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Region Nine Development Commission

Your Regional Partner For Progress

Annual Report 2003

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region nine
development commission

Your Regional Partner For Progress

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December 2003

Honorable Commissioners, Public Elected Officials, Citizens of Region Nine and Partners:

On behalf of the Region Nine Development Commission, we respectfully submit the Region Nine Development Commission's 2003 Annual Report. It has been a year of challenges and successes. This report is intended to convey stories of success, facts of progress and a financial overview of Region Nine during the past year.

Region Nine takes great pride in working with and on behalf of the nine counties, 72 cities and 147 townships throughout the region. Since 1972, being a partner for progress has led to the development of programs and identification of solutions in areas of aging, economic development, healthy communities, small business development, transportation, community development and leveraging regional resources.

During the past 12 months, the region has been challenged by the impacts of a \$4.3 billion state budget deficit, cutbacks at the federal level, lagging economy, national and regional demographical shifts and funding reductions at the local level.

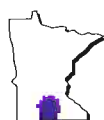
To overcome these funding challenges, Region Nine, local jurisdictions and organizations across sectors are seeking ways to work more collaboratively, innovatively and efficiently.

We are very pleased with the work completed by the Region Nine Development Commission in the year 2003. Without the hard work and commitment of Region Nine Commissioners, citizens, staff, partners and volunteers, such progress would not have been possible. The success stories and progress outlined in this report lend a hand to ensuring citizens are able to experience, participate in and enjoy a high quality of life in south central Minnesota.

Respectfully yours,

James Stangler
Chair (Year 2003)

Reginald M. Edwards
Executive Director



“Region Nine helps local units of government with numerous regional needs including transportation and economic development. They also provide a unified voice for local governments and the people of the region when it comes to legislation.”

— Leo Bauer,
Association of Minnesota
Counties District 7
Board of Directors
and Sibley County Commissioner

“Region Nine makes it possible for many rural communities—particularly smaller counties, cities and townships with limited resources—to plan and develop in ways they might not otherwise be able to afford.”

— U.S. Representative
Gil Gutknecht

“Through the coordinated regional efforts of Region Nine, the legislature receives grassroots feedback on many issues that are important to local units of government and citizens. Region Nine is a vital resource in setting sound policy.”

— Senator John Hottinger
District 23

Who are we?

- 42 leaders from across the region serve on the Commission.
- 34 elected officials representing nine counties, 72 cities, 147 townships, school districts and soil and water conservation districts.
- Eight representatives of special interest groups include: agriculture, commerce, crime prevention, environmental quality, health and human welfare, minority populations, tourism and recreation and transportation. The Minnesota Valley Council of Governments is also represented.

Where do we serve?

- Region Nine is comprised of nine south central Minnesota county areas including: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan. Their combined population is 222,790 of the state’s 4,919,479 people according to the 2000 Census. Fairmont, North Mankato, New Ulm and Mankato are the four largest cities.

A history of progress

The Region Nine Development Commission was authorized by the Regional Development Act of 1969, and was organized by local officials in 1972. The purpose of regional development commissions “is to work with and on behalf of local units of government to develop plans or implement programs to address economic, social, physical and governmental concerns of each region of the state.”

According to state statutes,

“The legislature finds that problems of growth and development transcend the boundary lines of local government units and not a single unit can plan for their solution without affecting other units in the region; and assistance is needed to make the most effective uses of local, state, federal and private programs in serving the citizens of urban and rural regions.”

Our Mission

The mission of the Region Nine Development Commission is to promote the development of the region through intergovernmental cooperation, community and human development, long-range planning and technical assistance.

Our Value Statements

Vision/Goals

We will maintain a future-oriented perspective that helps to facilitate decisions which result in healthier and more prosperous communities that are better equipped to move forward into the future.

Accountability

We are accountable to the public, our funding agencies and to each other for the quality of our work, promoting development of the region and being fiscally responsible.

Professionalism

We promote, encourage and provide opportunities for development, leadership and mentoring at all levels of participation within the organization. We expect professionalism to be demonstrated by our behavior, conduct and loyalty.

Communications

We value timely, open and honest communication to enhance organization effectiveness.

Adaptability

We embrace change and celebrate new challenges, are able to identify problems, look at the options and evaluate the consequences with a sense of purpose and future.

Diversity

We value and respect the diversity of the region and of our organization.

Teamwork

We support teamwork across the organization, lending knowledge and skill as needed to be successful and efficient.

“The expertise of the Region Nine Area Agency on Aging is critical to the success of programs for Minnesota’s aging population and their families.”

— U.S. Senator
Mark Dayton

“Region Nine’s 42 Commission members are concerned citizens from local units of government who work with small and large communities on important issues that impact their region. They are a valuable resource for legislators.”

