities within the CSDSD service area and their ability to recover and resist hardship during challenging times. This SWOT analysis is presented with an important caveat: This is NOT a comprehensive economic analysis of the region. The individual components have been determined based on an assessment of the entire region. This analysis was completed with the specific directive to identify strengths, opportunities, threats, and weaknesses surrounding regional resilience and readiness for future challenges. There may be economic components missing from this report that may otherwise be included within an overall economic SWOT. Download the full report at centralsdrecovery.org for an explanation of each component.

Strengths

- Resilient
- Adaptability
- Rural
- Dedicated residents
- Leadership
- Business vitality
- Online sales tax revenues
- Capital City Campus
- Small town relationships
- County emergency planners
- Community pride
- Strong farming/ranching economy
- State government
- Positive outside perception/reputation
- Education

Weaknesses

- Diverse and opposing viewpoints/opinions
- Incomplete or missing disaster plans
- No identified communication hierarchy
- Lack of community infrastructure
- Limited workforce availability
- Misdirection of finances (for advancements)
- Population density
- Lack of collaboration within the region
- “Silo” economies and budgets
- Insufficient economic industry diversification
- Lack of population attracting industry/jobs
- Distance between communities
- Healthcare employment

Opportunities

- Community development/beautification
- Housing
- Youth (community pride/development)
- New resident/business recruitment
- Human capital investments
- Natural resources
- Tourism
- Emergency planning
- Collaborative economic activities/partnerships
- Leadership recruitment and retention
- Economic diversification
- Outside funding for rural development
- Regional resilience and recovery website
- Federal stimulus

Threats

- “It’s good enough” mentality
- Misinformation/social media commentary
- Limited communication channels
- Varying city regulations
- Lack of housing and housing contractors
- Workforce demands
- “Me not we” attitude
- Online economy
- Mental health impacts
- Nature
- “Back to normal” economy
- Brain drain (declining population)
- Rapidly changing global economy
- Geopolitical boundaries

Central South Dakota Recovery and Resilience Priority Areas

Based on the SWOT analysis and data gathered during recovery and resilience research and stakeholder meetings, the following priority areas were identified to support the region's resilience and spark sustainable growth:

Workforce



Education



Human Capital/ Entrepreneurs



Collaboration and Collective Goals



Community Infrastructure



Communication



Funding



Housing



Economic Diversification



Recommendations and Objectives

Central South Dakota communities and residents continue to persevere through the extensive COVID-19 pandemic and recovery process. South Dakota's economy has fared far better throughout the COVID-19 pandemic than other states, however, challenges remain for central South Dakota communities. Future resilience for this region is contingent upon the willingness of regional leaders to be proactive in initiating measures that advance the region in the following priority areas.

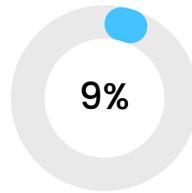
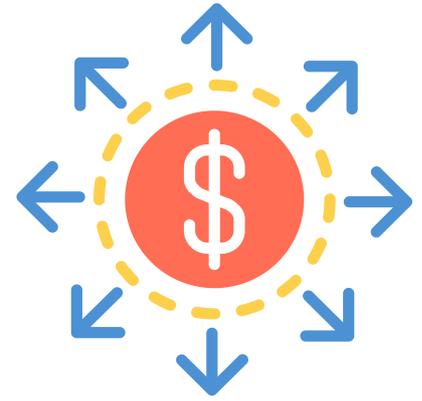


