

JOB SERVICE - GRAND FORKS Business Services

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2026

NORTH
Dakota | Grand Forks Workforce Center
Be Legendary.™ JOB SERVICE

Meeting Workforce Needs



northernvalleycareer
E X P O

Upcoming Workforce Recruitment Events

- October 7th, November 4th & December 2nd - Workforce Wednesday Hiring & Resource Fairs
- October 28th - Northern Valley Career Expo
- January 28th - Statewide Multi-Industry Virtual Job Fair
- March 3rd, March 9th & April 21st - Cash In Student Job Fairs at Central High School, Red River High School and East Grand Forks Senior High
- April 8th - Grand Cities Spring Job Fair

2027 VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

[Learn More About Our Virtual Job Fair](#)

Resources to Tap Into the Veteran Pipeline

After Action: Veteran Careers, Benefits, & Resource Expo

On August 13, 2026, Job Service North Dakota and the North Dakota Department of Veterans' Affairs hosted After Action: Veteran Careers, Benefits, & Resource Expo, a statewide virtual resource and job fair for military members, veterans, Guard and Reserve personnel, and their families. The online format helped remove distance and transportation barriers, connecting attendees with employers and resources across North Dakota that they may not have previously known about.

The event also featured eight webinars presented by various agencies for both veterans and employers. These included a keynote presentation by JSND Executive Director Phil Davis on achieving success after military service, as well as sessions on suicide prevention, navigating careers and benefits, and G.I. Bill approved apprenticeships. Businesses also participated in the career piece of the expo, promoting their current career opportunities.

The expo hosted 38 live exhibitor booths and welcomed 19 attendees with a total of 39 registrations. Job Service North Dakota plans to continue offering similar events to help veterans connect with employment opportunities and resources throughout the state.

VA-Ready Employer: How to Get Approved to Offer VA Education Benefits

Many employers use apprenticeship programs to build and strengthen their future workforce across a wide range of industries. These programs help develop highly skilled employees, reduce turnover, standardize training, and create a reliable pipeline of qualified workers.

Apprenticeships are also an effective way to attract and retain veterans. The structured training environment mirrors the military experience and earn-and-learn programs allow veterans to build new skills without taking on college debt. Eligible veterans can also use their GI Bill benefits to receive a tax-free monthly housing stipend while participating in approved programs.

To learn more or to set up a veteran-friendly, GI Bill-approved apprenticeship program, contact the North Dakota Department of Veterans' Affairs State Approving Agency: Chris Kratochvil at 701-298-4667



NORTH
Dakota | Veterans Affairs
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Build Your Future Workforce with Compass

The Chamber is partnering with [Golden Path Solutions](#) to help regional employers – like you! – connect with their future workforce. Chamber members can get started with a free Golden Path Basic Membership in the online platform Compass, making it easy to showcase your company and share work-based learning opportunities with students.

Looking to do more? Chamber members also receive exclusive discounted pricing on paid memberships that expand your reach, promote your careers, and strengthen connections with students across North Dakota and Minnesota. Paid memberships also include valuable employer insights, marketing resources, personalized strategy sessions, and more.

[Create your Compass account](#) today in just minutes and choose the membership that fits your goals. Select your membership level in the top right corner of Compass and use the code GFCHAMBER.

Contact info@goldenpath.net to learn more.



Grand Cities Fall Job Fair Recap

The 2026 Grand Cities Fall Job Fair, hosted by Job Service North Dakota and Leighton Media, brought strong energy and engagement to the Alerus Center. A total of 165 job seekers attended, connecting with 40 diverse businesses representing several industries.

Employers reported steady foot traffic and productive conversations, while job seekers appreciated the opportunity to explore openings, share resumes, and make face-to-face connections.

Overall, the event fostered meaningful networking and contributed to continued workforce growth in the Grand Cities area.



CareerViewXR Brings New Light to Careers

With CareerViewXR's Virtual Reality goggles, you can experience more than 180 careers available across North Dakota. Grand Forks Job Service has brought these immersive career experiences to various community activities and school events, helping students and community members explore career paths they may never have considered.

This summer, youth from Global Friends Coalition visited the Grand Forks Job Service office to explore North Dakota careers using the CareerViewXR goggles. Students were able to explore various industries and get a glimpse of what a typical day on the job may look like in hopes of inspiring our future workforce. "Several of my students were able to explore roles they'd never considered, while others felt reinforced in their planned career after the simulation. If you really want to know what a potential career feels like, my students and I can't recommend the experience enough," said Jake Larson, Global Friends Coalition Volunteer/Youth Coordinator.

