NOBLES COUNTY DATA CENTER

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

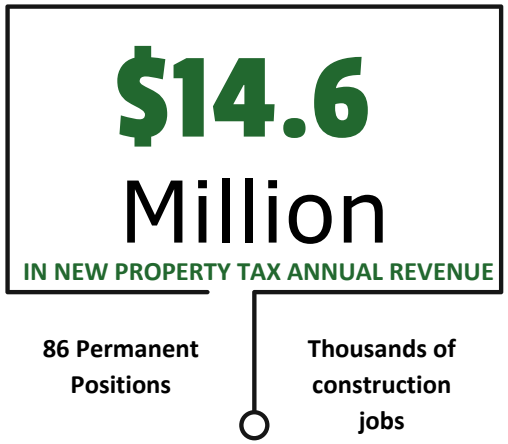
PREPARED BY
SRDC
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Executive Summary

The Nobles County Data Center is more than a construction project; it is a generational investment that could redefine the economic future of Nobles County and Southwest Minnesota. This development promises thousands of construction jobs, more than 80 permanent positions, and millions in new property tax revenue every year, increasing the county's tax base and strengthening schools, roads, and public services for decades to come.

Beyond the numbers, this project could position Nobles County as a regional technology hub, attracting talent, stimulating housing development, and driving improvements in social and physical infrastructure that benefit many communities in the region. By pairing the data center with renewable energy projects, the project leads the way in turning local wind and solar projects into a competitive advantage.

This is a rare opportunity: a single investment that delivers economic diversification, workforce development, and long-term fiscal stability. With thoughtful planning and collaboration, Nobles County can secure a stronger, more resilient future for its residents and businesses.



Introduction

Geronimo Power contracted the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) to prepare a third-party analysis of the economic impacts of a potential hyperscale data center campus in Nobles County, Minnesota. The SRDC utilized research from third-party sources, interviews, publicly available data from the state and local units of government, and data provided by Geronimo Power to create this report.

Since Geronimo Power is developing this Nobles County Data site to then sell to a major cloud or AI provider, the exact details of any prospective data center development at the site are unknown, so this analysis relies on preliminary plans, third-party information, and the knowledge of our experienced staff. The analysis is intended to provide estimates of the likely economic impacts of a data center in this location, based on the best and most reasonable assumptions available at the time we completed this report in January 2026.

This analysis discusses data center industry trends around the United States and within Minnesota and considers the following categories of economic impact from the proposed development.

Regional Context
We explore how this proposed data center project relates to existing goals and policies found in local and regional plans, such as the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), the "Our Worthington 2045" Comprehensive Plan, and the Nobles County Comprehensive Plan (update in progress).

Needs Assessment
Included are the needs for housing, childcare, water, energy, and workforce development to support the project.

Current Economic Conditions
Included is an economic snapshot of the region, including statistics from DEED, the U.S. Census, and data from economic development organizations in the area.

Future Economic Impact Scenario – Jobs
The SRDC explored real-life scenarios and examples from the communities most impacted by this project. We included data and analysis on direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts from construction and from operations.

Future Economic Impact Scenario – Taxes
The SRDC examined taxes and how they could potentially benefit local communities and the state. This section will address the uncertainties and provide a range of scenarios to consider with the different forms of taxation.

Future Economic Impact Scenario – Charitable Giving
We detailed the ways Geronimo Power will support the communities in the service area. Included are real-life examples of how these charitable funds could directly impact the communities surrounding the data center.

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What is a Data Center?

A data center is a physical location that houses computing machines and the computing infrastructure IT systems, such as servers, data storage drives, network equipment, and, in the case of AI data centers, high-performance computing (HPC) hardware. They range in size from a small room in an organization's facility to large campuses of buildings that look like warehouses. With the rise of cloud computing and artificial intelligence applications, the size and complexity of data centers have increased.