School districts, economic development groups, business owners, employers and industry leaders must work together to develop training programs needed to create a workforce that can meet the economic diversification and growth goals of central South Dakota. The goal should not be to train a skilled labor force that is well educated and worry-free in the workplace, as they will continue to be in high demand outside of the region. Instead, targeted industry partnerships should educate local talent about the prospects of entrepreneurship, business opportunities and market dynamics, local state and regional needs, and weaknesses. The loss of individuals with initiative, talent, knowledge, training and skill from central South Dakota will continue to plague our business and economic climate. Central South Dakota needs to focus on retaining a quality workforce. Emerging trends in technology advancements and workplace protocol is leading to more mobility and freedom of location. Location decisions are less driven by values but more so by opportunities (lifestyle, culture, diversity, housing, transit, etc.). A focus for the future workforce should be on central South Dakota quality of life, business opportunities, local success stories, and alternative education pathways. Active engagement strategies should be considered for recruiting central South Dakota's best and brightest future leaders. Financial incentives, housing assistance, business loans, and community leadership opportunities should be utilized. Investments in the individuals and their skills will supplement a regional support system focusing on education and training. Mentorship and tax incentives will also go a long way toward helping small businesses start up and thrive in central South Dakota.

Launching a marketing campaign across a broad range of agencies, including education, workforce development, employers, health and human services, and economic development agencies will promote the development of programs that bring the necessary workforce to the region. Workforce training programs should be aligned with regional needs and developed, funded, and implemented through close collaboration between businesses, educators, and government.

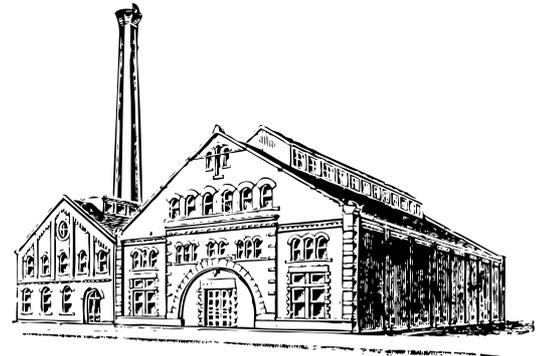
Economic Diversification

Industry diversification can create a more resilient and competitive central South Dakota. Long standing industries (farming, ranching, state government, and tourism) primarily complete central South Dakota's economic engine. Small business success has depended on the ebbs and flows of local economic conditions, primarily being driven by the aforementioned industries. Without suitable industry diversification, future economic resilience will be inconceivable. Central South Dakota would benefit from an increase in research and development (R&D) spending, which is critical to better understanding the regional capacity for alternative industry expansion efforts while creating high quality, high paying jobs requiring less advanced education. Promoting economic expansion within the region will lead to additional industry establishment and business recruitment contributing to long-term sustainable growth of central South Dakota communities. As mentioned previously, entrepreneurship will be an integral component of future economic growth and should be considered a major emphasis of all economic development initiatives. Human talent in central South Dakota should be foundational to future economic development initiatives within the CSDED service area. This will require an investment in youth through education, and enhancement of innovation capacity through recruitment of future regional leaders. Adequate capital must be available for such an investment in start-ups and new businesses. Local collaborations, fund commingling, and private investment dollars should be proactively managed to sustain central South Dakota's need for growth.

