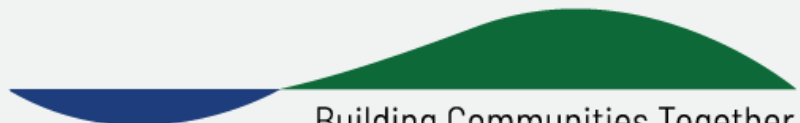




**2022**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**TODD COUNTY**  
**DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**



Building Communities Together

[www.toddcountydevelopment.org](http://www.toddcountydevelopment.org)



[rick.utech@co.todd.mn.us](mailto:rick.utech@co.todd.mn.us)



## ***Building Communities Together***

Todd County Development Corporation celebrates 33 years of economic and community development service this year. Back in 2010, community and regional leaders gathered to re-organize and re-energize TCDC under a new Board of Directors'. Since then, several significant projects have been accomplished that helped our area develop and succeed. Our organization is proud to serve as the economic development arm of Todd County and will continue our goal of "Building Communities Together".

Navigating through the COVID 19 pandemic became a definitive test for our citizens, communities and businesses. We confronted new challenges and opportunities that impacted our everyday decisions and shaped our direction moving forward.

TCDC remains committed to providing technical and financial assistance for our local businesses, future entrepreneurs and organizations. As a key component of this, we understand the significance of child care, housing and broadband development. These important areas of need, influence decisions and necessitate our undivided attention. All three impact our success on how we move forward as communities, businesses and as a region. We face various challenges, although taking advantage of our available opportunities will help us succeed.

TCDC continually explores the way we deliver our services by maintaining our core principles and being responsive to our surroundings. Our mission to promote and sustain diverse economic and community development through education, training and technical assistance that improves the quality of life for the citizens of Todd County, defines who we are as an organization.

On behalf of our organization we thank you for your support, leadership and guidance. Sincerely,



Jim Lunemann, TCDC Board Chair



Rick Utech, TCDC Executive Director





### **Todd County Child Care Development**

Community need for child care is increasing as our workforce transitions back to work after COVID 19. We continue searching for solutions through assistance from the Initiative Foundation, First Children's Finance and area organizations.

A partnership was developed with Long Prairie Growth, a fellow 501c3 non-profit and community stakeholders to explore ways to find solutions for child care in Long Prairie.

Preliminary operating projections, provided by First Children's Finance, exhibited the need for public and private sector financial participation.

Stakeholder meetings were held to explore renovation of an existing site or constructing a new facility. Initial drawings and cost estimates were developed with grant assistance from the Initiative Foundation. Results revealed that the cost to renovate an existing building were equal or more than new construction of a child care facility.

In December, consideration expanded to pod facilities, where private providers lease space in a facility to operate their child care business. Information from area communities is being researched on development and operation cost for this option.

### **Todd County Broadband**

Recent Todd County Broadband development projects have included high-speed fiber broadband service in the City of Long Prairie, Moran Township and Swanville area. TCDC committed economic resources, assisting Consolidated Telecommunications Company (CTC) to construct a redundancy fiber line from Long Prairie, through Browerville and into the Cole Lake area insuring a continuous fiber loop of service for businesses.

Recently, technical assistance has been provided to the Todd County Broadband Coalition (TCBC), who received funding from Todd County to conduct a broadband survey and identify areas of need.

In late 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) awarded \$311 million dollars through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) for projects in Minnesota. A portion of those dollars were awarded in Todd County to Star Link and LTD Broadband. However, no progress was made by either providers and their awards were revoked in August of 2022. New state and federal dollars are now becoming available to area providers for developing high-speed broadband infrastructure throughout Todd County.

### **Todd County Development Corporation (TCDC) Website**

In 2016, TCDC partnered with the Golden Shovel Agency to develop and maintain our comprehensive county-wide economic development website. The agreement includes a re-design every five years, monthly gatekeeper assistance and a professional writer who publishes 12 business related articles each year.

The monthly gatekeeper service assists with content information, updates and digital market trends. Please check out our website at:  
[www.toddcountydevelopment.org](http://www.toddcountydevelopment.org) .

