



In 1997, a group of rural Minnesota advocates came together around a bold idea: to create a rural policy think tank that would provide policy makers, rural advocates and concerned citizens with an objective, unbiased and politically unspun examination of contemporary rural issues. Since then, the mission of the Center for Rural Policy and Development has been to study and report on important factors affecting life in Minnesota. Based in Saint Peter, the Center is an independent not-for-profit policy research organization dedicated to presenting the state's policy makers with an objective evaluation of rural questions.

To fulfill this mission, we work with academic and non-academic researchers statewide, focusing

on such topics as the transforming rural economy, the changing ethnic makeup of the population, the need for high-speed telecommunications, access to health care and education. Whether new challenges in rural life or ongoing questions, the Center examines these issues, delivering objective research to the people taking action for rural Minnesota.

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