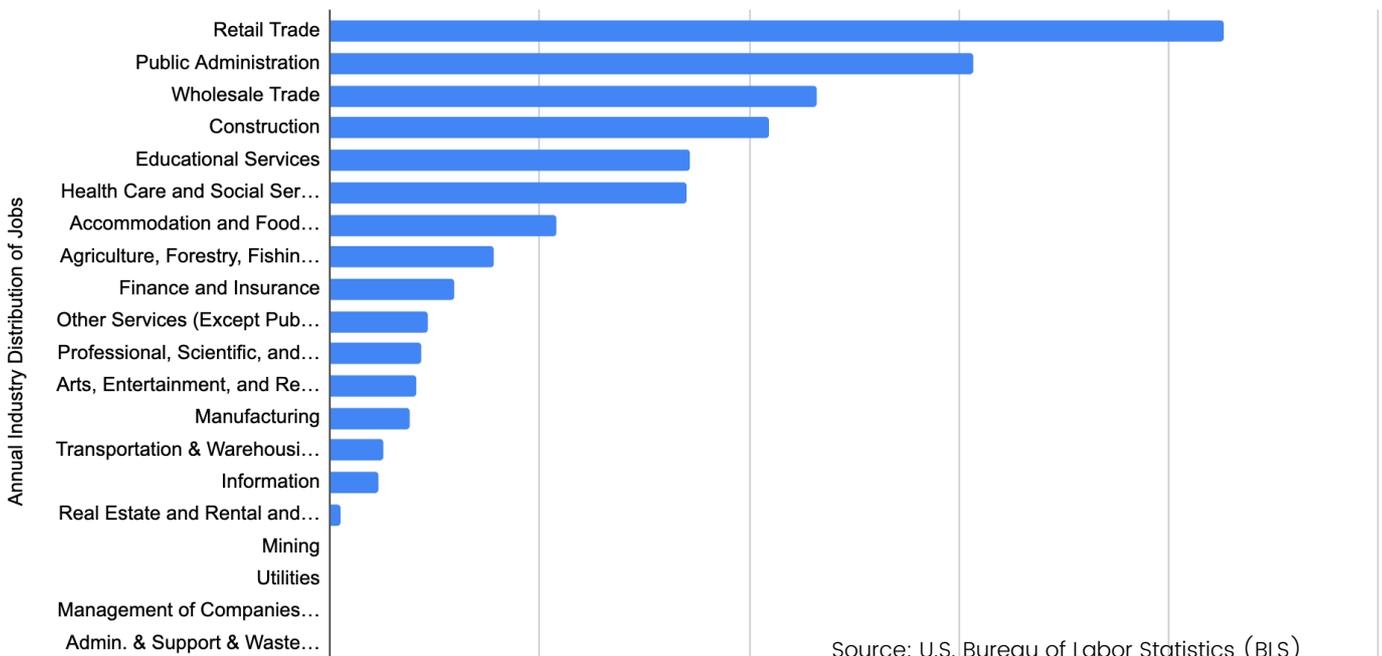


Manufacturing

Manufacturing jobs in the CSDED region account for only 9.6% of all jobs available in the market. The community of Philip, in Haakon County, is responsible for 9.1% of that market share.



Employment Distribution by Industry



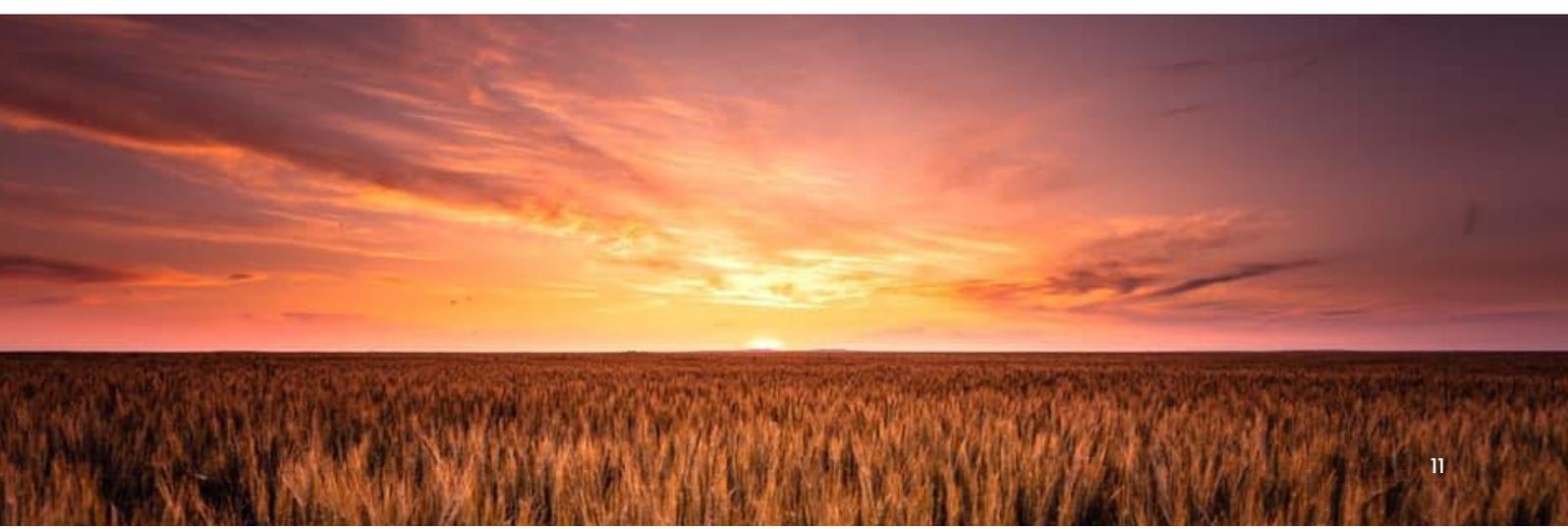
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Innovation and Growth

