

"To develop and promote resources for Economic Growth in our community."



January 2024



Economic Development Priorities to Invoke Change



Priorities to Invoke Change

Promote Recreation
and Tourism

Improve
Broadband

Support
Childcare

Support Career
Development

Business Retention,
Expansion and
Attraction

Support Housing
Initiatives

County Economic Development What you need to know:

Aitkin

 **McGregor**

SAVE THE DATE

1st Annual Workforce Summit- Aitkin County





When:

March 14, 2024, 8am-4pm

Where:

**Covenant Pines Bible Camp
43696 245th Place
McGregor, MN 55760**

The Aitkin County Workforce Summit is a dynamic convergence of industry experts, local businesses, and community leaders dedicated to revolutionizing the workforce landscape.

This immersive event focuses on the entire employment cycle, from attracting top talent and refining hiring strategies to fostering seamless onboarding processes and implementing innovative retention techniques. With engaging panel discussions, informative sessions, and networking opportunities, attendees will uncover invaluable insights to address workforce challenges, drive growth, and cultivate a thriving environment where businesses and employees flourish.

Join us to shape the future of our county's workforce while exploring transformative solutions that empower both employers and individuals for sustained success.

Stay tuned for further details.....

The event is being organized by the Aitkin Chamber and McGregor Chamber, together with community leaders.

For additional information, contact:

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Aitkin County Broadband Profile 2023: Green Rating: Ranking 40 out of 87

Posted on December 28, 2023 by Ann Treacy

Rank: 40

Aitkin County sees great gains in 2023

Aitkin County went from ranking 77 last year to 40 in 2023. They have gone from 60.36 percent coverage to broadband of 100 Mbps down and 20 up in 2022 to 93.96 percent coverage in 2023.

They have 2100 households without access to broadband at that speed. Estimates indicate that it will cost \$19.5 million to get to ubiquitous broadband in the county.

In 2022, Aitkin County worked with Blandin Foundation as an IRBC (Iron Range Broadband Community) and they were cohorts in Blandin's inaugural Accelerate! program, a process to spur community acquisition and deployment of federal and state broadband funds.

In November 2022, the Mille Lacs Messenger reported that an \$4.8 million broadband construction would be completed in fall of 2023.

In December 2022, Paul Bunyan Communications shared more about a Minnesota State Border to Border funded project that would expand broadband to Aitkin, Itasca and St Louis Counties. And in June 2023, Paul Bunyan reported broadband expansion in Grand Rapids, Warba, Marble, Calumet and Waukenabo Township in Aitkin County. SCI was awarded an almost \$800,000 from a Border to Border grant to serve 199 locations in the townships of Balsam, Logan, Spalding, Turner and Workman.

Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative has two applications for Border to Border grants in to the Office of Broadband Development; decision should be announced Winter 2024.

Aitkin County residents were awarded 65 line extension funding requests, which means state funding will subsidize last mile broadband extension to their homes.

In the past, a roadblock for Aitkin was that the county is widely served by a national provider that has not been upgrading the connections in their area. It seems that is becoming less of a hindrance.

Aitkin is getting an optimistic green code after significant improvement in the last year and greater interest from the County and area providers.

Attention Businesses! DEED office of Small Business Development offers Small Business Calls



Small Business Call

Our next call/Teams meeting, will be on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Join the conversation every month
on the 2nd Tuesday at 2pm.

Scan to join video call



MN Office of Small Business Development

If you need **help paying for training**
& have been on unemployment
anytime in the past year
please contact us to
see if you qualify
for our services.

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holly.miller@nemojt.org

JET is an equal opportunity employer & service provider. Proud partner
in the American Job Center Network & Careerforce. This material can be
made available in an alternate format by contacting 218-623-5978.



JET

SBDC offers Starting a Business 101 Class

Thursday, January 18, 2024

5:00-7:00 PM

Central Lakes College



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SBDC®

MINNESOTA

[Register](#)

Save the Date

**AITKIN HIGH SCHOOL
& COMMUNITY
HEALTH FAIR**

WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 6TH

12:30PM-3:20PM GRADES 7-12

4:00PM-6:00PM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**THIS IS AN INTERACTIVE EVENT!
PLAN TO BRING A GAME OR DEMONSTRATION
ON A HEALTH TOPIC OF YOUR CHOICE.**

Local businesses or agencies wishing
to participate in this event,
RSVP to Sammy Croatt.

SCROATT@ISD1.ORG OR 218-927-7124

Help our youth learn more about
health and wellness!

Properties Available in the Aitkin Area

[Tour the Properties](#)



Contact me directly for any details and additional opportunities: mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us.

26838 U.S. 169 Aitkin, MN 56431 USA

Are you ready to move you, your family and/or your business to an amazing area? We welcome you to visit anytime. Tour any of our available properties, enjoy our recreational assets, amazing dining and our unique entertainment offerings. We think you will agree, it is Naturally **Better** here. Aitkin County is a community with momentum. We are confident once you visit, you will live here!

naturallybetterhere.com

County Business Spotlight



ASAP Towing Aitkin, MN

39633 Deer Street
218.429.0129
asap@asaptowingaitkin.com



What makes Aitkin County Naturally Better



Community



Cities



Contact Us

AITKIN COUNTY



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