

2026 CEDA Annual Meeting



On behalf of the Community and Economic Development Associates Board of Directors and Team Members, we would like to thank all those that contributed to and attended CEDA's annual and regional meetings. The confidence so many organizations have in the work that we do here at CEDA is greatly appreciated and their presence and participation made the events truly special.

This meeting was particularly meaningful as we celebrated a major milestone: **40 years of helping small communities do BIG things!** For four decades, CEDA has been dedicated to empowering rural America and helping to strengthen local economies, supporting small businesses, securing needed grant funding, and driving community development initiatives that help rural communities grow and thrive.

Our event at Sugar Lake Lodge in Cohasset, MN was a huge success. Thanks to our donors' financial support, attendees enjoyed a memorable and productive gathering. During the meeting, we were proud to highlight several key CEDA achievements from this year, including:



- Over **\$2.4 million** awarded in grant funding so far this year
- **26 businesses** started or recruited to the area, resulting in **61 jobs created** and **34 retained**
- **44 new childcare slots** created in our communities

We deeply value our partnerships and look forward to continuing our collaboration into 2027 and beyond. Their support made this event possible and directly contributes to our ongoing mission to serve rural communities across our region.

Thank you once again for your commitment to the future of rural America. We look forward to continuing to work together. Here's to 40 more years of making an impact together!



Pictured: CEDA's Tracy Hensley, Max Gatewood, Jack Wheeler, Meyer Beckner, & Luke Lammers



The beautiful backdrop of the 2026 CEDA Annual Meeting at Sugar Lake Lodge



Lego houses built during Team Training Event - complete with many hiccups and difficulties faced by Economic Developers



CEDA Managers: Amy Schaefer, Jessica Pellinen, Dave Schmidt, Laura Qualey, Chris Hahn & Jordan Grossman



Left Image: CEDA CEO/President Ron Zeigler, Loans Manager Mitch Massman & Finance Manager Andrew Hoiness take in a beautiful round of golf.



CEDA's Regional Manager Dave Schmidt presents at the 2026 Annual Meeting