



Annual Report
Todd County Development Cooperation

2025

Reflecting on a Year of Transition and Looking Ahead

To the Partner Sponsors, Business and Community Partners, and Clients of the Todd County Development Corporation,

I want to take a moment to thank you for welcoming me into the role of Executive Director. Through your financial support and partnership, you help us continue our mission to sustain and promote diverse economic development through education, training, and technical assistance that improves the quality of life in Todd County.

Transition was the defining word for TCDC in 2025. In August, Rick Utech came out of retirement to serve as Interim Executive Director, working part-time to once again oversee the organization to which he dedicated so many years. I stepped into the Executive Director role in November and have been busy learning, meeting community partners, and settling into this new position. Rick returned to retirement at the end of November, and the TCDC Board of Directors and I would like to extend our sincere thanks for his leadership and support during the search for a new Executive Director.

I have spent my career working in nonprofit organizations, most recently with Lakes and Prairie United Way, where I gained valuable experience connecting people with resources. This made the transition into this role feel like a natural fit. Todd County is also very similar to the place where I grew up—filled with small communities where people know one another. There is something special about smaller communities, and I'm excited to serve as a resource and support for the businesses and communities of Todd County.

As we look to the future, the Board of Directors and I will be working with a facilitator to refine the mission, vision, and values of the Todd County Development Corporation and develop a strategic plan. This plan will guide our work with community stakeholders, investors, business owners, and residents as we continue working to make Todd County a great place to live, work, and do business.

Economic development is truly a team effort, and the progress we make is possible because of your collaboration and commitment. Thank you for your continued support of TCDC and for investing in the growth, resilience, and vitality of Todd County.

Sincerely,
Leah Wolkow
Executive Director

Who We Are

The Todd County Development Corporation is overseen by a seven person voting Board of Directors, two Ex-Officio County Commissioners and employs a full-time Executive Director.



From Left: Lew Noska, Bob Byers, Doug Schmidt, Daryl Brever, Larry Dickinson, Victor Carlson, Allison Frederickson, and Jim Lunemann



Staff:

- Leah Wolkow
Executive Director

Board of Directors:

- Jim Lunemann - **Chairman, District 5**
- Allison Frederickson - **Vice Chair, At large**
- Doug Schmidt - **Treasurer, District 3**
- Larry Dickinson - **Secretary, District 2**
- Victor Carlson - **Director, District 4**
- Daryl Brever - **Director, At large**
- VACANT POSITION - **Director, District 1**
- Bob Byers - **County Commissioner, non-voting**
- Lew Noska - **County Commissioner, non-voting**

What We Do

- Revolving Loan Fund
- Business Consulting
- Site Selection Services
- Marketing to attract new business
- Business & Community Advocacy
- Educational Opportunities
- Share Networking Opportunities
- Partner on Community Improvement Projects
- Grant Writing

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2025 Highlights and Activities

ECP Expansion
Revolving Loan Funds lent to 2 retail businesses
SBDC Consulting
Business Retention and Expansion Visits
Housing & Child Care project collaboration
Assistance with Grant Writing
Retainment of Board of Directors
Website redesign as part of Golden Shovel Service
Successful hire of new Executive Director
Transition to a new payroll processing system

Meetings/Conferences

Todd County Broadband Coalition	EDO Pros
Todd County Department Head Meetings	Long Prairie EDA
Long Prairie Growth Fund	Staples EDA
Central MN Housing Partnership	Chamber events/meetings
Brownfields Conference	City Council
KEP Conference	LEAP
EDAM Conference	

Mission: To sustain and promote diverse economic and community development through education, training and technical assistance that improves the quality of life in Todd County.	Vision: Todd County will enjoy a vibrant business environment, experiencing sustained growth in broadband technology, technology-based business, employment above state averages with quality jobs available for all ages in the work force while fostering a high quality of life.	Values: To work with honesty; integrity; open and regular communication; respect differences; expect accountability; monitor results; learn from mistakes; maintain confidentiality; speak with one positive voice; expect full board participation; think regionally.
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Thank You to our 2025 Partner Sponsors!

Sustaining Partner



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Diamond Partners



Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Bronze Partners



Individual/In-Kind Partners





- www.toddcountydevelopment.com
- Facebook and LinkedIn
- leah.wolkow@co.todd.mn.us
- Phone: 320-732-2128
- 347 Central Ave, PO Box 247
Long Prairie, MN 56347