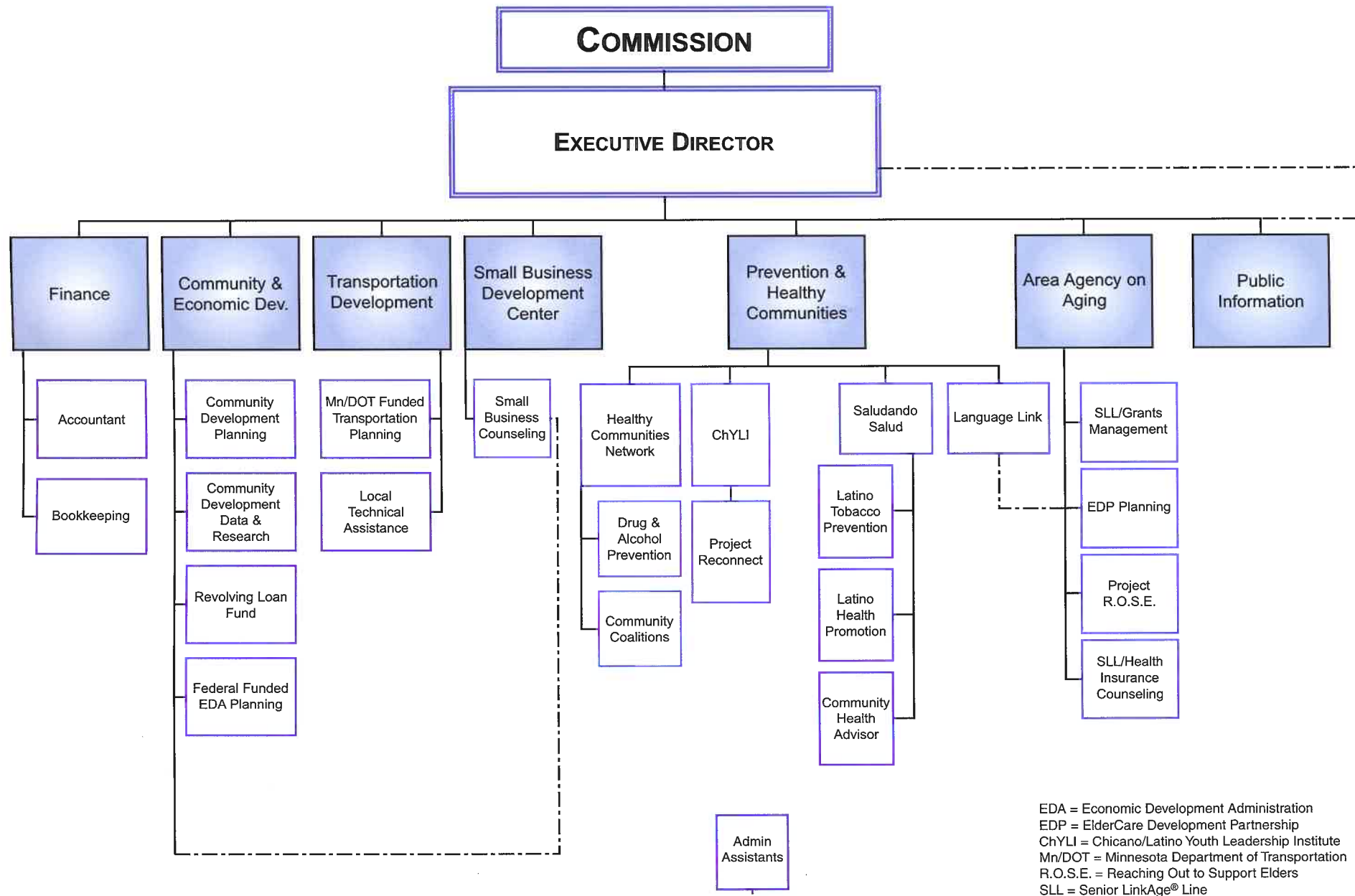
— Rep. Bob Gunther
District 24A

“The Region Nine Development Commission has been very proactive in offering technical assistance to local governments. This technical assistance has been vital as local governments continue to struggle with limited resources.”

— Sandy Hooker,
Medo Township Supervisor and
Chair of the Blue Earth County
Township Association

Region Nine Development Commission

Organization Chart



EDA = Economic Development Administration
 EDP = ElderCare Development Partnership
 ChYLI = Chicano/Latino Youth Leadership Institute
 Mn/DOT = Minnesota Department of Transportation
 R.O.S.E. = Reaching Out to Support Elders
 SLL = Senior LinkAge® Line

Region Nine Development Commission Members

Blue Earth County

Beal, Jim - Cities under 10,000
Bruender, Kip - County Commissioner
Kagermeier, Jeff - Mayor, City of Mankato*
More, Alvis - Agriculture
Phelps, Ray - Township Board*

Brown County

Berg, Jim - County Commissioner
Broich, Jim (Vice Chair) - Cities under 10,000*
Hanson, Jim - Agriculture**
Juni, Frederick - Township Board*
Webster, Ruth Ann - New Ulm City Council

Faribault County

Anderson, Larry K. - Commerce
Loveall, Tom - County Commissioner
Nelson, Dennis - Township Board
Oldfather, Roger (Secretary) - Cities under 10,000*
Olson, Darwin - School Board

Le Sueur County

Dietz, Alvin - Environmental Quality
Holicky, Janet - MN Valley Council of Governments
McGuire, Mick - Cities under 10,000
Smith, Jr., Pat W. - Crime Prevention
Stangler, Bill - County Commissioner
Stangler, James (Chair) - Township Board*

Martin County

Gorath, Harlan - Fairmont City Council
Hanson, Kenneth - Township Board
Roesler, Bob - Cities under 10,000*
Schmidtke, Dan - County Commissioner

Nicollet County

Gonzalez, Francisco - Minority Populations
Hawbaker, Jerry - Cities under 10,000
Prosch, John - Township Board
Sieberg, Lowell - Mayor, North Mankato*
Stenson, James - County Commissioner

Sibley County

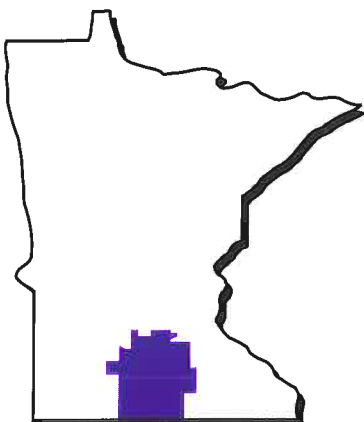
Bauer, Leo - County Commissioner*
Kaufmann, Norbert - Township Board
Pautsch, Brenda - Cities under 10,000
Steckman, Patricia - Tourism & Recreation

Waseca County

Armstrong, Wendell - County Commissioner
Brandenburg, Eldo (Treasurer) - Township Board*
Christiansen, Mark - Cities under 10,000
Fitzsimmons, Jack - Transportation

Watonwan County

Fenske, Candace - Health & Human Welfare
Firchau, Dennis - Cities under 10,000
Froslan, Janet - Township Board*
Krenz, Dwayne - County Commissioner
Martin, Lynette - School Board



*Board of Directors

**Commission member replaced since July 2003

PROGRESS

- Total Congregate Meals served 192,882
- Total Home Delivered Meals served 83,130
- Clients assisted with Medicare issues and questions 2,392
- Average monthly savings due to resolved insurance issues \$11,397
- Families provided with caregiver support/respite 275
- Respite volunteers trained 227

"Without this service I wouldn't eat like I should. Food is a big thing and so is the price. I aim to eat everything they send. I'm full and very happy with the quality of the meal."

— Helen Roe

For Helen Roe the home delivered meal service in Winnebago is a very important lifeline. She's familiar with the service as a former meal delivery volunteer with her husband and now as a regular recipient of the meals. Helen appreciates the service that allows her to stay in her hometown of Winnebago. She's lived there all her life and in her cozy apartment for 26 years.

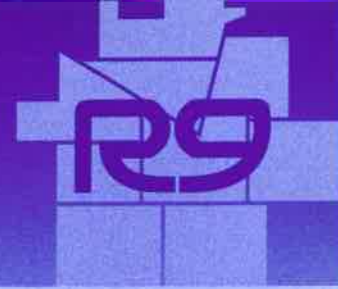


"I'm 90 and proud of it," Helen said with a big smile. She's been a widow for 14 years, but decided this year to take advantage of the home delivered meal service. "Until recently I cooked things," Helen said. "But now I am going to use the service and eat a balanced and hot, cooked meal."

The home delivered meal service is operated by Nutrition Services, Inc. which subcontracts with Parker Oaks Retirement Community to cook and provide meals in Winnebago. Local churches volunteer to deliver meals every Monday through Friday. Eligible recipients contribute whatever they can afford to pay.

Helen is fortunate to have her family nearby, but for people who don't have family, the meal delivery service encourages them to eat healthy and also provides regular contact with other people. "It's nice to see someone everyday," Helen said. "I would certainly recommend the service to anyone."

