

Historical Perspective

Sioux Falls Development Foundation



In 1954, a group of far-sighted business leaders created the Sioux Falls Development Foundation, a non-profit development corporation that facilitates the attraction of new businesses, the retention and expansion of existing firms, and the formation of new companies.

One of the first major successes of the Development Foundation was the location of the EROS Data Center. This scientific installation of the federal government, which continues to attract earth and space scientists from around the world each year, was built by the Development Foundation and leased back to the US Geological Survey.

In the early 1970's, the Sioux Empire Development Park was created from cornfields owned by the Benson family. Companies found the convenient location, near the regional airport and the junction of I-90 and I-29, a great place to do business, and so the parks grew. The nine Sioux Empire Development Parks are home to 140 businesses employing approximately 13,000 people.



The Sioux Falls Development Foundation provides a variety of professional services and specific information. Services include business location assistance for new and expanding firms, comprehensive information on industrial park land, available sites and industrial buildings, demographics, labor information, business and tax climate data as well as information on the quality of life in the community.



The Foundation was one of the founding partners of Forward Sioux Falls, a series of marketing efforts responsible for boosting the economy since 1988. Over the course of Forward Sioux Falls, over 79,000 new jobs have been created, construction activity totaled over \$9 billion and 37,000 new housing units have been built. Forward Sioux Falls succeeded in an additional goal of “putting Sioux Falls on the map;” making the community better known to business decision makers nationwide.



FSF Programs

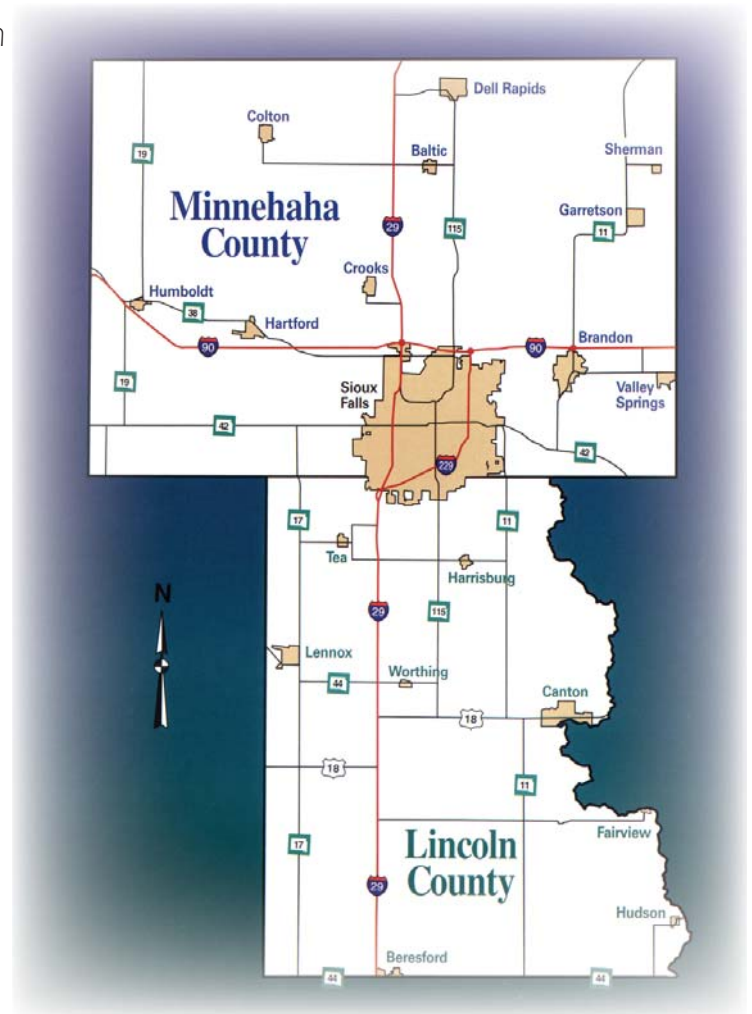
FSF I	1988-1991
FSF II	1992-1995
FSF – ITNC (III)	1997-2001
FSF – TSNL (IV)	2002-2006
FSF V	2006-2010
FSF 2011-2016	2011-2016
FSF 2021	2016-2021

Amount Raised

FSF I	\$1.9 million	(goal: \$1.2 million)
FSF II	\$2.179 million	(goal: \$2.0 million)
FSF – ITNC (III)	\$4.23 million	(goal: \$3.0 million)
FSF – TSNL (IV)	\$6.3 million	(goal: \$5.5 million)
FSF V	\$10.3 million	(goal: \$8.5 million)
FSF 2011-2016	\$12 million	(goal: \$11.2 million)
FSF 2021		(goal: \$15.5 million)



The 1990's brought about a partnership with the Minnehaha County Rural Mayors to provide development services to the small communities. The Minnehaha County Economic Development Association was established and a Director of Regional Development hired to promote the area. With the success of MCEDA, Lincoln County communities partnered with the Foundation to establish the Lincoln County Economic Development Association. Rural mayors and the Foundation's Board recognized that development which benefits the smaller communities, benefit Sioux Falls, and vice versa.



In 1994, the Spirit of Sioux Falls Award and Spirit of Sioux Falls Scholarships were established. The award is given annually to a person who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the economic growth and development of our community; and up to four \$2,500 scholarships are awarded to post-secondary students. The Award and Scholarships honor the memory of Chairman David Birkeland, Vice Chairman Angus Anson, and President Roger Hainje who perished in the plane crash along with Governor George Mickelson and other state officials and staff in April of 1993 while on an economic development retention mission.

The Forward Sioux Falls Technology Program was established in 1999 by the Foundation and Chamber and resulted in the development of the Zeal Center for Entrepreneurship; a 45,000 square foot business incubator/accelerator. Zeal is an important component in the on-going effort to diversify and grow the regional economy by assisting in the creation and expansion of technology-based businesses.



The new century has brought new challenges to Sioux Falls and its economic partners . . . design and development of Foundation Park, Campus Crossing and Discovery District . . . but the Development Foundation continues to adapt to those challenges . . . continuing the tradition begun in 1954 by working to maintain our community's excellent quality of life while promoting economic prosperity for all our citizens.





SIoux FALLS
**Development
Foundation**

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