

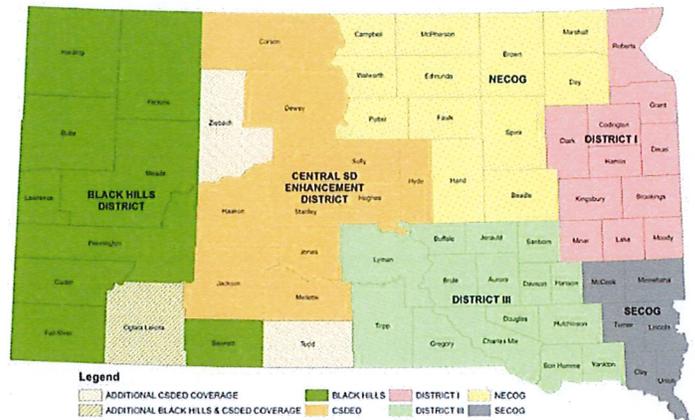


**First District Association of Local Governments
Brookings County Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025
January 1, 2026**

Who is the First District?

The First District Association of Local Governments (First District) is one of South Dakota’s six regional planning and development districts. The First District is a voluntary association of local governments working cooperatively for the benefit of Northeast South Dakota. Established by Executive Order in 1971, First District provides professional planning, programming, and technical assistance to cities, counties, businesses and community organizations in northeast South Dakota. First District serves 11 counties and 76 communities within the counties of Brookings, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Miner, Moody, and Roberts.

South Dakota Planning Districts



How is the First District Governed?

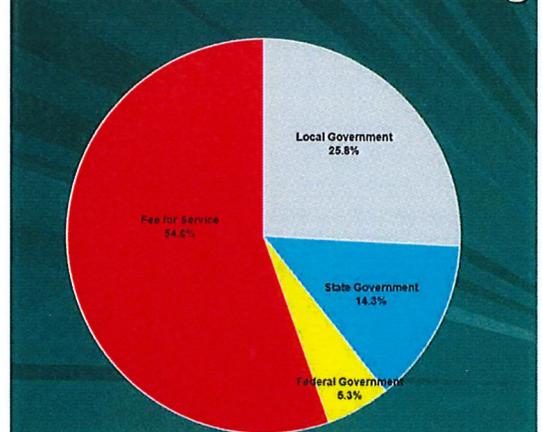
First District Association of Local Governments is governed by a board – the Governing Body. The Governing Body discusses issues of regional concern and directs the activities of First District. It is comprised of Designated, Elected, and Appointed members in the following manner:

- Designated - One county commissioner from each respective county board (**Kelly VanderWal**)
- Elected - One elected municipal representative from each county (**Vacant**)
- Appointed - One at-large member from each county (**Mike Bartley**)
- Chairman of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
- Chairman of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

How is the First District Funded?

First District is funded by annual memberships from its member communities and counties, state and federal contracts, and fees for service activities from public and private sources. FY 2026 membership dues will represent 25.8% of the First District’s operating revenue.

FY 2026 District Funding



Staffing and Services

The First District currently employs 9 full-time staff with a combined 141 years of experience in community and economic development. The following are the core areas of expertise within the First District. However, it should be noted that the First District will respond to any member's request for a specific service. Either by attempting to provide such service directly or by finding an outside resource to provide the assistance in a cost-effective manner.

Strategic Planning and Policy Development: First District assists communities and counties preparing for growth by providing technical assistance to aid government officials and citizens in making educated decisions regarding physical, social, economic, and environmental concerns. First District provides its members with the tools and information needed to successfully manage community and economic growth. First District plays an integral role in developing short range and long-range plans and implementing those plans through policy and ordinance development and other administration programs. The First District provides a large of variety of planning services including but not limited to Annexation Studies, Capital Improvement Plans, Utility Rate Analysis, Comprehensive Plans, Emergency Plans, Housing Needs Assessments, Policy Development, Special Purpose Ordinances, Strategic Planning, Tax Increment Financing and Zoning Ordinance Development.

Grant Writing and Project Administration: One of the most common areas of assistance the First District provides to its members is identifying, acquiring and administering funding sources for local community and economic development projects. Funding for these projects may be available through State and Federal grants or loans. First District has years of experience preparing grants and loan applications on behalf of local governments. Through these applications, First District has secured millions of dollars in funding for local infrastructure improvement and community development projects in northeast South Dakota. Additionally, First District provides grant administration services to assist with the necessary paperwork and procedures required by many grant and loan programs.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a computer program that creates and manages a geographically referenced database. GIS provides a visual interpretation of that data in a mapped format. GIS technology has an unlimited number of uses and the First District utilizes GIS as a great planning and decision-making tool for our members in areas such as land use planning, economic development, environmental and hazard mitigation planning, infrastructure development, GIS based taxation, and intra/intergovernmental data sharing.

