

2026

Membership Guide

DAKOTA COUNTY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**Power to Connect to
Connections That Matter**



WELCOME TO YOUR DAKOTA COUNTY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dakota County is on a strong growth trajectory—on pace to become the second-largest county in Minnesota by 2035. Recognized as the third-largest economic engine in the state by DEED, much of this momentum is driven by the communities within the DCR Chamber footprint.

Our reach and influence give us the **Power to Connect...to Connections that Matter.**

- Connecting businesses, ideas, and communities
- Helping you **plug into the power of the DCR**
- Driving business and community forward
- We are the voice of business

Mission - We are the **voice of business** and connector within supported communities.

Vision - To be the **key connector and catalyst for growth.**

Core Values – D.C.R.

- **Dedicated** to an exceptional experience
- **Continuous improvement** in all areas
- **Respect** to all at all times

THE DCR CHAMBER'S PLATFORMS: We C-A-R-E

Your DCR Chamber's work reaches all corners of the Region and provides Members Access And Support In The Following Areas And More:

What We Do For You



CONNECTION

Build relationships and grow your network. (100+ events, Weekly Updates, website, workforce programs, and more)



ADVOCACY

Your voice in business and public policy. (Candidate forums, Business Day at the Capitol, lobbying, Public Affairs, and more)



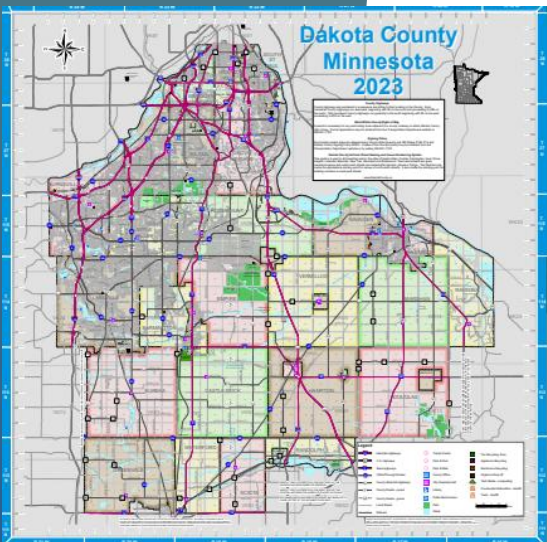
REGIONAL SUPPORT

Strengthening communities through partnerships. (Schools, elected officials, nonprofits, Charitable Foundation, and more)



EDUCATION

Programs, tools, and resources for business growth. (Workshops, digital communication, and DCR website)



With nearly 425 members, the Dakota County Regional Chamber represents a powerful network of businesses, nonprofits, and community partners working together to shape the future of our region.

Your membership is more than a connection—it's an investment in your success and our community.

