



Midwestern Legislative Conference

August 30, 2026

St. Paul, MN

Julie Tesch, President & CEO

Better Knowledge.
Better Understanding.
Better Decisions.

About us

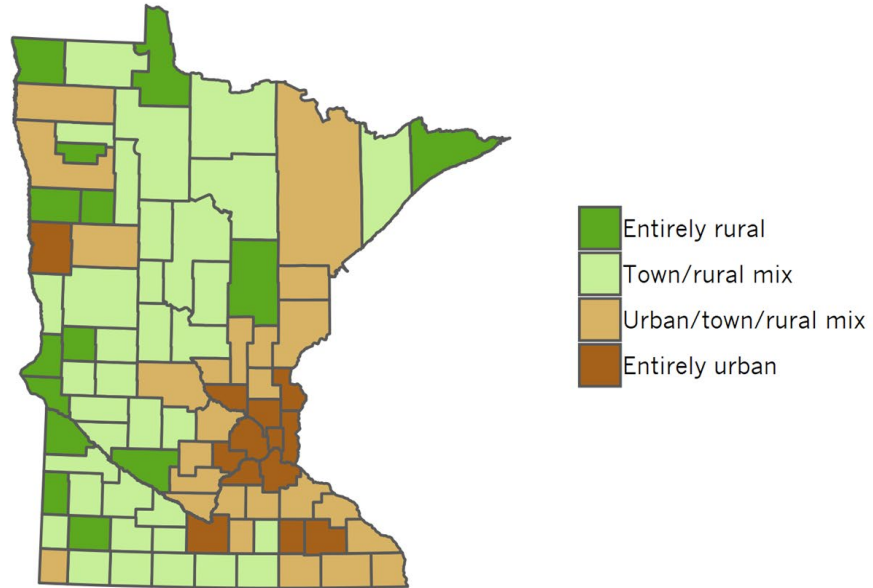
- Created in 1997 by the Minnesota Legislature
- Based in Greater Minnesota, serving Greater Minnesota.
- A non-partisan, non-profit policy research organization.
- Dedicated to providing Minnesota's policy makers with an unbiased evaluation of issues from a rural perspective.
- 20 Board members
- 3 Staff members in home offices

What We Do

We take complicated and complex issues and present them in ways that give them meaning and relevance.

Our research is not designed to determine public policy, but instead to inform those making the decisions.

County categorizations based on rural-urban commuting areas



Research Agenda

1. Remaining Resilient in an Aging Rural MN
2. The Future of Rural Access to Well-Being
3. The Role of Rural Places and People in Shifting Energy Infrastructure and the Environment
4. A New Future for Rural Childcare
5. Funding Local Government in Changing Times

CRPD Staff

Left to right:

Kelly Asche, Senior Research Associate

Marnie Werner, VP of Research &
Operations

Julie Tesch, President & CEO



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& DEVELOPMENT

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Thank you!

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