- The proposed Geronimo data center is a secure facility that houses computer servers used to store, process, and transmit digital information.
- The facility would support essential digital services such as cloud computing, data storage, and business operations.
- The data center would operate 24/7 and require reliable electrical service, backup power systems, and specialized cooling infrastructure.
- The facility would be designed with redundancy, security, and resiliency to ensure reliable operations.
- On-site staffing would be limited but highly skilled, focused on technical, maintenance, and security roles.
- The project represents critical digital infrastructure that supports regional and national economic activity while contributing to the local tax base and economy.

Types of Data Centers

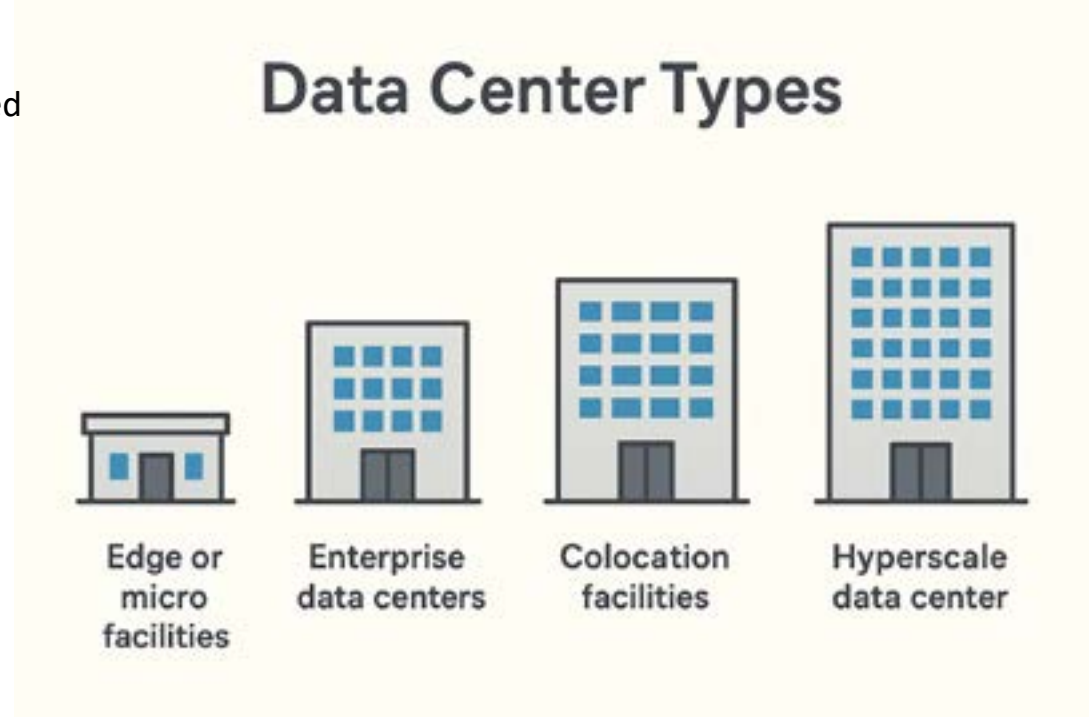
Geronimo Power is preparing a “shovel-ready” site for a hyperscale data center campus, which it will then sell to a major cloud or AI provider such as Amazon, Meta, or Google. A hyperscale facility is the largest type of data center. For some context, the different types of data centers are as follows:

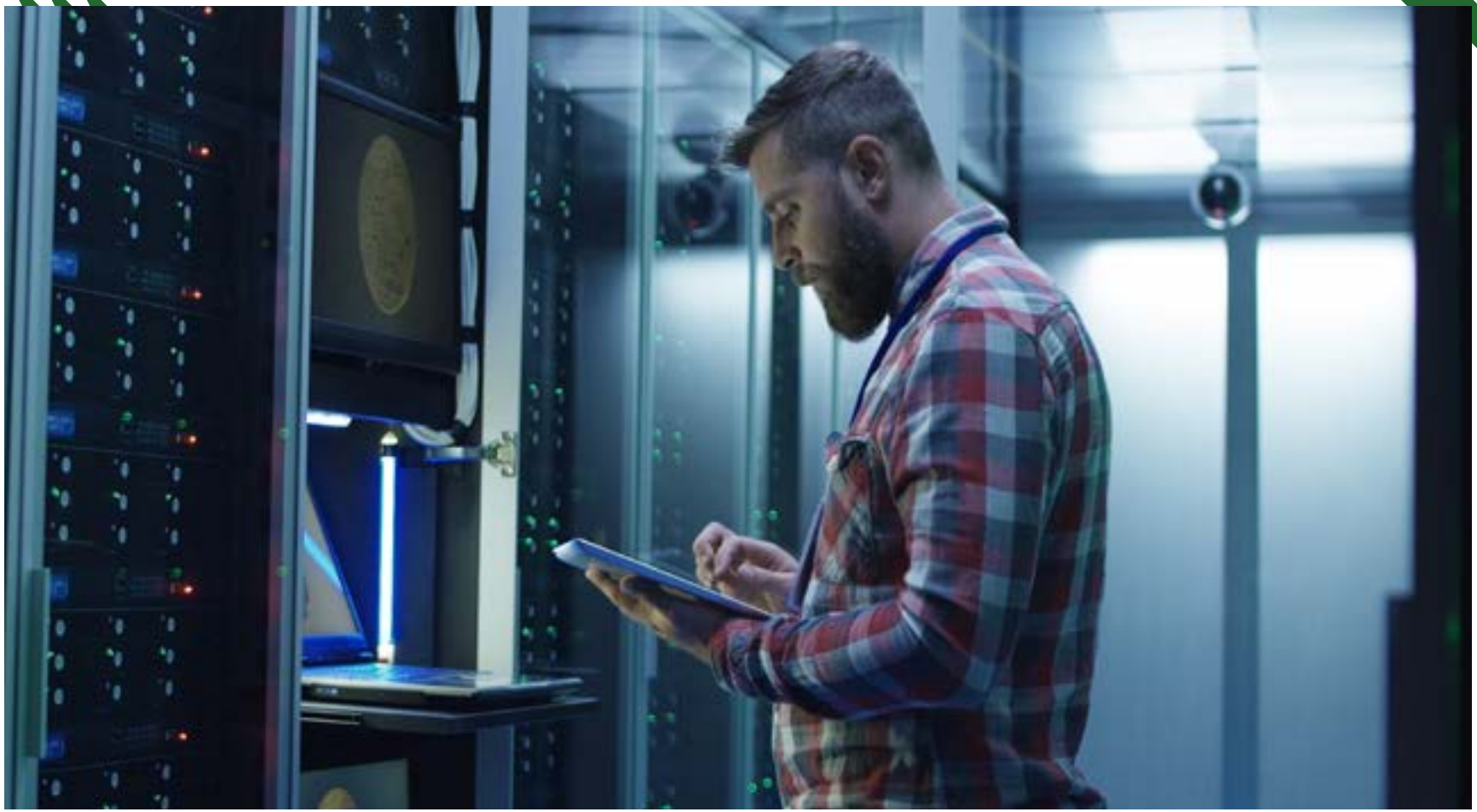
Edge or micro facilities: the smallest, often modular container-sized enclosures ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand square feet.

Enterprise data centers: typically operated by corporations or universities, can range from about 5,000 to 50,000 square feet.

Colocation facilities: they lease space to multiple tenants and often fall between 50,000 and 600,000 square feet, with many averaging around 150,000 square feet.