Home delivered meals in Winnebago are made possible, in part, under the Federal Older Americans Act through a contract between Nutrition Services, Inc., and the Region Nine Development Commission/Area Agency on Aging as part of an Area Plan approved by the Minnesota Board on Aging.



Community volunteers helped with the sidewalk at the Sherburn City Park.

The city of Sherburn worked closely with Region Nine's Community Development program to create a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). A CIP is a five-year blueprint for creating and guiding major capital expenditures for the future. Each expense in the CIP represents a unique need in the next five years.

Capital improvement projects are the "bricks and mortar" of the city. Some of the things that fall under capital improvements include: streets, water, wastewater, equipment, buildings, parks and major, one-time acquisitions.

In addition to guiding expenditures, the CIP is also an important communications tool. It gives residents and businesses a clear and concrete view of the city's long-term direction for capital improvements and an understanding of the city's ongoing needs for stable revenue sources to fund large, multi-year capital projects. Projects in the CIP generally cost more than \$5,000 and have a minimum life span of five years.

One of the recommendations in the report to Sherburn is that the CIP should be updated annually. In doing so, the CIP becomes a continuous fiscal planning tool and provides a planning foundation for Sherburn's future needs. Financial planning considerations help city staff identify projects that should be included in the annual CIP and how those projects will be integrated into the city's annual budgeting process.

PROGRESS

Other Community Development projects:

- Hazard Mitigation Planning Blue Earth, LeSueur and Sibley counties (#1 FEMA DR 1370 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)

Brown, Faribault, Martin, Nicollet, Waseca and Watonwan counties (#2 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant)

- City of LeCenter
Planning Consultant
Zoning Ordinance
Subdivision Ordinance
Right-of-way Management Ordinance
- Montgomery Housing Study
- Springfield Community Attitude Study
- Waseca County Comprehensive Plan

"The process was valuable to us. Region Nine helped us work together and keep us focused on our priorities. It was beneficial for us to have the local staff at Region Nine help our mayor and city council identify our priorities and not get bogged down with the details."

— Bob Roesler,
Sherburn City Council

PROGRESS

The Region Nine Development Commission, as the designated Economic Development District for the nine county area, prepared the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Its approval maintains eligibility to receive continued financial assistance from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

The CEDS helps create jobs, foster stable and diversified economies and enhance quality of life. It coordinates the efforts of individuals, organizations, local governments and private industry concerned with economic development. The CEDS provides a positive impact in numerous ways for:

- leveraging financial capital
- expanding uses for revolving loan funds
- value-added agriculture and new agriculture
- providing a solid infrastructure

Region Nine administers five revolving loan funds including: Nine-County, Six-County, Tornado, Microenterprise and Rural Outbuilding.

- In 2003, approved 12 loans to different businesses; \$908,333 was committed and 119 jobs created and or retained.

“Region Nine’s Economic Development program is a valuable part of the economic development efforts in the region.”

*– Russ Wille, City of St. Peter
Community Development Director*

Vern and Helen Olson started Rolco, Inc. in 1980 as a venture into manufacturing small plastic components. Vern was then a 40-year-old sales representative in the packaging business, and envisioned he and his wife could produce plastic injection molded components as a way to stay financially independent in retirement. Rolco started with a single molding machine, operated out of the Olson’s home.

Twenty years later, Rolco has 85 employees, working three shifts a day, and the Olsons are far too busy to retire. Rolco now operates as a custom injection molding company with a niche specialty known as “multishot” molding. The company has a single 27,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Kasota and operates 24 injection-molding machines.

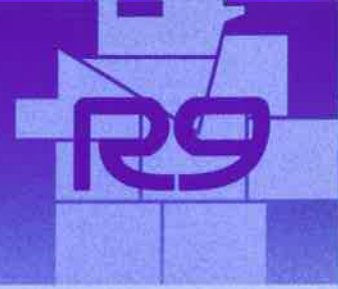


Rolco employees were part of the groundbreaking ceremony for the business expansion.

When Rolco planned an expansion to its building and operation, Helen worked through the logistics with assistance from Minnesota Technology. Region Nine was brought to the table to make Rolco aware of Region Nine’s desire to work on the project.

“First of all, the loan from Region Nine (Revolving Loan Fund) as well as loans from other public funding sources, helped Rolco put together the complete financial package that was acceptable by our bank and affordable to the company,” said Helen Olson. “Secondly, the loan from Region Nine, specifically, was applied to the purchase of equipment needed to facilitate the efficient operation of an expanded organization.”

In 2003, the Olsons won a Minnesota Entrepreneurial Champion Award. The award is based upon their demonstrated business uniqueness, innovation and understanding of the critical relationship between entrepreneurial success and community support.



Bright yellow stickers with a powerful message brought youth advocates and community leaders together to create a “Sticker Shock” campaign in the region. The stickers carried the message, “It’s not your call! It’s the law! It’s illegal to buy or provide alcohol to anyone under 21.” The stickers were placed on cases of beer in liquor stores as one last barrier and as a reminder to adults.

Sticker Shock was modeled after KIDco of Erie, PA. Region Nine Prevention and Healthy Communities Network sponsored a contest for students in the region to create the sticker. The drawing by Zach Brooks of Mankato was selected from more than 60 entries.

The project’s goal was to reduce underage drinking by raising community awareness that it is illegal for adults to sell or provide alcohol to anyone under 21. The project was funded by a mini-grant from Minnesota Join Together.

“Sticker Shock was valuable in many ways,” said Carolyn Smith, Coordinator, United South Central: One Healthy Community. “It was a reminder to youth about the law. If they ask an adult to buy beer for them, the adult is breaking the law. The youth also learned to take a stand for what they believe in, and that’s important.”

Carolyn said they were very happy with the cooperation from local businesses. “One manager asked for extra stickers to put on the next shipment of beer. It’s nice to feel like we are on the same side.”



United South Central students participated in the Sticker Shock campaign.

PROGRESS

- The Network consists of 13 anti-drug coalitions representing 42 communities across the region. Each coalition works with numerous volunteers to help identify and address local needs.
- The Network was nationally recognized as one of 19 sites selected from 102 applicants to participate in the Pew Partnership for Civic Change: Wanted Solutions For America. This national initiative focused on project evaluation. The results were then disseminated as solutions for building stronger communities.
- On Applebee Pond Puppets are an opportunity for older youth to be trained as puppeteers and role models for youth. They perform for younger youth on topics such as peer pressure, smoking, drug use, etc.

“We learned that our local business people care about this issue [underage drinking] and are willing to work with us. The youth involved were enthusiastic about the project and enjoyed belonging to a group with a mission they believe in. People who shopped at the ‘shocked’ businesses were also reminded of the law.”

— Carolyn Smith, Coordinator
United South Central: One
Healthy Community

PROGRESS

Project Reconnect is one component of the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Institute (ChYLI). ChYLI is a culturally-based leadership and positive youth development building program.