Maintaining a competitive, diversified, and sustainable growth economy means that central South Dakota communities will need to significantly strengthen their investments in infrastructure to support projected growth. Roads and airports are not driving central South Dakota's economic engine and should be lowered as infrastructure priorities. Increased availability of diverse energy sources, and reliability of energy provision will be essential to increasing future economic productivity. Deteriorating water and wastewater infrastructure, depletion of traditional water resources, and natural disasters threaten current economic industries and hinder future economic development and job creation potential. These investments should be directed to foster resilience to flood/drought and global climate change impacts while enhancing central South Dakota's public water supply and wastewater infrastructure. Plans and proposals to pipe water from the Missouri River to other areas of the state should be given great thought and consideration. It will be important to make sure, to the extent possible, that infrastructure investments are made in locations with the greatest potential for planned growth.



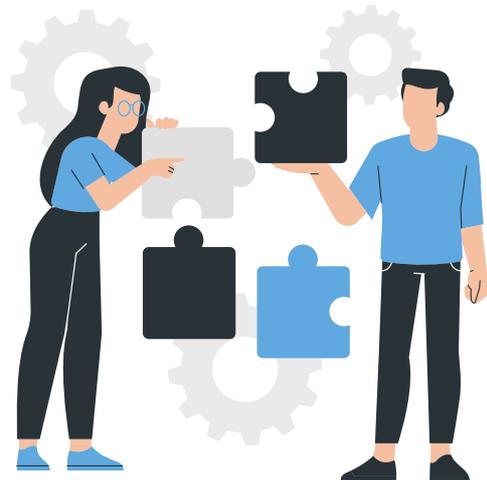
In addition to regional considerations, inner-community infrastructure advancements (walking paths, public park systems, city streets, buildings, dilapidated housing) should be analyzed and prioritized. Strategic infrastructure investments will be needed to proactively avoid future challenges and economic destruction while making future growth opportunities feasible. Positively and proactively addressing overwhelming issues regarding housing and public infrastructure concerns will increase capacity for growth and open opportunities for future advancement. The basic goal of all communities within central South Dakota should be to maintain a full range of housing choices and opportunities for all residents. The ability of our residents to earn wages that keep pace with housing costs and provide a broader choice of housing within our communities is a critical component to addressing the affordable housing challenges.



Collaborations and Governance

City governance systems and organization structures should be reviewed for effectiveness and efficiency. Regional collaborations or municipal partnerships should be considered as a means of increasing competitiveness and effectiveness of currently siloed budgets. Planning efforts should be pursued and organized under a unified regional vision, aligning individual community plans with overarching regional goals. A model of planning and investment must integrate economic development, existing land usage and potential use, transportation opportunities, natural resources (water supply, habitat, etc), environmental restoration and conservation, community planning and design, and intellectual/human capital investments supported by commingled budget allocations set to create a more sustainable and prosperous central South Dakota economic structure. Identifying community engagement and leadership assets will be vital to the establishment and long-term viability of this new structure. Utilizing the analysis within this report will assist in the understanding of how regional communities connect while shining light on effective communication mechanisms used to create non-traditional leadership engagement strategies.