BENEFITS OF JOINING YOUR CHAMBER

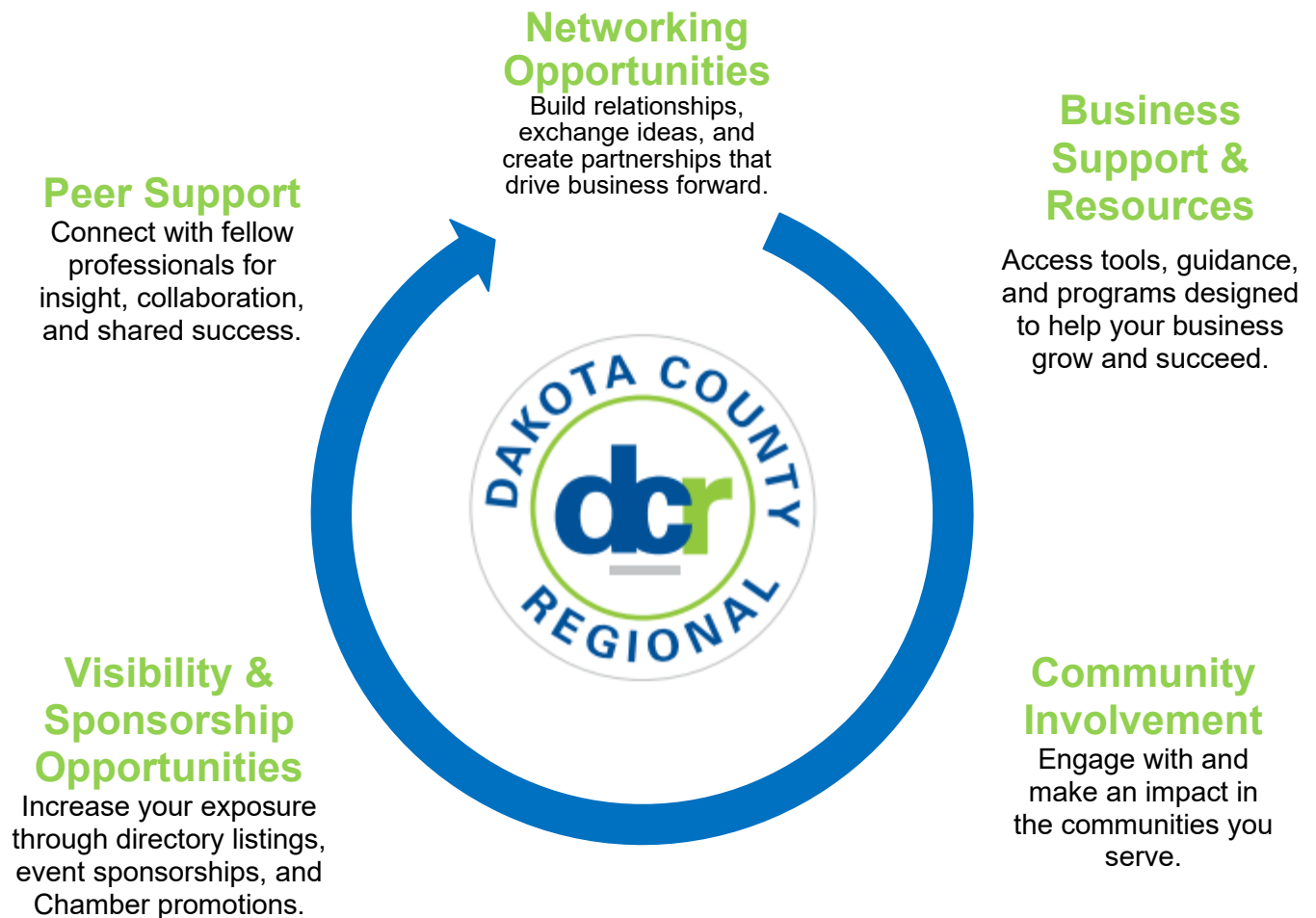
Unlocking Growth

The Comprehensive Benefits of Chamber Membership

Joining the **DCR Chamber** connects you to a powerful network designed to help your business grow, gain visibility, and thrive within the community.

As a member, you gain access to meaningful relationships, valuable resources, and opportunities that support both your business and the region.

How The DCR Chamber Supports Your Success



Membership also enhances your credibility and ensures your business has a voice in advocacy efforts that impact the local business environment.

Together, these benefits create a cycle of growth, connection, and opportunity—strengthening both your business and our regional economy.

Join your DCR and take your business to the next level!

ABOUT THE CHAMBER & REGION

The DCR Chamber is one of the fastest-growing Chambers in Minnesota and is ranked as the 13th largest Chamber in the state according to the 2024 Book of Lists, which includes more than 175 Chambers statewide. As Dakota County continues to experience strong growth, the future of both the county and the DCR Chamber remains highly promising.

Dakota County Overview

- Dakota County is the 3rd largest county in Minnesota with a population of approximately 443,692 (2023) and continues to grow
- Dakota County represents the 3rd largest economy among Minnesota's 87 counties (DEED)
- The county ranks 5th in Minnesota for median household income
- Median household income in Dakota County exceeds the state average, with a lower proportion of households earning under \$50,000 annually

Business & Workforce Strength

- 11,467 business establishments operate in Dakota County (2023)
- These businesses support approximately 185,225 jobs locally
- Average annual wage is \$69,660, higher than the state average
- The county's labor force includes approximately 247,853 workers
- Unemployment remains low at approximately 2–3% (about 5,800 individuals), below the state average

Why It Matters

Dakota County continues to demonstrate strong economic performance, workforce strength, and sustained population growth. These factors contribute to a stable and expanding business environment, positioning the region for continued long-term success.

OTHER SERVICES

- Referral bonus: \$50 Member restaurant gift card for each new DCR Chamber Member referral
- Certificate of Origin (COO): Complimentary for members when completed at the Chamber office
 - Members may also purchase a corporate seal (\$150 annually) and complete their own stamping and verification forms
 - Non-members: \$150 per Certificate of Origin
- Notary services are available by appointment
 - Free for DCR Chamber Members
 - \$25 for non-members



Get In Touch

Office: 651-452-9872
dcrchamber.com
info@dcrchamber.com



THE POWER TO CONNECT: GET INVOLVED AND STAY CONNECTED...

Over 100 events each year!

The DCR Chamber provides opportunities to get involved, meet others, and support the community. By connecting members through events, programs, advocacy, and resources, the DCR Chamber helps support business growth and engagement throughout the region. Below is a partial list of opportunities. Visit **DCRchamber.com** for updates throughout the year.