During the two-day training, youth are involved in learning about leadership, planning and decision-making, teamwork, culture and presentation skills. They develop a community action plan to implement and help their communities.

ChYLI's goals include building a network of young leaders in the Chicano-Latino community, involving the youth in community decision-making and increasing their understanding of their culture.

- More than 300 youth have participated in ChYLI since 1996.
- The high school graduation rate among participating ChYLI youth is 73% compared to the 35% graduation rate for Latino youth in south central Minnesota. Eighty-five percent of those graduating pursue post-secondary education.
- Eighty students will participate in Project Reconnect in the 2003 academic year.

“Project Reconnect was a tremendous success from start to finish. When you give kids a good opportunity, they can create wonderful things.”

— Paul Peterson,
St. Peter High School Principal



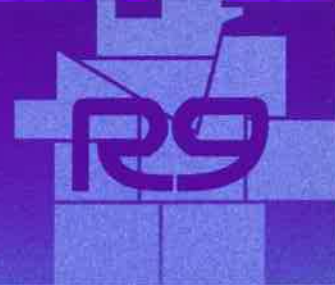
Chicano Latino youth, their families, schools and communities in Region Nine are reconnecting and changing lives through the Region Nine Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Institute's (ChYLI) Project Reconnect. Project Reconnect is based on a highly successful model from California that targets youth most at-risk for dropping out of school.

To date, students in LeCenter, Montgomery and St. Peter have benefited from the nationally-known, culturally specific educational curriculum. The R9 project was created after a need to connect youth to their schools was identified in the 2001 Minnesota Student Survey.

Project Reconnect was designed as a bridge to connect students to their school and help alleviate cultural and language barriers and other things that keep the students from participating in school. It is funded through the Minnesota Department of Education. ChYLI staff provides the opportunity and means to help schools link families with local resources, encourage parents to participate in school events and provides students with mentors and role models.

As part of the service-learning component, students must identify issues that impact them in school or their communities and plan a project to address these issues. Youth receive academic credit for completing the course.

After taking the class, one 14-year-old girl from St. Peter decided she wants to attend college and pursue a degree in nursing. Project Reconnect provided her with many resources to learn more about college.



A new project expanding Saludando Salud's health and dental outreach services into Brown and Le Sueur counties is in the initial stages with the help of a federal Rural Health Outreach grant received by the Le Sueur County Department of Human Services (DHS). Project partners are Le Sueur County DHS, Le Sueur County Family Services Collaborative, New Ulm Medical Center - Allina System, Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU-M) Dental Hygiene Program and Saludando Salud.

To improve access to and better utilization of healthcare services, a bilingual Saludando Salud Community Health Advisor (CHA)/ Promotora is housed in each county. They provide outreach services, health education/promotion and assistance with coordination of medical interpreter services.

Due to the existing oral health crisis among the uninsured and underinsured Latino population, additional Salud staff work closely with the CHAs and Latinos in both counties and throughout the region to coordinate low-cost dental services. Salud has worked successfully with the MSU-M dental hygiene program and a network of dental providers in Region Nine to provide dental care for low-income and limited English proficient Latinos.



Salud's outreach at the Madelia Dental Clinic provides oral health services to Madelia and the surrounding area. Partners include the Madelia Area Healthcare Center, MSU Mankato Department of Dental Hygiene, area dentists, and Saludando Salud.

Preventive and restorative dental services are offered three days a week through the Madelia Dental Clinic, located in the Madelia Community Hospital. Preventive services are provided on a sliding fee scale and most types of insurance, as well as Medical Assistance (MA), are accepted. MSU-M Dental Hygiene staff and students, a dentist, Saludando Salud and a trained medical interpreter staff the clinic, and provide care to both English and Spanish-speaking patients.

PROGRESS

- Saludando Salud was selected by the Southwest Rural Health Research Center, School of Rural Public Health at the Texas A & M University System Health Center from 300+ nominations to be highlighted on their web site as a Rural Healthy People 2010 Model for Practice.
- A weekly Spanish radio show (Su Salud-Your Health) is broadcast in Spanish and reaches approximately 2,000 people every week.
- The Latino Health Profile provides the only health data of its kind in the region. It includes baseline and comparison data which providers can utilize for Latino service/program development.
- Bilingual Community Health Advisors provide one-on-one outreach services to the local Latino population and assist them in accessing healthcare services.

"The clinic is a valuable resource for those who cannot access dental care due to cost or the lack of providers seeing new MA patients. The partners are committed to sustaining this community-based clinic which not only serves the general population but also strives to meet the needs of the underserved, including the uninsured/underinsured and growing Latino population."

— Lynnette M. Engeswick, RDH, MS, Chair of Dental Hygiene Minnesota State University, Mankato

PROGRESS

Clients 299

Hours of counseling services 2,653

Seminars 14

- Loan Package Amounts \$5.9 million
- \$3.9 million approved and invested in Region Nine; and on pace to double that in 2003.

Benefit to Cost Ratios:

- For every \$1 spent on the SBDC operations there was \$6.04 generated in tax revenue.
- For every \$1 spent on the SBDC operations there was \$46.79 generated in financing.

Responses from the 2002 ASBDC/MNSBDC Economic Impact Study for Minnesota:

- Client satisfaction rate 87.8%.
- 94% would recommend Region Nine SBDC to others.

"I am impressed with every aspect of the SBDC, and would highly recommend it to others. Region Nine is an awesome place to get technical advice about business plans."

— Lindsay Scheeler

Lindsay Scheeler's convenience store, Outbound Express Travel Center in Lewisville, opened in December 2002, and carries just about every product a person could need. You will find gardening gloves, arts and crafts, cat food, school supplies, cake mix and Lewisville Fire Department t-shirts. There are movies, lottery tickets, kitchen gadgets, fresh flowers in the spring and much more.

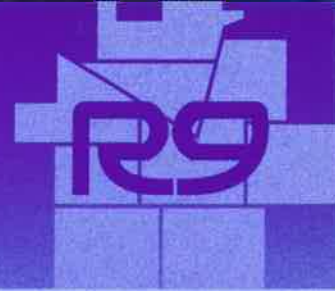


After the local grocery store closed, there was a need for a store that carried convenience items in Lewisville. Scheeler knew this and saw a building was for sale on Highway 15. After she asked the price of the building, word traveled that she was interested, and calls poured in supporting her idea.

Scheeler turned to the Region Nine Small Business Development Center for help with marketing plans, cash flow projections and more. She is pleased to report the projections are on target. "The SBDC staff were professional and knew what they were talking about," Scheeler said.

Lewisville residents have shown Scheeler their support of the convenience store by buying gas from her station, even if it is a few cents cheaper in other towns. "I love small town life," Scheeler said. "Everyone is good to me. I need them and they need me."