### **Manufacturing Month in Minnesota**

TCDC promotes "Manufacturing Month in Minnesota" and participates with the Long Prairie and Staples Economic Development Authorities to host local, state and federal speakers. TCDC partnered with the Staples Economic Development Authority and the Economic Alliance of Wadena County to host a Manufacturers Breakfast on October 13th at the Timbers Event Center in Staples. On October 18th, TCDC partnered with the Long Prairie Economic Development Authority to host a Manufacturers Breakfast forum at the Long Prairie Country Club.





## Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Todd County Development Corporation (TCDC), hosts a Minnesota Small Business Development Center Outreach Office. Our organization partners with the North Central Small Business Development Center (NCSBDC), located at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, to provide “free” business technical services. Over the past 10 years, our outreach office has provided more than 1470 hours of professional technical assistance to more than 200 businesses and organizations in the Todd County area.

The TCDC Small Business Development Center Outreach Office and NCSBDC provides:

- Business Plan development and feasibility analysis.
- Start-up assistance for pre-venture businesses.
- Access to capital and loan packaging.
- Cash flow management and financial analysis.
- Marketing development and research.
- Succession planning (retirement/buying or selling a business).
- Business operations and turn-around assistance for struggling businesses.
- Social media/eCommerce/website assistance.



2022 MN SBDC Knowledge Exchange Program Conference, Central Lakes College, Brainerd



## **TODD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

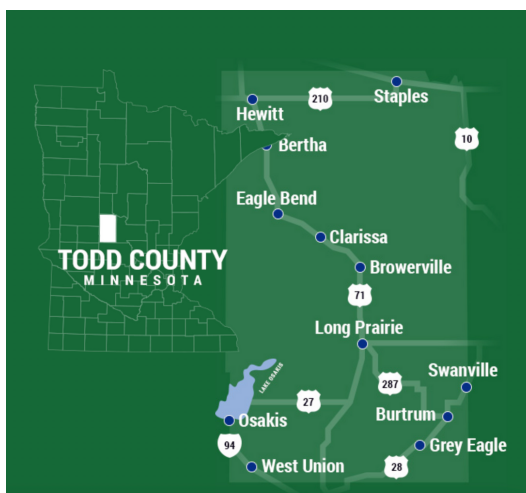
### **“Building Communities Together”**

#### ***Mission Statement***

***Sustain and Promote diverse economic development through education, training, and technical assistance that improves the quality of life in Todd County.***

Todd County Development Corporation (TCDC) is a county-wide, 501(c)(3) non-profit economic and community development organization that encourages growth from within. TCDC operates a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Outreach Office and provides free education, training and technical assistance to entrepreneurs, businesses and organizations. TCDC additionally provides site selection assistance and administers a revolving loan fund to financially assist business development projects in Todd County.

<b>KEY MEASURES</b>	<b>2022 Annual Target</b>	<b>2022 Achieved</b>
Grants written / assisted & dollars	2 Grants	3 Grants/\$500,000
Jobs Created/ Retained (FT)	25	27 Created/Ret.
Facilitated Community projects	2	2 Facilitated
Partner Sponsorship Dollars	\$20,000	\$21,000
SBDC (Invoiced hours) / Non-SBDC	125 Hours	135.5/106 Hours
Business Retention and Expansion	20 BR&E visits	21 BR&E visits
Projects financed with TCDC RLF / assistance	\$300,000	\$2,429,839



***Todd County Development Corporation is a 501c3 non-profit organization and an equal opportunity provider and employer.***

## **2022 PARTNER SPONSORS**

### **Sustaining Partner Sponsor**

Todd County

### **Platinum Partner Sponsor**

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

### **Diamond Partner Sponsors**

Long Prairie Economic Development Authority  
Minnesota Power

### **Gold Partner Sponsors**

Staples Economic Development Authority  
Central Bi-Products/Farmers Union Industries  
Lakewood Health System  
Long Prairie Packing/ American Food Group

### **Silver Partner Sponsors**

American Heritage National Bank  
Minnesota National Bank  
1st International Bank and Trust

### **Grant Funding Partner**

Initiative Foundation

### **Annual Dinner Sponsor**

Dan's Prize

### **In-Kind Partner Sponsors**

City of Browerville  
City of Long Prairie  
City of Staples  
Todd County

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320-732-2128



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WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

**Todd County**

MINNESOTA • EST. 1855



**Todd-Wadena**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



BETTER FEED MAKES BETTER FOOD



## **Regional/State/Federal Partners**



Committed to the future of rural communities.



U.S. Small Business  
Administration