Advocacy

- Advocacy & Issues Forum (county, city, state)
- Candidate Forums
- Chamber Day at the Capitol

Signature Events

- Annual Kick Off Celebration
- Nonprofit Holiday Luncheon
- Business Excellence Awards Gala
- Golf Classic
- Women's Leadership Forum
- DCR Mayor's Cup

Events

State of the City Events

- Eagan
- Farmington
- Mendota Heights
- Rosemount
- West St. Paul

Additional Events

- Vikings VIP Training Camp Event
- Coffee Breaks
- Happy Hour and Handshakes
- Women's Luncheons
- Young Professionals Events
- Meet the Chamber
- Business Builder Series
- Ribbon Cuttings / Ground Breakings

Networking Groups

- Ambassadors
- DCR Business Owners Roundtable
- DCR Member Connect Virtual Leads Group

Committees

- Business Excellence Awards Committee
- Golf Classic Committee
- Women's Leadership Forum Committee
- Public Affairs Committee



DCR CHAMBER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Driving business and communities forward through education, training, and nonprofit support

The Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce Charitable Foundation (DCR Foundation) is a volunteer-managed 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to strengthening Dakota County as a place to live and work. Aligned with the mission of the DCR Chamber of Commerce, the Foundation accepts tax-deductible contributions that support education via scholarships, workforce initiatives and nonprofit organizations throughout the region.

Making an Impact in Our Community

The DCR Chamber Charitable Foundation invests in people, education, and partnerships that strengthen our workforce and support a thriving community.

Education & Workforce Development

We support training and education programs that prepare individuals for high-demand careers, strengthen the regional talent pipeline, and build job-ready skills. This includes funding for healthcare and phlebotomy training, workforce readiness initiatives, and annual scholarships for students and young professionals entering the workforce.

Scholarships & Leadership Development

We are committed to developing the next generation of leaders through targeted scholarship and leadership programs, including:

- Annual scholarships for young women pursuing higher education, presented at the **Women's Leadership Forum**
- "Four Wins" scholarships supporting careers in law enforcement, healthcare, transportation, and other high demand careers.

Nonprofit Partnerships & Community Engagement

The Foundation strengthens the nonprofit community by providing funding to DCR Chamber nonprofit members through annual initiatives, including the **Holiday Luncheon**, which highlights and supports Chamber member nonprofits across the region. These efforts encourage collaboration and elevate the impact of local organizations serving Dakota County.

Cyber Security Training

The Dakota County Regional Chamber Charitable Foundation is excited to announce a new workforce development initiative launching in 2027. Through a partnership with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College, the Foundation will offer Cisco Cyber Security Certification Training at no cost to DCR Chamber members.

Why It Matters

By investing in education, workforce development, and nonprofit partnerships, the DCR Chamber Charitable Foundation helps create lasting opportunity. These efforts strengthen the regional workforce, support essential community services, and build a more connected and thriving Dakota County.



EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

Signature Events

The DCR Chamber offers a wide variety of events, programs, and experiences designed to connect members, support professional development, and engage the community throughout the year.



Annual Kick Off Celebration

Kick off the year with updates, connections, and a look ahead at DCR Chamber priorities and events.



Women's Leadership Forum

An event designed to support and empower women through speakers, panels, and professional development.



Golf Classic

An annual all-day golf tournament featuring networking, contests, and a fun, relaxed environment.



Business Excellence Awards Gala

Recognizing and honoring businesses and individuals for excellence, leadership, and innovation within Dakota County.



Nonprofit Holiday Luncheon

A special event celebrating nonprofit organizations and highlighting their impact in the community.



DCR Mayor's Cup

A fundraiser to fight breast cancer in October. All participants raise funds by kicking field goals at TCO Stadium.

NETWORKING, COMMITTEES & GROUPS

Networking

Coffee Break – 2/Month



Members casually network with each other over coffee and light refreshments at these events held on the second Thursday and fourth Tuesday of every month. Coffee Breaks are hosted by Chamber members at their place of business and are free to attend.

Happy Hour & Handshakes - Monthly



Hosted by a Chamber member at their place of business or venue of choice, these events are after-hours networking opportunities for Chamber members, the host's clients, and members of the community. Happy Hour & Handshakes are free to attend.

Ribbon Cutting Celebrations



The Chamber welcomes new businesses to the community or their expansions by offering a ribbon cutting celebration. Invited to the event are city officials, local dignitaries, Chamber Ambassadors, and Chamber members.

Committees

Join a Committee



Volunteering as a committee member provides a great opportunity to increase awareness of your business and develop great relationships with other DCR members. There are four committees you can get involved with:

- Business Excellence Awards Gala
- Golf Classic
- Public Affairs
- Women's Leadership Forum

Groups

Ambassadors Group



The Ambassadors group represents the Chamber by volunteering to help execute events, attend ribbon cutting celebrations, mentor new members, and be the valuable PR arm of the Chamber.