If you're interested in having your company's careers added to the CareerViewXR virtual reality library, you can learn more about becoming an Industry Partner on [their website](#).

Curious what the experience is like? Stop by the Job Service office and try the goggles yourself!



Invest in youth today!
Strengthen your workforce tomorrow!

Partner with JSND's work-based learning programs to develop and grow your future talent pipeline.

[Golden Path Solutions Highlights Job Service Partnership.](#)

Call 701-795-3700 and ask to speak with a WIOA Advisor to learn more.



Largest Employers in North Dakota

Largest employer rankings are a valuable and frequently-requested piece of labor market information from economic developers, job seekers, policymakers, and researchers. Every year, our Labor Market Information Center compiles rankings for North Dakota and its 53 counties using payroll data reported to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, which covers an estimated 90 percent of all North Dakota jobs. The top employers are then contacted to obtain permission to publish their company's rank, name, and general industry description.

This most current information was released on September 2, 2026. Click the Dashboard button on the website above to select the data that interests you.

DASHBOARD 

DATASET 

This Summer's Adulthood Challenge

This summer, staff of the Grand Forks Job Service office hosted an Adulthood Challenge event. The event provided students ages 14-18 years old a fun, hands-on way to learn about money management while exploring future careers and the importance of workforce readiness through an interactive budgeting activity. Each student chose a career from an in-demand career cluster and used their projected monthly income to build and manage a realistic household budget. By connecting career choices with earning potential, students gained a better understanding of how education, job skills, and career planning can shape their future.

As they worked through the simulation, students learned the difference between gross and net wages and made thoughtful financial decisions about needs versus wants.

Along the way, they faced real-life situations that affected their budgets, such as unexpected healthcare costs, changes in family circumstances, financial emergencies, and even deciding whether to adopt a pet. These scenarios helped students see why planning ahead, saving for the future, setting priorities, and being flexible are important life skills.

One participant shared, "The experience made adulthood feel a little less intimidating. It was so fun! I feel more prepared to adult!"

Overall, the Adulthood Challenge event was a great success. The experience encouraged students to think about the education, training, and skills needed for in-demand careers while building confidence to make informed decisions about their future.

From Virtual Connections to Regional Growth: Job Fair Recap

On July 23, regional workforce partners hosted the first Real. Good. Northeast North Dakota Rural Virtual Job Fair, creating a new online opportunity for employers and job seekers to connect. The event was a collaborative effort among Job Service North Dakota, Red River Regional Council, and the Nelson, Pembina, and Walsh County JDAs.

The virtual format expanded access across the region while demonstrating the value of coordinated, innovative workforce outreach. The event featured 29 participating employers with over 100 job openings. A total of 72 job seekers registered, of which 39 attended the event.

Interest extended beyond the region: 43% of job seekers indicated they would be willing to relocate to northeast North Dakota. Job seekers represented interests in several high-demand fields, including administrative support, community and social service, healthcare support, management, construction, skilled trades, and manufacturing.

Digital promotion helped broaden the event's reach, generating 114,756 touchpoints through streaming TV, online advertising, and digital billboard and screen placements.

Building on the momentum of the July event, plans are underway for another Rural Virtual Job Fair in April 2027 in an effort to continue and expand the multi-year Real. Good. talent attraction campaign. This regional effort is focused on attracting new workers and helping meet the workforce needs of northeast North Dakota.

The primary goal will be to recruit workers from outside the area. Northeast North Dakota employers continue to have more available jobs than local workers currently able to fill them, making regional and out-of-area recruitment essential to meeting workforce needs.

The 2027 event will again highlight the variety of career opportunities available in the region while introducing prospective workers to the communities, quality of life, and long-term opportunities that make northeast North Dakota a great place to live and work. Additional details on employer participation, job seeker registration, and promotional opportunities will be announced as planning moves forward.



Grand Forks Workforce Center
JOB SERVICE



We Need Your Expertise to Strengthen North Dakota's Workforce



No one enjoys sitting through a bad interview, on either side of the table. And to be honest, I'm sure we've all sat through those less-than-stellar interviews. Job Service North Dakota is on a mission to change that!

Every day, job seekers walk into our Workforce Centers seeking guidance, confidence, and a clear understanding of what employers expect when interviewing for a job. And truly, you understand these expectations better than anyone. We are inviting employers to share their real-world experience and interview expectations in a short survey designed to strengthen the talent pipeline across North Dakota.