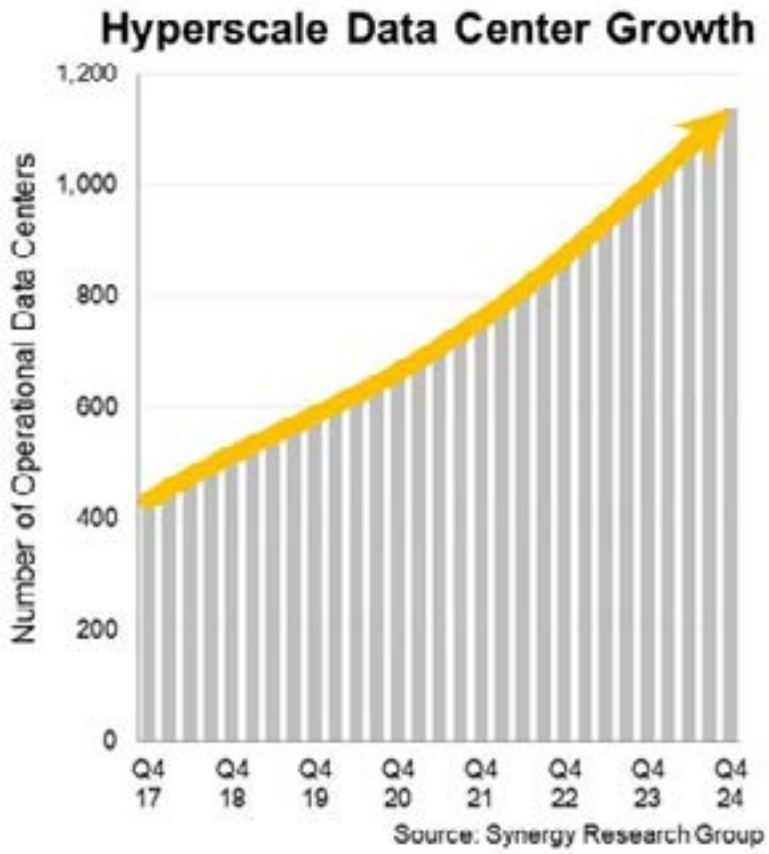
Hyperscale data centers: typically built by major cloud or AI providers, which can easily reach hundreds of thousands of square feet per building and exceed one million square feet across a campus.