Regional benefits are reciprocal: What brings economic benefits to one community in our region will ultimately bring value to the region as a whole. Pursuing collective goals with organized resources and strategies will raise the economic development bar for communities throughout the CSDED service area. Regionalism is a proven method in rural America, improving communities through increased collaboration and coordination of united approaches while sustaining individual community goals and aspirations. This becomes increasingly difficult when resources are scarce and competition is intense.



Communications

Planning for future crises should begin with a communication plan and corresponding hierarchy for local and regional implementation. Ideally, local and regional teams will work in collaboration to ensure all information dissemination is identical in their objective standards of fact and quality. Identify unique methods for reaching rural residents with trustworthy information that they feel comfortable using to make life decisions. Plan for and support technologies that advance innovation and promote economic development. This includes ensuring reliable, affordable, high-speed and secure Internet access throughout the region.



Objectives

Regional disaster mitigation team

Create a team tasked with compiling local and state mitigation plan documents and creating a protocol for approaching future disasters.

Commingle assets

Consider commingling or aligning resources (financial, land, human capital, business networks, etc) to support innovative actions leading to a prosperous future for all. Individually, it may be difficult or impossible to pursue some economic dreams. Teamwork makes the dream work.

Communication

Improve regional communication infrastructure (broadband connectivity) to create seamless opportunities for collaboration. (i.e. - SDSU extension satellite sites)

“WE” not “us”

What occurs within central South Dakota communities is typically not experienced in a vacuum. Shock waves from individual successes and challenges are felt in surrounding areas.

Attractive communities

Make sure your workforce is living in attractive, affordable communities that include readily accessible services such as childcare, health services, and education. Offer more diverse housing opportunities to fit the needs of regional populations, provide accessible health and wellness services and amenities, and create opportunities for leisure pursuits that enhance the quality of life here. Improving the region's quality of life can increase its desirability, generate economic activity, and boost its recognition and reputation. This will often mean avoiding the "status quo".

The COVID-19 pandemic clearly showed how central South Dakota fared in the face of significant economic challenges. To build our regional capacity for economic resilience, a network of partner organizations and individuals must anticipate risk, evaluate how that risk can impact critical economic assets, and build our collective responsive capacity. The path forward for individual communities and rural South Dakota will be filled with unknowns. Establishing valid performance criteria and measures of accountability within regional communities will be important to sustaining resilience and adaptability during trying times. It will allow for fast identification of developing trends and more prompt adjustments to evolving needs and opportunities. Future adaptability will depend on our ability to pursue the following objectives:

Leadership network

CSDDED and the communities within their service area must commit to building a network of local/regional leaders that are substantially involved in advancing the economic vitality of the region.

Share Plans

Distribute a SWOT summary analysis and recommendations list throughout the CSDDED service area. Encourage community leadership to take local action and facilitate collaborative efforts that result.

Partnerships

Pursue industry partnerships that fill a need within South Dakota/United States and bring value to the communities in which they exist. What is needed and how can we work together to fill that need?

Leadership development

Implement a leader identification and cultivation initiative to recruit and retain future champions for the region and its communities. This will include education and outreach efforts surrounding regional leadership opportunities as well as acquiring funding sources for the program's efforts. Partnerships with school districts, Junior Achievement, early childhood providers, local and state leadership initiatives (Leadership SD, Leadership Pierre, Billie Sutton Leadership Institute, etc.), and university systems will be vital to success.

Entrepreneurs

Increase focus on talent development/recruitment specifically for the communities within the CSDDED service area. Work with state and regional businesses, educational institutions, and government entities to create a system that is accessible to everyone. Ensure its linking business, education, workforce, and economic development resources to the “achievers” and “seekers” leaving our state to keep talented locals and create reasons for them to see the possibilities and competitiveness in central South Dakota.