DCR Business Owner's Roundtable



Business owners get together with their peers to discuss strategy and work through obstacles their business is facing while building an ongoing business relationship with each other. Meets monthly in person. the virtual group meets monthly. *See events calendar*

DCR Member Connect Virtual Leads Group



This virtual group meets monthly. *See events calendar for further details.*



INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY

The DCR Chamber understands how legislation and the economy impact your business. Serving as the local presence with a regional voice, the DCR Chamber helps ensure members are informed and have opportunities to engage on the issues that matter most to their business. Through forums, events, and committee involvement, members can stay in-the-loop and make their voices heard.

Advocacy & Issues Forums

These breakfast forums provide members with updates from lawmakers, lobbyists, and industry experts on how legislation at all levels of government impacts business operations, including bottom line, job creation, growth, and expansion. These events also provide an opportunity for members to ask questions and share feedback.

Candidate Forums

Each election cycle, the DCR Chamber helps support as hosts, Candidate Forums for local, state, and federal races that impact Dakota County public policy. The Chamber has also partnered to host Congressional District 2 debates with other chambers. These forums allow Members to hear directly from candidates and submit questions.

Business Day at the Capitol

Members join the DCR Chamber at the State Capitol to meet with legislators and learn about current business initiatives. Participants have the opportunity to share business concerns and advocate for policies that support growth and economic development. This annual event is typically held in April and posted on DCRchamber.com.

Public Affairs Committee

The Public Affairs Committee addresses business issues at the policy level and helps establish position statements on key local, regional, and state issues. These positions are posted on the DCR Chamber website and are reviewed by the Board of Directors for approval. The committee meets monthly in a virtual format.

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“The Dakota County Regional Chamber helps the Minnesota Vikings by providing valuable connections with local businesses and community leaders, facilitating partnerships that enhance the team's presence and influence within the region. The Chamber also offers opportunities for community engagement and collaboration, helping to strengthen the Vikings' ties to the local community and drive economic growth that benefits both the team and the region.”

-Minnesota Vikings

Meet the Chamber



This monthly orientation meeting is designed for new and prospective members. Attendees learn about DCR Chamber membership benefits, including committee involvement, networking opportunities, regional events, and marketing and advertising opportunities.

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The Dakota County Regional Chamber helps me build connections and helps my company be better engaged in Dakota County as it continues to grow and change. The relationships the chamber has helped me, and Velocity develop helps my clients and gives me valuable perspective. Chambers are an important voice for the business community and being part of DCR is a way to be involved in a meaningful way.” –

Mike Zipko, Velocity Public Affair



DCR Membership Application 2026 (Digital Sign Up Available at DCRChamber.com)

Company Name _____ Business Category _____	
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Primary Phone _____ Fax _____ Website _____	
Company Twitter Handle _____ Company Facebook Name _____ Company LinkedIn Name _____	
Primary Rep. _____ Prefix _____ Title/Position _____ Email _____ Phone# _____	
Billing Rep. _____ Prefix _____ Title/Position _____ Email _____ Phone # _____	
Additional Rep _____ Prefix _____ Title/Position _____ Email _____ Phone# _____	

Annual Investment: (See Dues Schedule) _____ **One Time New Member Processing Fee \$35 Total Investment _____	Number of Employees _____ FT _____ PT Employees (PT=1/2 FT) Investment <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>1-5</td><td>\$467</td></tr> <tr><td>6-10</td><td>\$549</td></tr> <tr><td>11-15</td><td>\$656</td></tr> <tr><td>16-25</td><td>\$716</td></tr> <tr><td>26-50</td><td>\$974</td></tr> <tr><td>51-100</td><td>\$1210</td></tr> <tr><td>101-200</td><td>\$2087</td></tr> <tr><td>201 – 500</td><td>\$2148</td></tr> <tr><td>501 – 1,000</td><td>\$2863</td></tr> <tr><td>1,000+</td><td>\$3579</td></tr> </table>	1-5	\$467	6-10	\$549	11-15	\$656	16-25	\$716	26-50	\$974	51-100	\$1210	101-200	\$2087	201 – 500	\$2148	501 – 1,000	\$2863	1,000+	\$3579
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Payment Method: Cash _____ Check # _____ Visa/MasterCard/AMEX # _____ Security Code: _____ Exp. Date _____ Billing Zip Code _____ Referred by: _____ Print Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____																					

By signing this document, you are agreeing to your investment for one fiscal year. Your Membership investment automatically renews on an annual basis. If you no longer wish to continue your membership upon renewal date, please notify the Chamber office. The Chamber reserves the right to send communications to any e-mails listed on this document

Nonprofits: 1-5 rate plus \$2 for each employee over 5

Retired Individual/Public Official
 \$201 Annual Membership Investment(non-voting)
 Additional Business Location: \$237

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New Membership Application 9.2025