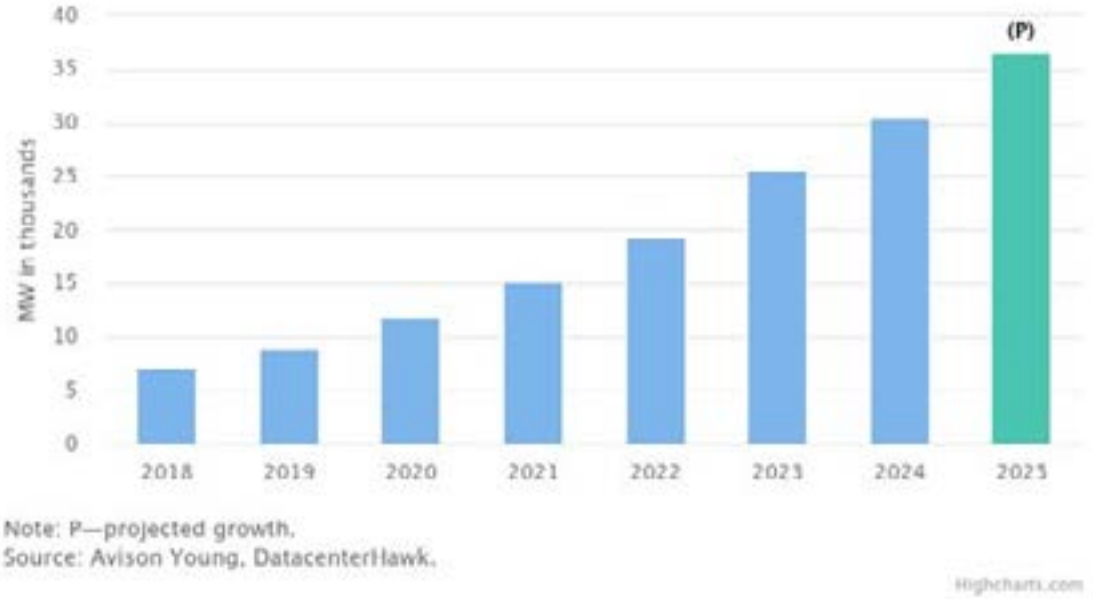


The business that buys the data center project from Geronimo Power will make the final decisions about the size and number of buildings. With that in mind, they have considered two scenarios. One with two buildings, each approximately 400,000 square feet, and another with six buildings, each approximately 288,800 square feet. Both scenarios assume a 400 MW power draw. For SRDC's analysis, we will focus mostly on the two-building option in order to avoid overestimating economic impacts. The 640-acre campus will include a large on-site switchyard and substation, a centralized administrative building, and berming to support operations. Despite this infrastructure, the campus design incorporates significant green space and allows for potential future expansion with additional data center buildings and related infrastructure.

The Growth in Data Centers



The trend is for data centers to continue increasing in size, scale, and power usage. By the end of 2024, 1,136 hyperscale data centers resided in the United States.