The store currently has five part-time employees and one full-time employee. Scheeler hopes that business will continue to increase and she can add more employees.



The Region Nine Transportation program works on numerous projects involving highways and other modes of transportation. One such project is the Minnesota Valley Rail Authority (MVRA).

The MVRA includes 93 miles of the Minnesota Central Railroad from Norwood to Hanley Falls. It runs through 15 cities and five counties, including Sibley County in Region Nine. The Minnesota Prairie Railroad Company operates the trains on the short line that connects with lines transporting freight across the U.S.

The line has struggled for survival since 1981. In recent years, the rail authority has secured loans and grants to improve the line. A final grant obtained this year will bring full service back to the line.

Region Nine has been working with MVRA on an Economic Development Administration grant to prepare a strategy for increased usage of the line. Increased usage of the line helps eliminate the deterioration of highways and improves the financial stability of the railroad.

The strategy will examine which businesses along the line and within the corridor could increase their usage of the line. It will look at the infrastructure, utilities, loading areas and sidings necessary to allow those businesses to make best use of the railroad. The strategy will also look at the financial possibilities to make those improvements. The grant is now in Washington, D.C. for review. Notification of grant award is expected soon.

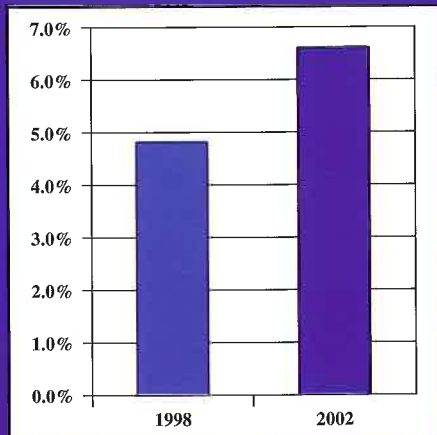


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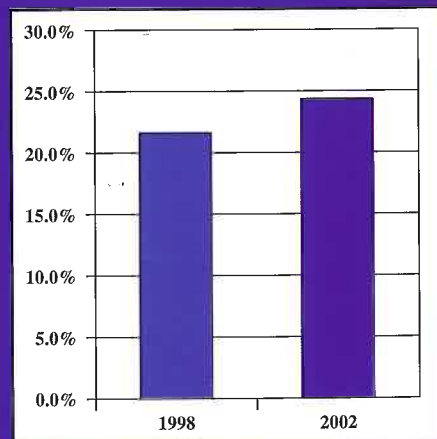
- Participated in the Mankato/North Mankato Transportation and Planning Study which develops a 20-year transportation plan for the greater Mankato area.
- Investigated funding sources for planning and development of greater transit services for persons who are elderly, handicapped and those without other transportation.
- Participated in the Mn/DOT Area Transportation Partnership which annually allocates approximately \$25 million in federal transportation funding.
- Worked with the Highway 14 Partnership, and the area's cities and counties to obtain funding to make this highway four-lane from Rochester to New Ulm.
- Worked with the region's cities and counties for increased funding for highways and county roads.

"Region Nine helps bring important transportation needs to the attention of state and federal legislators and the Minnesota Department of Transportation."

— Wendell Armstrong,
Waseca County Commissioner,
Mn/DOT Area Transportation
Partnership and R9
Transportation Advisory
Committee member



Nearly 7% of those responding to the survey did not currently have health insurance coverage, up from 4.8% in 1998.



Roughly 25% of all survey respondents were classified as binge drinkers (consumed five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion during the last month). In 1998, 22% were binge drinkers.

“The RHP is a valuable tool that helps us develop and implement programs and activities to serve our citizens.”

— Nita Aasen,
Nicollet County
Public Health Director

Data and Research

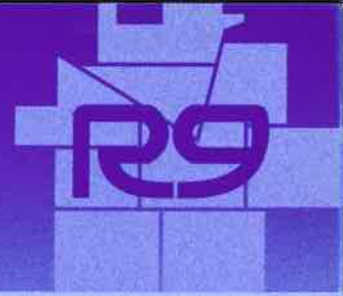
The Regional Health Profile (RHP) '02 health behavior survey was designed to monitor health status, identify health problems and establish health promotion priorities in 27 counties in south central and southwestern Minnesota. Nearly 10,500 residents (52% of the original, random sample of 20,000) in these counties responded to the survey. The survey was conducted during the spring and summer of 2002 and included questions on general physical and mental health status, access to health care, lifestyle habits and receipt of health screening exams.

RHP is part of an ongoing collaboration among health care providers, local public health agencies and the Center for Health Statistics at the Minnesota Department of Health. Regional- and county-level survey information will be used by project sponsors, individuals and organizations to improve health status throughout south central and southwestern Minnesota.

The information is critical for communities to get a true assessment of individual health needs and concerns in a community. The survey helps determine health needs, existing barriers and the efforts that are necessary to improve the overall health of a community.

The RHP '02 found several interesting trends in the data.

- Almost 27% of the respondents had not been to a dentist or dental hygienist in the past 12 months.
- More than 15% of respondents indicated they currently smoke cigarettes; 36% used to smoke, but had since quit.
- Respondents who reported eating five or more fruits and vegetables yesterday was 32.3%, up from 29% in 1998.
- The percentage of respondents who indicated they always wear a seat belt while driving or riding in a motor vehicle was more than 62% in 2002, up from 55% in 1998.
- Half of all male survey respondents have never had a prostate exam. Just 24% of respondents report having an annual prostate exam.
- Nearly 40% of all female respondents reported getting an annual mammogram.



Regional Meetings

During 2003, Region Nine has facilitated regional meetings with township, city and county officials. The meetings engaged local elected officials and administrators in a general discussion of the region and provided an opportunity to get to know each other better and build consensus on issues such as local government aid, legislative issues, etc. The meetings focused on working across jurisdictional lines to address issues and identify ways Region Nine can work with and on behalf of local units of government. Topics discussed included:

- Implications of the state budget cuts: in-depth discussions were held with city, county and township officials to develop strategies to address the challenges associated with the budget cuts and suggest alternative solutions for the state legislature to consider. Presentations were made by state associations, panel members (local officials) and Region Nine staff. A special report was created from these meetings and sent to all elected officials in the region, Governor Pawlenty, Lt. Gov. Molnau, Region Nine state and federal legislators.
- Creating a federal legislative process: members of Region Nine's Congressional leadership report they receive many different messages from various groups and individuals in the region. To create a unified voice, Region Nine has begun work to be effective in the federal legislative process. The goal is to create a unified voice and plan strategically around federal issues to bring resources to the region.
- A Regional Economic Vitality Plan: The South Central Minnesota Economic Vitality partnership was established in January 2003 to convene regional leadership to identify regional economic issues. More than 175 community leaders from government, education, nonprofit and private sectors came together to discuss vitality. In addition to the initial leadership team, 106 attendees volunteered to participate in the process going forward.

