

THE EFFECT OF
MEMBERSHIP IN PLANNING DISTRICTS ON THE ABILITY TO
OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM SELECTED FUNDING PROGRAMS
IN SOUTH DAKOTA, 1986-1990.

An Abstract of a Project Report
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this project report is to determine what effect membership in a planning district has on the ability to obtain assistance from selected funding programs in South Dakota, 1986-1990. South Dakota was not fully served by planning districts during the study period. The absence of planning district membership in a twenty county area in the central part of the state provided the opportunity to quantify the benefits of membership.

Assistance programs selected for the study had to be available to all units of local government, have a high award frequency level, and have an objective project ranking system. Statistical analysis was used to determine the level of selected funding program assistance each city and county received during the five year study period. Data was then converted to award and assistance per 1,000 population, and cartographically analyzed by county and planning district. Three of the five active planning districts received more project awards per 1,000 population than the area that was not served. The same three planning districts placed well above the state average assistance per 1,000 population level.

Through this evaluation it has been determined that planning district membership does substantially benefit units of local government.