Central South Dakota needs to diversify its economic base by actively recruiting high-skilled industry companies.

Objectives Cont...

Resources

Pursue resources at all levels (federal, state, local) for financing resiliency and recovery efforts: An initial list of resources has been established at centralsdrecovery.org.

Downtown

Focus on developing downtown infrastructure. Communities with a bustling downtown attract businesses, residents, and visitors to a community. They radiate a sense of innovation and economic certainty, and will act as the foundation for attracting future residents and business leaders to town.

Distribution channels

Streamline information dissemination and consumption: During times of crisis, one of our most valuable resources is good information. The digital world brings with it challenges that will continue to evolve and devolve technological innovation progresses. Establish consistent communication networks within the region and identify priority channels from which leaders will obtain state and national information. Objective criteria for information dissemination should also be considered for future challenges and threats.

Long-term vision

Think long-term with economic and resiliency related initiatives: There will be many efforts that are short lived or completed very quickly on a relative scale. Many others may need 5-10 years before becoming substantially viable for our communities.

Share plans

Distribute a SWOT summary analysis and recommendations list throughout the CSDED service area. Encourage community leadership to take local action and facilitate collaborative efforts that result.

Public outreach

The recovery and resiliency process should be communicated to the public. To take it a step further, the public should be involved in the prospecting and preparation for future initiatives. The general public may not be in tune to local and state economic development initiatives and the organizations leading them. Helping others to understand the work you do will lead to appreciation for the effort and ultimate participation in future efforts.

Access to capital

Establish CSDED Revolving Loan fund: Enhancement districts are a vital support system for communities interested in pursuing recovery and resilience initiatives. Funding will become integral to future progress, and CSDED possesses access to detailed information, experiences, networks, and funding that may be distributed throughout the region.

Industry diversification

Diversify economic bases: Regional leaders should come together to form a plan for future economic initiatives and opportunities. Look to industries outside of the typical central South Dakota mold. State government and farming/ranching will always be a pillar of economic stability, however, regional leaders must begin to focus on alternative companies based upon an analysis of all available workforce, facilities, and other regional assets. Information technology, alternative energy, manufacturing facilities, telecommunications, product development groups, and many others should be considered.

Community Perspectives



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic within rural South Dakota towns, multiple methods were utilized to gather anecdotal and scientific data sets. Great diligence was paid to the organization of in-person meetings and activities. Each community's threshold for participation in such activities was a primary consideration influencing the methods used when connecting with local leaders. Real time and on-demand data gathering tools were utilized, deployed in both in-person and digital formats.

Community leaders were selected for their experience and efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Written testimony was gathered through online/hand-written survey forms while live conversations were scrupulously recorded with written word notes and detailed within community engagement takeaways. Please note that written word testimony has not been edited. Group meetings were scheduled where possible with community members who were identified as leaders within their specific industry sect or position. Documented or received comments from our community outreach efforts are highlighted in the following:



Community leaders identified the following resources as being of future value to their efforts. The larger the words, the more it was mentioned.

Key Community Comments



One time money in the legislative session went out to good causes but the common theme was that none of them went to central South Dakota.

It seems like people are ahead of central South Dakota in planning and displaying their needs. A lot of this money is going to college campuses for new buildings. Moves their college forward and their communities forward. Roads and bridges are also being funded.

Downtown businesses are vibrant when owners are committed to them. More entrepreneurial exposure and education for young people.

had more people and business in town than usual caused by a Wind Farm. More than 100 people.

There are a lot of empty houses that could be revitalized a bit.

An insane amount of pass through traffic, golf course and campground have been packed.

CARES act funding allowed for putting technology in the classroom and implementing new curriculum with technology/online components within.

Having some type of infrastructure funding system or grant program for these medium cities that tied it into workforce or affordable housing.

Where would you like our community in 3-5 years? We should be growing. People moving to central South Dakota towns that want to contribute, bring kids to schools, become part of our communities.

