

Dakota County Economic Development Strategy

Vision

We envision Dakota County as a globally competitive economy that is vigorous, diversified and innovative, providing opportunity and prosperity for businesses and residents alike, while sustaining a healthy environment and a superior quality of life.

Guiding Principles

- Dakota County government will **take a collaborative approach** to economic development internally and externally, working among County departments and agencies, as well as with cities and other partners. Care will be taken to avoid duplication.
- County government will **plan for and invest in critical infrastructure** (e.g. transportation, telecommunications) and other competitive advantages that support economic growth and vitality.
- Dakota County government may choose to **be involved in economic development projects** that
 - are **highly visible and regionally significant** in the Twin Cities metro area;
 - are physically **located in more than one community**;
 - involve **county and state roads**;
 - create a **significant employment, infrastructure or tax base impact**;
 - demonstrate a **positive return on investment, or**
 - preserve, enhance or remediate **environmental quality**.
- County government may develop economic development initiatives to **respond to the need for specialized expertise and economies of scale** (i.e. workforce housing, brownfield remediation, telecommunications, workforce development).
- Dakota County government will **use research and policy development as a framework** to guide and evaluate economic development strategies and actions.
- County government will consider workforce, employment, and tax base development to **enhance long-term plans and investment decisions**.