

The North Central Economic Development Association (NCEDA)

Is a 501c3 affiliate organization of the Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) and was established in 1986 by R5DC in part due to the receipt of a U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration grant.

The work of NCEDA is governed by a 16 member private sector group to manage specific programs and to advise the Commission on lending industry standards and best lending practices for our **4 lending programs (gap business loans, microloans, septic system loans and well water loans)**.

The Gap loans were initially funded by a US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration in the early 1980's and provides gap lending for new and expanding businesses.

The Micro-enterprise fund was supported by USDA Rural Development and start up funds from Otto Bremer Foundation, the Initiative Foundation and the Blandin Foundation in 2012.

Region Five administer two additional s a loan pools; 1)for Individual Septic Treatment Systems funded through the Department of Agriculture and 2) a pool for household water wells funded by USDA Rural Development. NCEDA administers the review process for all applications for these funds. R5DC write and received grants and conduct all loan administration.

NCEDA has an interdependent relation with R5DC and contracts all accounting and professional services to R5DC staff. This mutually beneficial arrangement is mandated by program agreements and has proved beneficial for 30 years.

The 15 member NCEDA Full Corporation is comprised of 3 private sector representatives (lenders, attorneys, CPA's, business owners) from each of the five counties served; Crow Wing, Cass, Morrison, Todd and Wadena.

The mission of North Central Economic Development Association is to provide industry expertise for programs offered or created by the Region Five Development Commission.

The relationship between R5DC and NCEDA supports a effective public/private partnership with direct loan approval being made by the NCEDA loan board who is comprised of private sector industry professionals (CPA's, Attorneys, Bakers, Economic Dev. Practitioners) AND one representative from the R5DC publically elected policy board.

Important to note that the R5DC representative to the NCEDA loan board serves in an Ex-officio liaison status with the sole purpose to maintain the integrity of the EDA/RLF funds. R5DC has ultimate authority to preserve the integrity of the RLF lending funds.

The R5DC reviews NCEDA financials monthly and a narrative report is submitted by staff to the Commission for thorough review of the status of the EDA gap RLF funds. With the exception of making the final lending decisions, R5DC does exhibit extensive oversight of NCEDA.

The EDA grants initially awarded for the creation of the RLF gap loans was awarded to R5DC. The elected officials of the R5DC wisely established NCEDA recognizing that they lack the qualifications to make loan decisions and depend upon the accredited group of lending professionals to make informed lending investments.

NCEDA is solely staffed by the R5DC employees, who are all employees of a local unit of government, established by Minnesota State statute. The R5DC Executive Director serves as the Executive Director of both the R5DC and NCEDA. Thus, the balance of the private sector industry professional and public sector staff and oversight is maintained.

Extremely important to note: the R5DC/NCEDA gap lending operation is one of the highest performing RLF's in the state of Minnesota (historically and currently, see attached record).

The Region Five Development Commission (R5DC)

Regional Development Commissions were organized in 1973 through the MN State Legislature Regional Development Act of 1969, in order to “ensure the orderly and harmonious coordination of state, federal, and local comprehensive planning and development programs for the solution of economic, social, physical and environmental problems of the state and its citizens.”

The work of the Commission is guided by a governing commission that consists of 23 members representing a cross-section of constituents from around the region. The Commission is comprised of elected officials from townships, cities, counties, school boards, and public interest groups per statute 462.388.

- 5 County Commissioners (1 from each County)
- 5 Municipal Representatives from cities under 10,000 (1 from each County)
- 1 Municipal Representative from cities over 10,000
- 5 Township Board Members (1 from each County)
- 2 School Board Members
- 1 Council of Governments Representative
- 1 Representative from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- 1 Representative from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- 1 Soil and Water Conservation District Representative
- 1 Camp Ripley Military Representative

Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) were organized by local elected officials as authorized by the Minnesota Regional Development Act of 1969 (MS Sections 462.381 to 462.398). The Act defines the boundaries, membership, operating principals and the specific duties and powers of a RDC. There are nine Regional Development Commissions in Minnesota covering 63 counties.

The mission of Region Five Development Commission is to enhance the vitality and quality of life in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties.

NCEDA/R5DC Vision Statement

Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) and North Central Economic Development Association (NCEDA), the non-profit, 501c3 arm of the Commission, are critical contributors to the success of the region. We bring a combination of passion, commitment, leadership and skill to each opportunity, a combination that is unmatched by any other organization. Entrepreneurs will receive assistance for viable projects that otherwise may not go forward.

Purpose

Region Five Development Commission and the North Central Economic Development Association address regional critical issues without duplicating private, public and non-profit entities. We want to know "what's keep you up at night" and address those issues. This results partnering and collaborating with other organizations, businesses, non-profits, and local units of government.

Services

The R5DC/NCEDA staff consists of 7 full time employees, two part time positions & typically 1-2 interns and an Americorp VISTA.

R5DC provides technical assistance in a variety of forms to the local units of government, nonprofits, and citizens in our area, partnering with numerous state and federal agencies, obtaining and administering grants for projects aimed at the local level and are recognized for their fiscal responsibility and capabilities in professional program management.

The R5DC program areas include Economic Development, Transportation, Community Development, Energy and Local Foods. One R5DC prominent current emphasis is devoted to the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning effort; "The Resilient Region Plan", found at www.resilientregion.org.

Currently Region Five is the recipient of various federal, state and local grants. Annually Region Five administers a Federal EDA planning grant.

Region Five is currently engaged in numerous contracts with other organizations, foundations and companies. Annually Region Five contracts with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for regional planning assistance.

R5DC maintains strong relations with elected officials at local, state and federal levels.

Finance record and documentation capacity

As a taxing authority Region Five receives levy dollars and reports these funds accordingly.

Region Five Development Commission receives an in-depth annual audit from a CPA firm and complies to a set of comprehensive operations policies. Furthermore, Region Five receives a quarterly review of finance office operations/practices from a third-party CPA firm to assist in identification of any corrections needed, compliance of policies and finance office staff educational needs.

Region Five is skilled and proficient in the area of contract, grant and loan administration in addition to managing the reporting requirements for said programs and utilizes Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains – GP, CRM for contact management AND Grants Management Solutions – GMS software