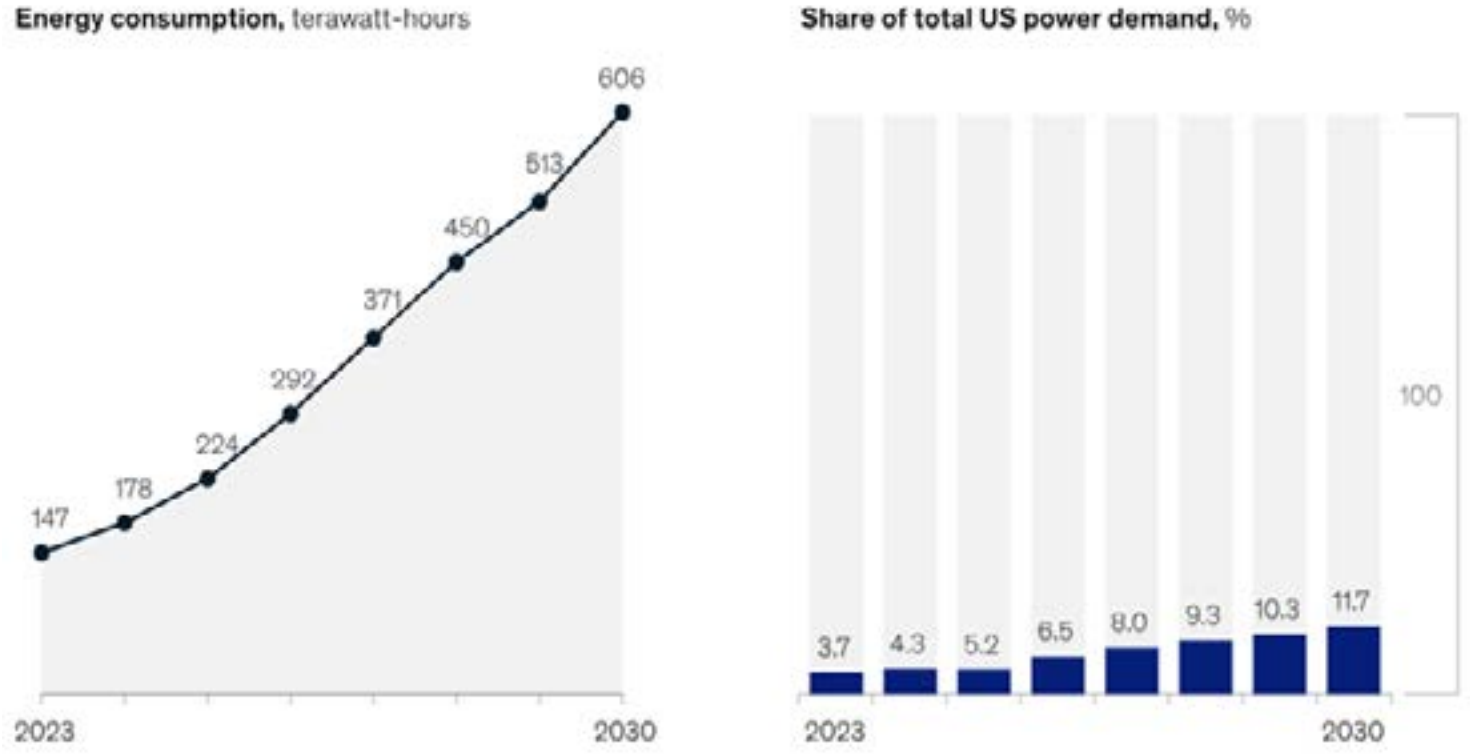


Looking at the chart above, total power usage from data centers grew from about 7 gigawatts in 2018 to about 36 gigawatts in 2025 – over five times the usage in seven years.

Looking to the future, we could see a tripling of data center capacity measured in megawatts and a doubling of their share of total US power (McKinsey, 2023).

Data center power demand is expected to rise significantly in the United States

US Data Center electricity demand, medium scenario



Source: *Global Energy Perspective 2023*, McKinsey, October 18, 2023; McKinsey analysis

McKinsey & Company

Minnesota has 12 planned locations, mainly around the Twin Cities; however, the only known hyperscale facility under construction in the state is a facility being built by Meta in Rosemount, Minnesota (Orenstein, 2025). Meta's project will reside on 280 acres, and the center will be 715,000 square feet and cost $800 million. The planned power draw is estimated at 250 – 300 MW with 100 percent renewable energy, and it is scheduled for completion in 2026 (Spencer, 2024).

The Regional Context

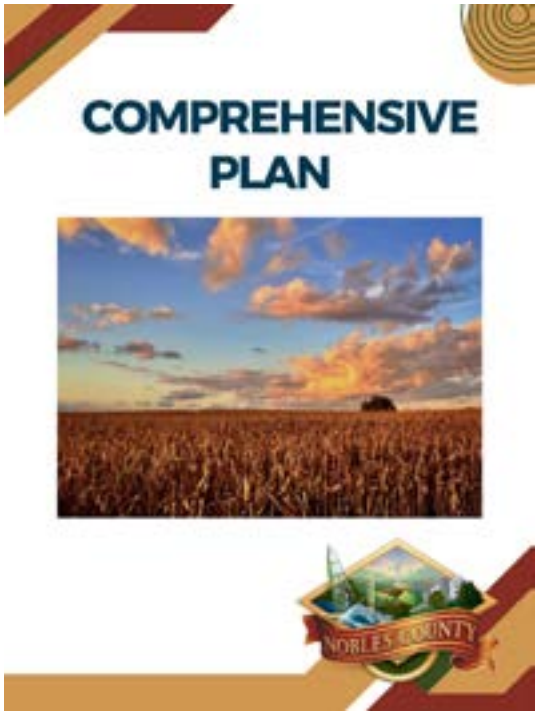
Nobles County's comprehensive land use plan places significant emphasis on strengthening and diversifying the local economy while preserving its core agricultural base. As a primarily rural county with Worthington serving as a regional hub, long-term planning recognizes the importance of attracting new forms of industry to expand the tax base, generate living-wage jobs, and stabilize revenues for public services. Economic development is therefore not peripheral to the county's land use strategy; it is a central pillar intended to enhance fiscal sustainability and broaden employment opportunities for residents across Southwest Minnesota.

Within this context, a large-scale data center aligns with Nobles County's stated goal of creating new industrial opportunities that complement existing sectors. While agriculture, food processing, and logistics remain foundational, the county's planning principles encourage recruitment of high-value industries capable of providing modern employment pathways and attracting technical talent. The job creation potential (both construction and long-term operations) directly supports the county's economic development objectives, while the addition of substantial tax revenue could help broaden the tax base and allow for future investments in county services.

