



# Unlocking State Housing Resources for Rural Communities

Maria Effertz ND Department of Commerce October 1, 2025



#### **Commerce Goals**



**Enhance economic resilience** and diversification.



**Expand new workforce.** 



Market North Dakota resulting in improved awareness and image.



**Energize statewide** collaboration.



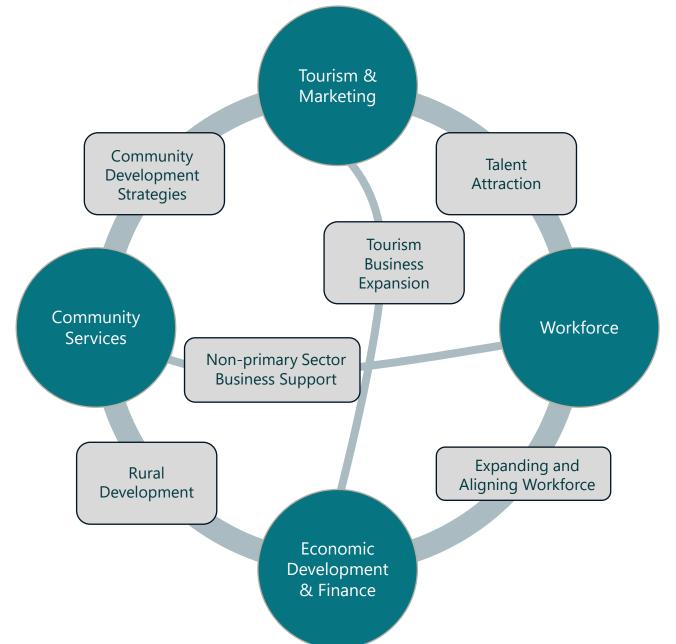
**Empower healthy, vibrant communities.** 



Deliver a responsive, accurate, and efficient set of programs and services.

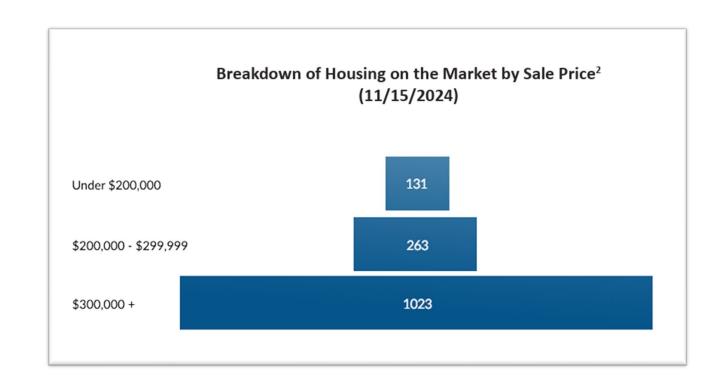


### IMPROVING LIFE IN NORTH DAKOTA



### North Dakota's Housing Crisis: A Persistent Barrier

- Housing shortages in both rural and urban areas.
  - About 4,900 homes for sale end of September
  - Rural Counties 1,276
  - Shortage and age of rentable units
- Barrier to workforce recruitment and retention
- Struggling to meet demand as economic development





#### North Dakota Rural Workforce Housing and Blight removal



Direct benefits: \$238,793 Indirect benefits: \$71,805 Families moved to communities







#### **Forman**







Empowered communities to define and address their own housing needs

Left a significant gap

Emphasized flexibility, local control, and infrastructure investment



# Rural Catalyst Grant (SB 2390)

- Intended to support "quality of life" and economic development projects in rural communities
- \$2.5 Million



### What North Dakota Can Do Next

#### CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Your advocacy, your voice, and your stories are what will drive legislative action and unlock the resources your community needs.



## Dakota Be Legendary.

### THANK YOU

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