



# NORTH CENTRAL REGION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION IMPACT REPORT 2025



**NORTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY**



# NORTH DAKOTA

NDSU

EXTENSION

Location: Fargo, ND  
<https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension>



 **\$593**  
THOUSAND

**GRANTS & RESOURCES**  
generated by communities

**999** 

Participants completed  
**SKILL DEVELOPMENT**  
**TRAINING**

**\$1.35** MILLION

**GRANTS & RESOURCES**  
received by  
CD programs 

## IMPACT INDICATORS

Educational Contacts	2,598
Number of community or organizational plans/policies developed	19
Number of community or organizational plans/policies adopted or implemented	19
Number of volunteer hours for community generated work	27
Dollar value of organization and/or community-generated volunteer hours based on Independent Sector hr value	\$939
Dollar value of grants and resources leveraged/generated by communities	\$592,588
Number of participants completing skill development training programs offered through Community Development Extension	999
Dollar value of grants and other resources received by Community Development programs	\$1,346,568
Number of Community Development full-time equivalents (FTEs) — i.e., FTEs funded by Extension specifically for Community Development Extension programming.	3.0

## IMPACT STATEMENTS

### ■ Aging in Community Facilitated Stakeholder Meetings

[NDSU Extension's Aging in Community](#) stakeholder meetings are strengthening the capacity of North Dakota communities to support older adults through locally driven, collaborative solutions. As the program expands statewide, these facilitated meetings bring together diverse stakeholders — including public health, local leaders, service providers, and residents — to identify priority needs and align community resources. In rural areas where older adults face increased risks of isolation, limited transportation, and barriers to health care access, this coordinated approach is critical to improving quality of life and enabling individuals to age safely and independently in their communities.

Through structured facilitation, communities are not only identifying their most pressing needs but also mobilizing action. In participating counties, stakeholders have prioritized key areas such as socialization, volunteer engagement, care coordination, and transportation. These discussions have led to the formation of local steering committees, development of program coordinator positions, and identification of physical spaces to support programming — demonstrating a clear transition from conversation to implementation.

The impact extends beyond immediate program development. These meetings build local ownership, strengthen cross-sector partnerships, and increase community readiness to address aging-related challenges.

### ■ Community Workforce Development: Integrating Precision Agriculture into Secondary Education

NDSU Extension is strengthening North Dakota's community workforce by aligning education, industry, and local needs through Community Workforce Partnership meetings and targeted training in Precision Agriculture. By convening educators, industry representatives, and workforce professionals statewide, Extension ensured workforce development efforts reflect real-world demands. These collaborations identified a critical need to expand AgTech education, access to equipment, and career and technical education opportunities — laying the foundation for a more skilled, future-ready workforce.

In response, Extension implemented a credit-bearing teacher training program focused on integrating Precision Agriculture into secondary education. This approach builds workforce capacity at its source — equipping educators with the skills, tools, and confidence to prepare students for high-demand careers in agricultural technology. The program's emphasis on hands-on, industry-connected



One of the Aging in Community Steering Committees formed in a county that participated in the NDSU Extension program.

Early feedback highlights strong community demand and perceived value, with stakeholders noting the program's potential to improve service navigation, reduce isolation, and enhance overall well-being.

By fostering collaboration and empowering communities to design solutions that reflect local needs, Aging in Community is creating more connected, resilient systems of support — ensuring older North Dakotans can remain engaged, supported, and thriving in the places they call home.

learning ensures students gain relevant, applied skills aligned with employer needs.

The impact is immediate and scalable. Teacher understanding of Precision Agriculture increased from 27% to 73%, and confidence in teaching the content rose from 18% to 73%. Within three months, 100% of participants implemented Precision Ag lessons in their classrooms and contributed additional lessons, expanding shared curriculum resources statewide. These outcomes demonstrate rapid adoption and readiness to grow AgTech instruction across North Dakota schools.

By strengthening educator capacity and embedding workforce-relevant skills into classrooms, NDSU Extension is building a sustainable talent pipeline. This work positions North Dakota as a leader in AgTech innovation — attracting investment, supporting industry growth, and creating long-term career opportunities in rural communities.