"I see smaller communities in my district benefitting from Region Nine. Their services complement what communities have to offer and the goals they want to reach. For the units of government who don't have the resources or manpower, they are a very valuable resource in my district. Region Nine deals with the issues that help greater Minnesota prosper. They help us maintain what we have and increase the possibilities for south central Minnesota."

— Senator Julie Rosen
District 24

"Region Nine serves as a responsive facilitator for technical and financial assistance, and a coordinator for state and federal programs."

— Fred Juni,
Milford Township Supervisor
Brown County

"Region Nine provides the service and expertise for communities who need assistance with projects and grant writing. Their service is most critical when there isn't the time or resources to staff a project. Region Nine staff have a pulse on what is happening in the region and provide a network for communities to communicate with others who are dealing with the same issues."

— Troy Domine,
City of Montgomery
Community Development
Director

“Advisory Council members provide the perspective of the area they represent to the Area Agency on Aging. Their input is a critical factor in the success we have had in developing and providing services for older adults.”

— Linda Giersdorf,
Area Agency on Aging Director

“The youth who serve on the Chicano Latino Youth Advisory Committee play an important role in the program. By taking a leadership role on this committee they have an ownership and commitment to the program. It also helps build and enhance their leadership skills which is one of the major goals of ChYLI.”

— Veronica Alba,
Chicano Latino Youth
Leadership Institute Coordinator

The Region Nine Development Commission would like to thank and recognize the numerous volunteers serving on Region Nine committees and councils. The people listed here play an integral part in the success of the Commission and its programs. Through their time and partnership efforts, they make Region Nine the best place to live and work. We apologize if anyone was inadvertently missed.

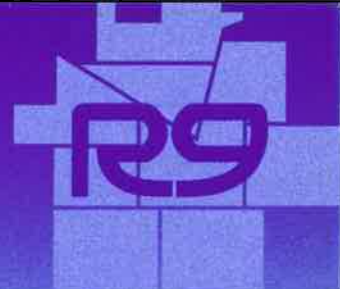
Region Nine Advisory Council on Aging

Maria Baxter-Nuamah, At Large, Mankato; Carroll Behne, Martin County, Sherburn; Jo Cattrysse, At Large 60+, North Mankato; Mary Bliesmer, Public/Private Agency, North Mankato; Sharon Chader, Business, Madison Lake; Jerry Ehn, Public/Private Agency, Wells; Kathryn S. Elliott, At Large, Mankato; Charlie Griebel, Brown County, New Ulm; Cathrine A. Hagen, At Large 60+, Wells; Phyllis Harrison, LeSueur County, LeCenter; Michele Koppinger, Public/Private Agency, Mankato; Richard E. Markiewicz, Sr., Nicollet County, St. Peter; Gregorio Mendez-Ortega, At Large, Mankato; Chris Olson, County Social Service, New Ulm; Sylvia Perron, County Social Service, St. Peter; Etta Poole, Blue Earth County, Mankato; Marvel Prafke, Faribault County, Blue Earth; Ronald Purcell, Waseca County, Waseca; John Raymer, Public/Private Agency, St. Peter; Carmen Reckard, County Social Service, Fairmont; Lori Ruthenbeck, At Large, Mankato; Wally Schmiesing, At Large 60+, Hanska; Deb Shumacher, County Social Service, Gaylord; Patricia Vaughan, At Large 60+, Madison Lake; Bonnie Viland, Watonwan County, LaSalle; Geraldine Weber, Sibley County, Henderson



Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Institute Youth Advisory Committee membership changes often as youth graduate and new students participate in the program.

“Gracias” Thank you for making a difference



Prevention & Healthy Communities Advisory Committee & Coalitions

Jeanell Aadahl, Advisory Committee Chair, At-Large; Carol Anderson, St. James Chemical Health/Violence Prevention Advisory Council; Wendy Bachman, St. Peter Healthy Community Alliance; Latrice Brua, Montgomery SAFE; Kip Bruender, At Large-R9 Development Commission; Carol Dressler, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Healthy Communities; Roni Dauer, Martin County Networking; Harlan Gorath, At Large-R9 Development Commission; Rosalie Grams, Janesville Waldorf Pemberton T.E.A.M. Task Force; Kristine Madsen, Maple River Community Network; Joe McCabe, Madelia Coalition for Healthy Life Choices; Barbara Penny, Waseca Healthy Community/Healthy Kids Initiative; Erin Randall Rahman, LeSueur-Henderson Healthy Communities, Inc.; Steve Schneider, At Large-Health Care; Carolyn Smith, United South Central One Healthy Community; Anna Thill, Mankato Area Healthy Youth; Susan Ward, Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth New Ulm Area

Minnesota Department of Transportation District 7 Area Transportation Partnership

Transit: Bob Apitz, Brown County; Ken Saffert, Mankato; Cities: Jim Elsing, Worthington; Steve Koehler, New Ulm; Counties: Wendell Armstrong, Waseca County; Craig Rubis, Jackson County; Steve Schnieder, Nobles County; Wayne Stevens, Brown County; Region 8: Annette Bair, staff; Darrell Holmberg, Cottonwood County; Region 9: Jim Broich, Brown County; Wes Judkins, staff; Mn/DOT: Lisa Bigham, Douglas Haeder, Greg Ous, Jim Swanson

Region Nine Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Wendell Armstrong, Waseca; James Broich, Sleepy Eye; Kip Bruender, Eagle Lake; Alvin Dietz, New Prague; Jack Fitzsimmons, Waseca; Alan Forsberg, Mankato; Doug Haeder, Mankato; Ken Hanson, Sherburn; Norbert Kaufmann, Belle Plaine; Dwayne Krenz, Madelia; Tom Loveall, Winnebago; John McDonald, Blue Earth; John Prosch, Nicollet; Wayne Stevens, New Ulm; Mike Wagner, St. Peter

Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee

Jim Broich, Mayor, Sleepy Eye; Don Hayden, Economic Dev. Director, LeCenter; Connie Ireland, Mn Dept. of Employment and Economic Development; Doug Miller, Nicollet County Bank, St. Peter; Jim Paulson, Citizens State Bank, St. James; Jack Quinlivan, Quinlivan & Associates, Blue Earth; Steve Renquist, Economic Dev. Director, Gaylord; Bob Roesler, Sherburn City Council; Larry Thompson, Round Bank Waseca

Saludando Salud Advisory Board

Cathy Anderson, Blue Earth County; Candace Fenske and Miguel Aquilar, Watonwan County; Maria de Jesus Guerrero, Open Door Health Center; Dr. Guillermo Pons, Blue Earth County; Pica Rodriguez, Susan Rynda and Rose Touselly, LeSueur County; Lori Wightman, Brown County

“The region is full of people who care about youth and their future, about their community and the future of their community. The Prevention and Healthy Communities Network Advisory Committee and coalitions have a passion and commitment for making a difference in the lives of our youth.”

