



Winter 2025 Newsletter

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From Past to Fast

Broadband Project Update, Tech Then and Now, 2024 in Review



Bridging the Digital Divide: Your Broadband Project Update

Kandiyohi and Genessee townships were included in the 2024 Round 10 awards of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Border-to-Border Broadband Grant program. You can find details on this award at the [West Central Tribune](#).



These awards join locations in the townships of Colfax, Dovre, Lake Andrew and Norway Lake and the nearly completed project in Fahlun Township from Round 9 and bring the number of served locations to over 2,600.

Broadband development continues to be a driving focus of KCED's work. KCED's [Broadband webpage](#) provides details on grants and projects in Kandiyohi County.

How Broadband Internet Access Changed Our Lives: A story from your neighbors

Mitch and Jeanne Ashburn, residents of Mamre Township shared how getting fiber broadband to their home on St. John's Lake added to their peace of mind. The grant was made possible with a Border-to-Border Broadband Grant from DEED, service provided by Federated Telephone Cooperative, and support from Mamre Township, Kandiyohi County, and KCED.



Tech Then and Now: Play the Game!

Internet availability and technology has come a long way. Anyone who can recall the sound of dial-up can vouch for that fact. The Kandiyohi County, Atwater and Raymond Historical Societies hold these treasures of technology of the past.

Can you match each item? Select the picture of each lettered object to see each individual match or the 'Answer Key' button below to see all answers. Learn more about where these historical items can be found and what their modern match is!



D.



See the Answer
Key

2024 in Review:

A Year in Motion

\$500,000 Child Care Economic Development Grant award from DEED to support development of four family child care provider units in Atwater and a nature preschool at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

Over \$10,000,000 awarded from DEED to internet providers for broadband projects in Kandiyohi County

Executive Director Aaron Backman retires after 8 years of service

Michelle Marotzke joins KCED as its Business Development Manager and will lead KCED into the new year as the interim Executive Director

KCED launches a new logo, marketing name, and a refreshed website and moved to its new location at AppleTree Square in Willmar (ribbon cutting pictured above!)

Two English and one Spanish Elevate Community Business Academy cohorts graduate, marking over 100 students to benefit from entrepreneur training

Thank you to all of our partners, board members, and committee volunteers for your service and hard work to continue KCED's mission of being a catalyst for the economic growth of Kandiyohi County





[Kandiyohi County Economic Development](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Kandiyohi County Economic Development | AppleTree Square Suite 3, 1601 East Highway 12,
Willmar, MN P.O. Box 1783 | Willmar, MN 56201-1783 US

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