Your participation in this survey is essential in helping us provide the most current, practical, and meaningful guidance possible. Your insight will directly shape how we prepare job seekers and ensure candidates show up prepared, confident, and ready to shine when they meet you at the interview table.

The survey takes about 10 minutes, and the results will be shared across our agency, with ND high schools, and career services at our local colleges. You can access the survey [HERE](#).

Your expertise will truly make a difference! Thank you for supporting North Dakota's Workforce!

Thank you

Promotion of Career Opportunities and Hiring Events on Facebook

The Grand Forks Workforce Center is committed to supporting our regional employers by actively sharing business Facebook posts, career opportunities, and hiring events. By promoting local job openings and workforce-related events, we help businesses reach a broader audience, connect with potential candidates more quickly, and strengthen their recruitment efforts.

Employers benefit from increased visibility, improved outreach, and enhanced community engagement. Sharing your posts through our platform extends your message to job seekers who may not yet be actively searching, boosts attendance for hiring events, and helps highlight your organization as a valued contributor to our regional workforce.

We welcome businesses of all sizes to partner with us. If you have job openings, hiring events, or workforce-related announcements you'd like us to share, please reach out to me. I'm happy to help amplify your message and support your recruitment goals.

<https://www.facebook.com/jobservicendgrandforks>

The Job Pod

Join Dusty Hillebrand on The Job Pod where he talks with North Dakota employers about their businesses. Learn about job-getting skills and explore careers in North Dakota.

Whether you're recruiting, looking for your next job, or just like learning about other careers, you'll find something to love on The Job Pod – the place for North Dakota's career conversations.

New episodes publish monthly.



A Heartfelt Thank You To These Business Partners

The Grand Forks Workforce Center would like to give a heartfelt thanks to the following businesses for being a worksite partner and for investing in our community's youth.

- Walsh County Grain Terminal- Park River ND
- Dakota Fire Protection – Grand Forks ND
- Moler Barber College of Hair – Fargo ND
- Northern Air Family Fun Center - Grand Forks ND

The Work Experience Program is intended to make a positive impact on young adults while they learn valuable work skills in preparation for their future career paths.

Here is a quote from a worksite partner: "We saw our youth improve immensely over the summer, from when he got here to when he left. We started to get comments on how good things looked! This showed us that this program was beneficial. Your program helped us realize and achieve our summer goals."

Invest in youth today! Strengthen your workforce tomorrow! Partner with JSND's work-based learning programs to develop and grow your future talent pipeline.

Call and ask to speak with a WIOA Advisor to learn more, 701-795-3700.

THANK YOU

TrainND Presents:



Own It: Accountability - Priorities - Initiative - Grand Forks

Success at work requires more than completing assigned tasks. It means taking ownership, knowing what deserves your attention, and recognizing when it's time to step up. OWN IT is a practical, engaging professional development course designed to help employees strengthen accountability, manage competing priorities and take initiative with confidence.

You'll Learn How to...

- Own Your Work: Take responsibility for commitments, decisions and results while building greater personal accountability.
- Focus on What Matters: Practical strategies to prioritize competing demands and confidently manage your workload.
- Take Initiative: Recognize opportunities to contribute, solve problems proactively and support your team beyond assigned responsibilities.

You'll Leave Ready to...

- Follow through on commitments.
- Prioritize when everything feels important.
- Step up without always being asked.
- Communicate proactively when challenges arise.
- Take greater ownership of your work.

Fee: \$149

September 29 | 9AM - 12PM | Grand Forks

Register [online](#) today or call 701-662-1578!



Creating a Positive Work Environment - Grafton

Creating a positive workplace starts with each of us. Join TrainND Northeast trainer Kyle Ternes for an interactive 3-hour session focused on practical ways employees and leaders can strengthen teamwork, relationships, and workplace culture.

Not all of us have had the opportunity to work in a truly positive work environment. A positive work environment is important for the productivity of a company but is also important to us personally. Our emotional and physical health can be improved by working in a positive work environment. We should wake up each morning wanting to go to work - not trying to think of excuses not to go. We want to be proud of where we work and enjoy telling others about where we work. As an employee or a leader within a company you have a responsibility to create and maintain a positive work environment. No matter your role within the organization, this course will give you tools to start creating the company environment you crave through building and nurturing effective workplace relationships.

Early Bird (Save \$30!) - ends Oct 9th : \$119.00

October 27 | 9AM - 12PM | Grafton

Register [online](#) today or call 701-662-1578!



Browse other Train ND courses at <https://www.enrole.com/lrsc/jsp/index.jsp>

KEEP IN TOUCH

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