First District provides training for GIS system end users including assistance in GIS data analysis. First District also web hosts GIS data for counties and communities across South Dakota. "Webhosting" gives end users the ability to view, search and analyze GIS data using a standard web browser.

Small Business Lending: First District fuels economic growth through small business lending programs. First District has three revolving loans for small businesses to access. Committed to job growth in our state, the First District offers financing available at terms that benefit borrowers and lenders.

2025 BROOKINGS COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Brookings County

- County Road Centerline GIS Data Set Maintenance (SDDOT data set)
- Attend Monthly Brookings County Planning Commission Meetings
- Developed Hazard Mitigation Plan – **In 2025 Brookings County Received \$6,000 grant**
- Developed Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan – **In 2023 Brookings County Received \$14,175 grant**
- Administered Community Development Block Grant funding for Brookings Behavioral Health and Wellness Center – **In 2023 Brookings County Received \$1,020,000 Grant**

Aurora

- Assisting with the review and development of the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance
- Assisting with administration of SDDANR Funding - **In 2022 Aurora received \$1,804,888 CWSRF loan and \$2,553,971 ARPA Grant; in 2023 Aurora received \$240,000 CWSRF loan and \$510,000 CWSRFQ Grant and \$450,000 CWFCP Grant; in 2024 Aurora received \$1,751,000 DWSRF Loan and \$1,030,800 DWSRF Grant and \$601,400 CWFCP Grant**

City of Brookings

- Assisting with administration of SDDANR Funding for Brookings Municipal Utilities (BMU) – **in 2022 BMU received \$50,963,200 DWSRF Loan and a \$21,039,300 ARPA Grant; – in 2023 BMU received \$40,700,000 loan DWSRF loan and \$510,000 DWSRF loan with \$490,000 in principal forgiveness; In BMU received \$8,000,000 ARPA Grant**

Elkton

- Assisted with administration of SDDANR Funding – Projects are complete – **in 2021 Elkton received \$383,000 CWSRF Loan \$1,671,000 SDDANR CWFCP Grant, a \$2,587,000 SDDANR DWSRF Loan with \$1,820,000 in principal forgiveness**
- Prepared and submitted SDDANR SRF Funding Applications – **in 2024 Elkton received \$936,000 CWSRF loan and a \$934,000 CWSRF grant and a \$778,000 DWSR loan and a \$222,000 DWSRF grant.**

Sinai

- Assisted with preparation and submission of SDDOT Community Access Grant application – **in 2025 Sinai received \$193,800 grant.**

Volga

- Assisting with the development of a Strategic Plan and the review and development of the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance
- Assisting with administration of SDDANR Funding – **Volga received \$2,405,000 CWSRF Loan and \$2,790,000 DWSRF Loan in 2020 and a \$2,790,000 Loan in 2022 – Projects are complete; In 2022 Volga received \$1,259,776 CWSRF Loan and \$902,564 ARPA grant in 2022.**

White

- Assisting with administration of SDDANR Funding - in 2022 White received \$1,832,810 DWSRF Loan and a \$1,786,189 CWSRF Loan and 2 ARPA grants totaling \$1,449,901
- Assisting with administration of SDDANR Funding – in 2025 White received \$1,452,000 DWSRF Loan with \$700,000 in principal forgiveness and a \$1,105,000 CWSRF Loan and two CWFCP Grants in the amounts of \$1,059,000 & \$665,000.
- Assisted with the preparation of SDDOT TAP Grant Application – Not awarded in 2025

Miscellaneous

- Assisting with administration of SDDANR Funding - in 2022 BDRWS received \$5,607,750 DWSRF Loan and a \$2,703,240 ARPA Grant; in 2023 BDRWS received \$1,600,000 DWSRF Loan & in 2024 BDRWS received \$1,357,708 ARPA Grant
- Zoning Administration assistance: Aurora, Elkton, Volga, White, Brookings County
- Obtained District-wide grant for economic development - Brookings County Share \$9,084
- Assisting with administration of SDDANR Funding - In 2024 North Brookings Sanitary and Water District received \$1,597,450 CWSRF Loan and \$761,550 CWFCP Grant.
- Prepared HMGP Grant application (Kingbrook RWS) - Funding is pending
- Prepared SDDANR SRF Grant applications for BDRWS - Funding is pending

FY 25 County and Municipal Dues: \$71,584
FY 25 Grants Awarded: \$2,632,884
FY 25 ROI: \$36.78

FY 08-25 County and Municipal Dues: \$989,608
FY 08-25 Grants Awarded: \$72,562,045
FY08-25 ROI: \$73.32

Return on Investment FY 2008-2025 (Based upon Brookings County and municipality 2008-2025 dues - \$989,608): \$73.32 – Therefore for every dollar of dues paid in FY 2008-2025, the District assisted in generating \$73.32 in Federal and State grant funding.

For more information please contact:

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