



The Role of Cities in North Dakota: Economics, Demographics, and Social Make-up

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Fargo, ND
Hilton Garden Inn



- Established in 1980, at The University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks, ND
- One of the country's most experienced state rural health offices
- UND Center of Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
- Home to seven national programs
- Recipient of the UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Research

Focus on

- Educating and Informing
- Policy
- Research and Evaluation
- Working with Communities
- American Indians
- Health Workforce
- Hospitals and Facilities



Center for Rural Health is focused on “connecting resources and knowledge to strengthen the health of people in rural communities.”

Center for Rural Health approaches the community through a health entity – hospital, public health, nursing home, clinic, EMS, and sometimes economic development.

Center for Rural Health places emphasis on building rural community capacity, community centered decision making, collaboration, and community engagement.

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Rural Community Strengths and Weaknesses

- **Strengths**
 - Strong sense of pride
 - Strong informal support networks
 - Cohesive
 - Collaborative
 - Interdependence
 - Fundraising
- **Weaknesses**
 - Skewed population demographics
 - Fluctuating economy
 - Resistance to change
 - Skills to deal with and plan for change
 - Limited resources
 - Over-extended volunteers and staff

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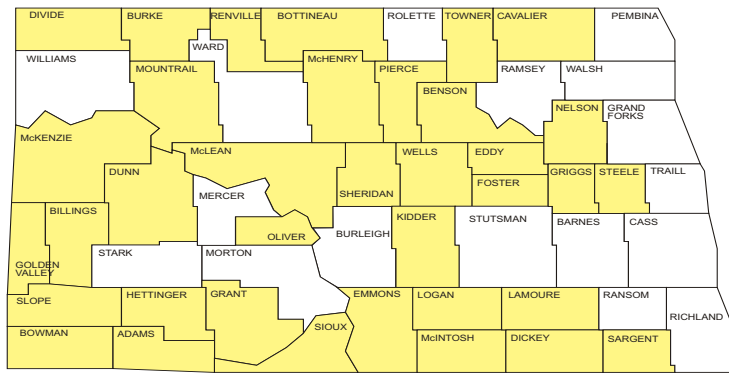


The 35,000 Foot Look: Challenges Facing Rural Communities

- The “Too Much Mistake”– Professor Elwyn B. Robinson
- Silo Effect – community attitude and sense of self –isolation, defensive nature, narrow definition of “community”
- Prisoner to our demographics and our economics – “it is the way things are” – agrarian fatalism – change - risk aversion
- Need to build capacity – Attitude as much as skills – independence over dependency



North Dakota Frontier Counties



36 of 53 North Dakota Counties designated as Frontier* (less than 6 persons per square mile) Based on 2016 Population Estimates



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Contact us for more information

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