



# NEWS & NOTES

## from ND COMPASS

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

An exciting new resource has come to North Dakota. This resource is intended to provide you with a reliable, objective, and uniform set of social indicators that will help you identify, understand, and act on issues that affect communities, regions, and the state as a whole. We are calling this new resource **North Dakota COMPASS**.

Compass is a dynamic site that is always under development, featuring frequent data updates and new resources continuously being added. Our monthly newsletter will keep you up-to-date on changes to the website, current discussions with experts in the field, and insight from researchers who understand the data. Welcome to our first newsletter!

## For Discussion

### Vision of North Dakota Compass

By Dr. Richard Rathge, North Dakota Compass and North Dakota State University

The basic vision for North Dakota Compass is twofold. First, it is intended to enhance the ability of community members to become engaged in advancing their community through information sharing and networking. A vital component to the success of community development is a well-informed citizenry who have the opportunity to examine the context surrounding their community's challenges and opportunities. In addition, they need access to a resource network that allows them the opportunity to engage in data-driven problem solving. This creates a rich environment for thoughtful strategic planning, visioning, and policy making. [Read more.](#)



## For Discussion

### In Support of North Dakota Communities

A supporter of North Dakota Compass, The Otto Bremer Foundation is committed to communities that are homes and neighbors to Bremer banks in Minnesota, North Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Randi Roth, Executive Director of the Bremer Foundation since 2008, talks about community involvement and the Foundation's role in promoting it. [Read more.](#)



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## Ask a Researcher



Compass researcher Karen Olson provides background regarding one of the best federal data sources available for comprehensive social and economic information, especially for less-populated, rural areas - the American Community Survey.

Approximately 22,000 children living in North Dakota are impoverished. Approximately one in four North Dakota households spend 30 percent or more of their household income on housing costs. This information, available through ND Compass, comes from the American Community Survey (ACS), a Census Bureau poll sent to 3.5 million U.S. households each year. The knowledge obtained from this survey helps target federal, state, and local government spending on those who need it most. [Read more.](#)

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## New Topics: Aging, Civic Engagement, Education, Environment

### New Topic Areas Since Our Launch in February

- More than one in three North Dakotans aged 65 and older has one or more disabilities (35%); rates for American Indian elders are significantly higher (54%). [Go to Aging.](#)
- The rate of volunteerism among North Dakota residents ages 16 and older is higher than the national average (31% and 27% respectively). [Go to Civic Engagement.](#)
- The majority of North Dakota high school students graduate on time (86% overall, 90% for white students, and 62% for Native American students). [Go to Education.](#)
- Residents of the Dickinson micropolitan area enjoyed the best air quality of the four metro/micros for which EPA data are available in North Dakota. [Go to Environment.](#)

## ND COMPASS Presentations

ND Compass Director Richard Rathge and Assistant Director Ramona Danielson made presentations early in February. Rich went to Bismarck and showed our website at the **Statewide Housing Conference**, and Ramona **presented information** about how ND Compass can be of use to United Way of Cass-Clay partners in Fargo.

We will be exploring ways to demonstrate ND Compass and its benefits to communities and organizations through webinars and other technologies as well as conference presentations across the state.

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