*—Katie Klanderud,
Prevention and Healthy
Communities Network Regional
Prevention Specialist*

“Through the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), the Commission provides input to transportation planning in our area. The TAC is a link between Mn/DOT, local units of government and the Commission. The TAC is a strong advocate for enhancing and maintaining the highway systems throughout the region.”

*—Wes Judkins,
Transportation Director*

“The guidance provided by the Region Nine Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee is vital and is the reason the loan programs continue to function effectively. The wealth of knowledge these individuals hold is extraordinary and provides direction when making complex decisions.”

*—Gayle Jones,
Revolving Loan Fund Officer*



Area Agency on Aging

Linda Giersdorf, Director; Erica Gahlon, Administrative Assistant; Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, Aging Planner/Grants Manager; Missy Manderfeld, Senior LinkAge Line® Specialist/Health Insurance Counselor; Elaine Spain, Project ROSE (Reaching Out to Support Elders) Planner; Donna Spranger, ElderCare Development Partnership Senior Consultant

Community and Economic Development

Lisa Hughes, Director; Jessica Burke, Research and Data Analyst; Gayle Jones, Economic Development Planner/Loan Officer; Peggy Wiese, Community Development Planner

Prevention and Healthy Communities

Lisa Wojcik, Director; Sharon Taylor, Administrative Planner

Prevention and Healthy Communities Network

Katie Klanderud, Regional Prevention Specialist

Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Institute

Veronica Alba, ChYLI Coordinator; Linda Alvarez, ChYLI Specialist; Leo Arevalo, ChYLI Planner

Saludando Salud

Gina Borchardt, Salud Coordinator; Rosana Balboa, Brown County Community Health Advisor; Ellen de la Torre, Health Promotion Specialist; Theresa Eckstein, Regional Community Health Advisor; Sylvia Pena, LeSueur County Community Health Advisor

Small Business Development Center

Bob Klanderud, Director; Christine Hall, Administrative Assistant; Mary Oudekerk, Counselor

Transportation

Wes Judkins, Director

Administration

Reginald Edwards, Executive Director; Eileen Roesner, Secretarial Assistant; Cheryl Weston, Administrative Assistant

Finance

Susan Jaeger, Director; Lois Gekeler, Bookkeeper; Linda Wallace, Accountant

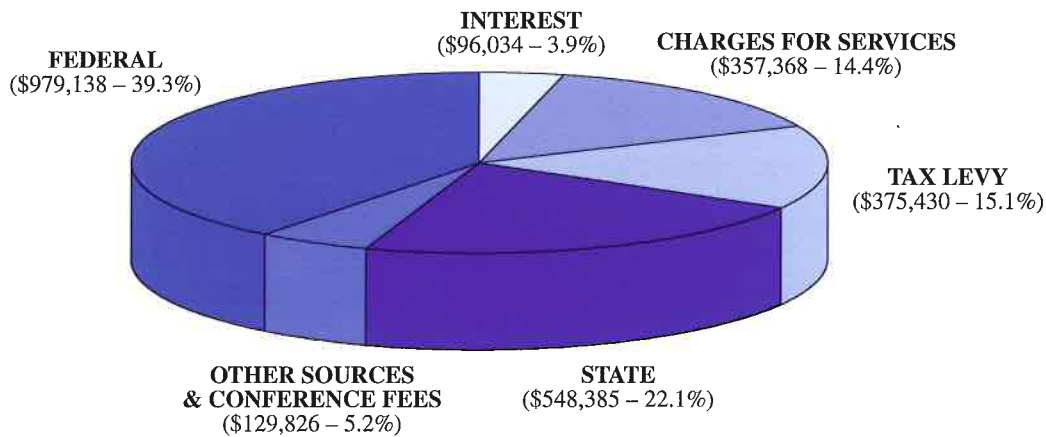
Public Information and Marketing

Joyce Allard, Director

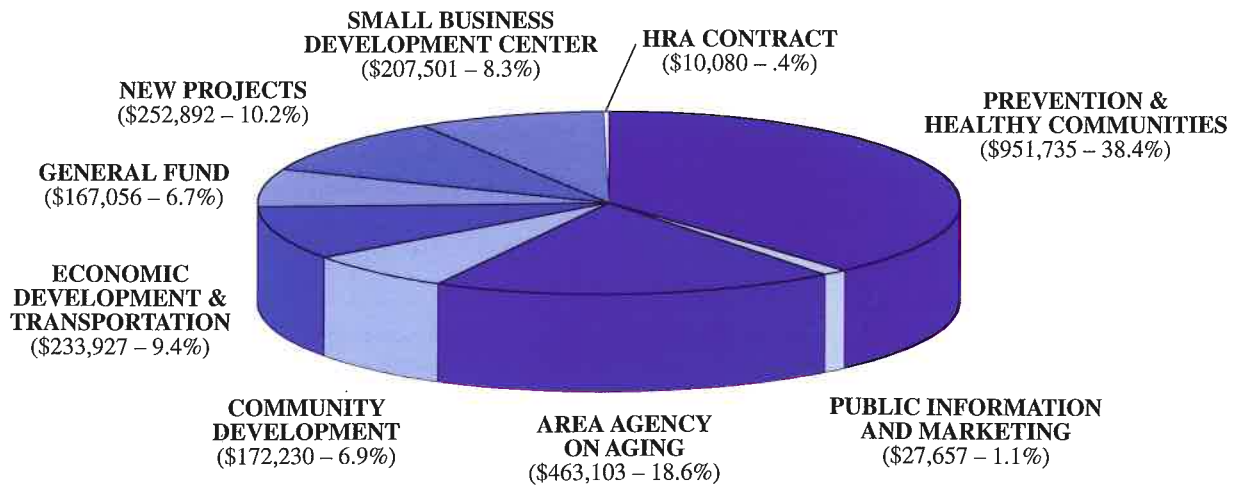
Revenues and Expenditures



FY 2003 Revenues by Source



FY 2003 Expenditures by Department





FY03 Budget by Programs

REVENUES:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| FEDERAL | 979,138 |
| STATE | 548,385 |
| TAX LEVY | 375,430 |
| OTHER SOURCES | 125,201 |
| CONFERENCE REVENUE | 4,625 |
| CHARGES FOR SERVICES | 357,368 |
| INTEREST | <u>96,034</u> |

TOTAL REVENUES **\$2,486,181**

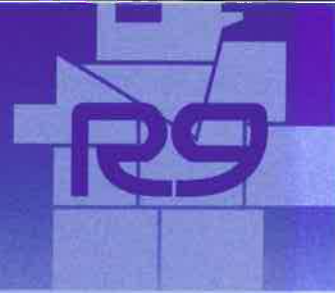
EXPENDITURES:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| AREA AGENCY ON AGING | 463,103 |
| COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | 172,230 |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORTATION | 233,927 |
| HRA CONTRACT | 10,080 |
| NEW PROJECTS | 252,892 |
| PREVENTION & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES | 951,735 |
| PUBLIC INFORMATION & MARKETING | 27,657 |
| SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER | 207,501 |
| GENERAL FUND | <u>167,056</u> |

