



broadband association of north dakota

BAND Together Newsletter

Executive Director Report

This month's newsletter is focused on how [BAND members](#) support workforce development in rural North Dakota by providing robust fiber internet networks. As you know, workforce development keeps North Dakota's economy running!

Rural internet service providers (ISPs), like BAND members, play a significant role in supporting workforce development by bridging the digital divide and enabling access to opportunities that are out of reach in less-connected areas. In our great state of North Dakota, BAND members have made notable strides in supporting workforce development. To continue this great trend, BAND members' networks must remain viable well into the future. [Federal Universal Service Fund \(USF\)](#) preservation is key to supporting workforce development.



BAND Member Spotlight: DRN

[DRN](#) is working closely with Applied Digital, a publicly traded data center company that provides High-Performance Computing (HPC), to build a facility in Ellendale. Because of DRN's fiber network, Applied Digital is setting the foundation for a data center capable of supporting cutting-edge AI and high-performance computing in North Dakota. This project has created nearly 1,000 jobs in the area to complete the build and is estimated to establish nearly 150 full-time jobs once completed.

“Our focus remains on providing exceptional service to our community, particularly to the contractors working on the Applied Digital building,” said Kent Schimke, CEO of DRN.



The real-world payoff? In addition to job creation, twenty new homes have been built, there has been an increase in school enrollment, and several new restaurants are available. In 2025, a new 36-unit apartment building will be in place, and DRN, Applied Digital, and Farmers Union Oil are working together to establish a daycare center - all in Ellendale, North Dakota!

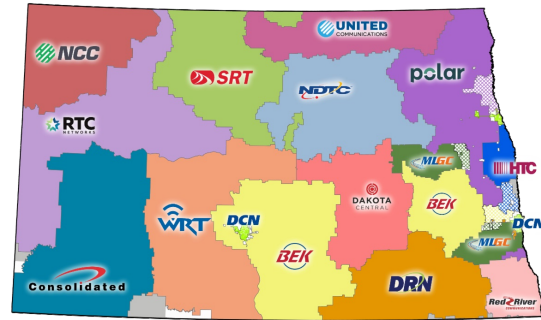
In rural North Dakota, where over 90% of the land has fiber access—way above the national rural average—BAND members have turned what could be isolated towns into viable spots for modern work. These aren't just tech upgrades; they're lifelines keeping rural North Dakota vibrant, proving fiber turns

sparse prairies into connected powerhouses.

BAND 101

For those of you not yet familiar with the Broadband Association of North Dakota (BAND), we are a trade association made up of 15 rural internet service providers and a statewide network provider in North Dakota.

[Learn More](#)



Upcoming Events

March 12
BAND Day at the Capitol

April 3
Red River Communications Annual Mtg.



Get in Touch & Stay Connected!

Carissa Swenson,
Executive Director

I am happy to provide information or speak at an event. If you aren't already subscribed to this newsletter, [please join our mailing list.](#)



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