Wish we had a better idea at the beginning about where to go for the most accurate information.

Several people started little campgrounds for the area. Because workers had a hard time finding houses in the area.

Individual relationships allowed for good communication. Community banks were able to rock PPP loans because they were very individual.

We need to do a better job of risk assessment of a pandemic and what level of loss is acceptable. Everyone had a different tolerance level.

Key Community Comments Cont...

Working on mental health discussions. What are some things we can do for student mental health? Should they have a family that has to quarantine again to have tools for them.

We don't have any housing either. Some people have rented apartments year around just so they could have a place for their workers to stay. So even if we had more people coming in we wouldn't have a place for them to live.

Our dentist moved about a year ago. We've got a building and a practice for them and there are about \$300K incentives out there.

Small county communities are still uncertain about how to best utilize ARPA funding. It could be used for infrastructure in the future.

Getting in and out of the Reservation gained a lot of talk and complaints from the locals. It was just inconvenient, no real conflict.

Many community leaders have this job as a secondary thing. It makes it harder to apply for and gain funding.

When you have a community with minimum wage jobs, and unemployment insurance pays better. It's a better choice to stay home.

Communication in general would be the most beneficial to improve. Making sure all leadership entities are on the same page.

Funding for cleaning properties that are dilapidated. Dakotaplex is a possibility for future housing.



One thing that has been a concern for about 20+ years has been keeping our grocery store.

Industry could move here but they need housing to fulfill workers. A ton of older homes that sit empty.

Small town challenges. Everything is migrating to either end of the state, the middle is just trying to hang on.

Allow as much flexibility to remain at a local or grass roots level. Don't tie up support with political or bureaucratic strings.

The community would benefit from some way to have better information than just the news-media.

A Feeding South Dakota program was established. The program should continue in the future.

Big challenge was not being able to order merchandise in town. Supplies were out and neighboring stores were limited also.

We learned to document everything; Reference on board actions/motions to specify COVID preventative measures.



Resources List

GRANTS

- [AARP Community Challenge Grants](#)
- [Shuttered Venue Operatots Grant Program](#)
- [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#)
- [SDCF SD Fund Grant Program](#)
- [Federal Economic Development Grant Announcements](#)
- [Transportation Economic Development Grants](#)
- [Economic Development Partnership Program](#)
- [Heartland Economic Development Grants](#)
- [USDA Rural Development](#)

GOVERNMENT

- [SAM.gov](#)
- [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\) Number](#)
- [Department of Labor and Regulation COVID-19 resources](#)
- [South Dakota Tourism Marketing Co-Op](#)
- [EDA COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Rental Assistance Program](#)
- [CSEDED Coronavirus Response Hub](#)
- [ECIP Program](#)
- [Small Business Tax Credit Program](#)
- [PPP Loan Forgiveness](#)
- [LRC Full COVID-19 Stimulus Report](#)
- [SD GOED](#)

DATA

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- [Role of Regional Clusters PDF](#)
- [Center on Budget and Policy - Using Relief Funds](#)
- [South Dakota 2020 Census Data](#)
- [Creighton University Economic Index](#)
- [2021 Tourism Economic Impact Report](#)
- [K-12 Education COVID-19 Impact Report \(PDF\)](#)
- [CNN Business "Back-to-Normal" Index](#)
- [Johns Hopkins Analysis of Lockdowns on Mortality Rates](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

- [Perry County, Indiana Community Website](#)
- [Nonprofit Impact Study](#)
- [Wall Street Journal - COVID-19 Recovery](#)
- [Independent Sector COVID-19 Resource List](#)
- [Tourism Training Webinar Series](#)
- [Local First Arizona - Rural Economic Development Example](#)
- [Community Heart & Soul Program](#)
- [E2 Entrepreneurship Research and Data](#)
- [Tupelo - Evolution of a Community](#)
- [Advance Casper - Regional Economic Development Example](#)

Central South Dakota Recovery and Resilience

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U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

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