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$2,486,181**

INDIRECT RATE 10.75%
PASS THRU \$3,118,690

FY03 Budget by Line Item



REVENUES:

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| FEDERAL | 979,138 |
| STATE | 548,385 |
| TAX LEVY | 375,430 |
| OTHER SOURCES | 125,201 |
| CONFERENCE REVENUE | 4,625 |
| CHARGES FOR SERVICES | 357,368 |
| INTEREST | 96,034 |

TOTAL REVENUES \$2,486,181

EXPENDITURES:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| PERSONNEL | 1,468,267 |
| FRINGE | 510,377 |
| COPYING / PRINTING | 32,670 |
| PUBLIC NOTICE | 2,600 |
| POSTAGE | 21,542 |
| TELEPHONE | 22,591 |
| TRAVEL - STAFF | 94,702 |
| TRAVEL - OTHER | 54,267 |
| REGISTRATION | 32,605 |
| SUPPLIES | 44,851 |
| PUBLIC / SUBSCRIPT / MEMBER | 24,691 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 175 |
| CONSULTANT | 12,550 |
| INSURANCE | 7,000 |
| ERRORS & OMISSIONS INS | 11,500 |
| MAINTENANCE | 11,900 |
| LEGAL | 3,000 |
| AUDIT | 10,200 |
| EQUIPMENT/DEPRECIATION | 13,690 |
| STORAGE SPACE & CONF ROOMS | 4,000 |
| OFFICE SPACE | 103,003 |

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$2,486,181

INDIRECT RATE 10.75%

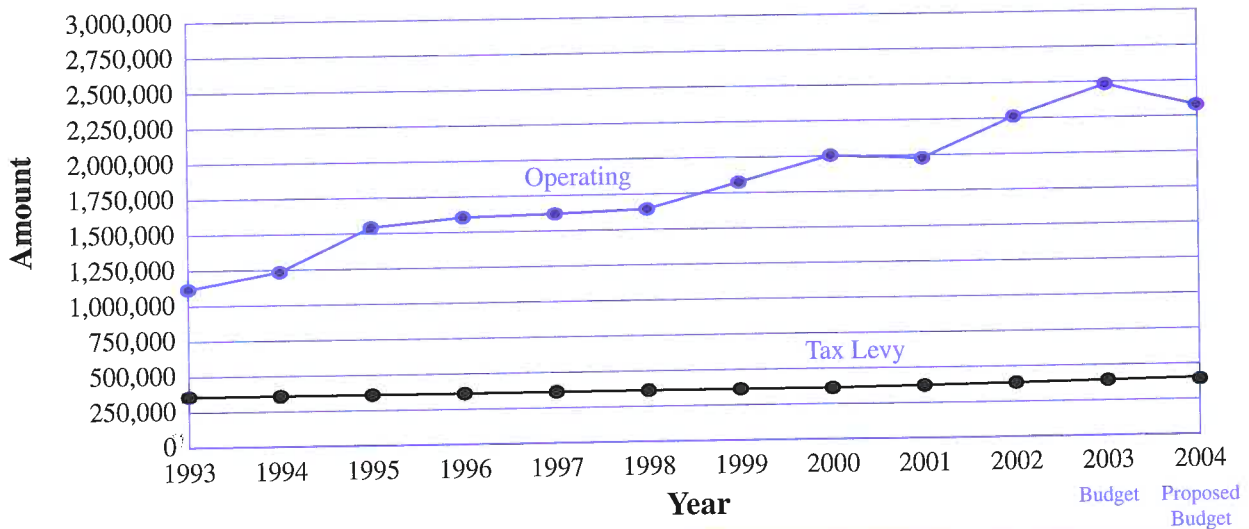
PASS THRU \$3,118,690

Region Nine Development Commission Levy History

| Year Payable | Base | Increase Allowed | Levy Amount | Percent Increase |
|--------------|---------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 2004 | 375,430 | 3% | 386,693 | 3.00% |
| 2003 | 364,495 | 3% | 375,430 | 3.00% |
| 2002 | 353,879 | 3% | 364,495 | 3.00% |
| 2001 | 343,572 | 3% | 353,879 | 3.00% |
| 2000 | 343,572 | 3% | 343,572 | 0.00% |
| 1999 | 343,572 | 3% | 343,572 | 0.00% |
| 1998 | | | 343,572 | 0.00% |
| 1997 | | | 343,572 | 0.00% |
| 1996 | | | 343,572 | 0.00% |
| 1995 | | | 343,572 | 0.00% |

Total Operating Revenue vs Tax Levy

Actual FY 1993-2002, Budget FY 2003-04





region nine
development commission

Your Regional Partner For Progress

P.O. Box 3367 Mankato MN 56002-3367
507.387.5643 800.450.5643 Fax 507.387.7105 www.rndc.org

December 2003

Honorable Commissioners, Public Elected Officials, Citizens of Region Nine and Partners:

After reading through the annual report, I hope you are more informed about the programs and work of the Region Nine Development Commission. I want to thank staff for the hard work that they have put into the programs and this document. Without the hard work of staff, local jurisdictions, partners and others, none of this work would be possible.

As the new board chair for the year 2004, I look forward to continuing to build upon the efforts that have been started while looking over the horizon for new opportunities.

I began serving the Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC) in 1997, as the Brown County representative for cities under 10,000. I served as vice chairman of the RNDC for two years and was elected chairman in July of 2003. My background includes many leadership and service roles, including 12 years as the mayor of Sleepy Eye and six years as a Sleepy Eye City Council member. It is with this experience that I have come to believe in and work for strengthening the entire region.

The region is challenged by growth in some areas and decline in others, aging and increasingly diverse populations, shifting economic industries and the exodus of young people. Only by working together across the region, jurisdictions and sectors, can we meet these challenges and prosper as a region.

Region Nine's ability to provide services during challenging times has made the Commission a valuable partner to local units of government and other organizations for more than 30 years. While I am very proud of Region Nine's past of overcoming challenges, I am more excited about its bright future of leading the way for new opportunities.

I hope this report provides you with a closer look at the difference the Region Nine Development Commission and its programs are making in the lives of our citizens. If you have never supported the Commission, please contact us at the address printed above to find out how you can be supportive and involved in the region.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Broich
2004 Chair



region nine development commission



Serving 9 counties, 72 cities and 147 townships since 1972.
An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

This report was designed and written by Region Nine staff members Joyce Allard, Leo Arevalo and Jessica Burke with assistance from Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) interns Angie Ardolf and Briana Patterson. It was printed by MSU Printing Services.



P.O. Box 3367, Mankato, MN 56002-3367

507-387-5643 or 1-800-450-5643

www.rndc.org