Next-Gen ND Leaders and Volunteers

Rural North Dakota communities must tap into the next generation of leaders.

Leadership and volunteer development is crucial to the lasting success of organizations, the workplace and communities.

Need

With more than 8,300 organizations in North Dakota, one in every 24 people over the age of 18 must step up and serve. Small towns are counting on it. They need people to run for the school board, volunteer for the local ambulance service and serve on nonprofits supporting their local community.

One-time funding is requested to assist with:

- Expanded leadership and volunteer development programs and coaching for rural areas (including programs such as Lead Local, Youth Lead Local, Growing Leaders Short Course and North Dakota Watershed Leadership Academy).

  — 94 percent of participants involved in NDSU Extension leadership programs report being better prepared to serve in a leadership role after the training, compared with 69 percent before training.

- Statewide conference on leadership and volunteerism

The ultimate benefits to rural North Dakota communities:

- More individuals running for positions to fill 8,314 volunteer organizations’ needs, as well as running for office on various ag-related boards, water boards, health-care boards and other local, regional and statewide ballots

- More young adults (30- to 45-year-olds) choosing to stay or return to rural communities to engage in the workforce, build the local economy, maintain a healthy community and engage with leaders and volunteers in opportunities they care about

Gov. Burgum’s Main Street Initiative is designed to create attractive communities where young workers want to live. These successful, vibrant communities are supported by effective leaders and volunteers who, in turn, give back to help build a place in which people want to live, work and play. Expanding leadership and volunteer development programs in rural areas through local coaching can help build this next generation of leaders to help their towns survive and thrive.