Because the project is proposed for a rural section of the county, it carries additional strategic implications for local land use. Rural areas in Nobles County have historically experienced limited commercial or industrial growth outside of transportation corridors. A data center represents a rare anchor investment that can elevate the economic profile of the county. It can act as a catalyst for utility enhancements, and stimulate secondary development such as service contractors, fiber expansion, and supporting infrastructure improvements. These ripple effects could position Nobles County as a more competitive destination for future investment that would otherwise gravitate toward other regional centers.

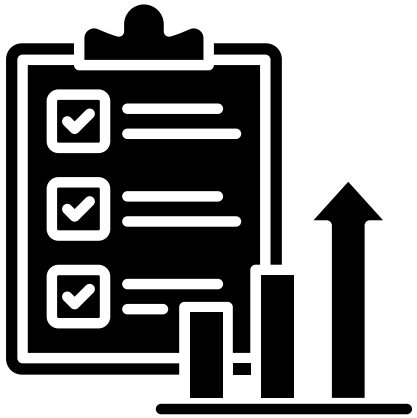
The Regional Context

At the same time, rural siting introduces planning considerations that the county must carefully weigh. Increased development pressure around a major new facility can pose risks to agricultural preservation, raise traffic and infrastructure demands in areas not originally designed for them, and create expectations for additional industrial expansion beyond intended growth zones. Without deliberate planning, this could lead to scattered, inconsistent rural development at odds with the county's traditional land-use patterns. Balancing economic opportunity with preservation of rural character and farmland will therefore be essential as the county evaluates the long-term development trajectory that could follow a data center.



Overall, Nobles County's comprehensive plan and economic development goals are well aligned with the benefits a data center could bring. The project offers a rare opportunity to diversify the county's economy, strengthen rural tax capacity, modernize infrastructure, and enhance regional competitiveness. Yet its rural location also requires thoughtful integration with land-use policies to ensure that subsequent development is orderly, infrastructure needs are met sustainably, and agricultural and natural resource assets remain protected. With intentional planning, the data center can serve as both a catalyst for countywide economic advancement and a model of balanced rural development.

How a Data Center fits into existing Land Use Plans & Goals



1. **Aligning with Industrial Growth Goals**

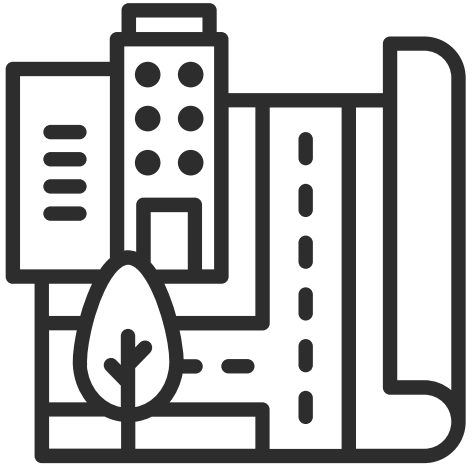
The data center proposal parallels the type of industrial development the County and City plans anticipate. The County's Comprehensive Plan contains a land-use goal to "Continue to enhance possibilities for the development of commercial and industrial enterprise within Nobles County that are compatible with current resources". (County Comp Plan, Page 13)

2. **Supporting Economic Vitality and Community Growth**

The data center could materially contribute to the "Economically Vibrant" vision described in Worthington's Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2045. Generating new jobs, expanding the tax base, and attracting investment that may stimulate secondary economic activity. The County and City plans both emphasize stable property values, efficient public infrastructure, and sustainable growth. All of which could benefit from a well-planned, tax-generating industrial development.

For the County in particular, this proposed project could help to diversify the local economy and broaden the tax base. The data center's potential to generate local revenue aligns with the County's aim to manage public expenditures sensibly while promoting growth where appropriate.

How a Data Center fits into existing Land Use Plans & Goals



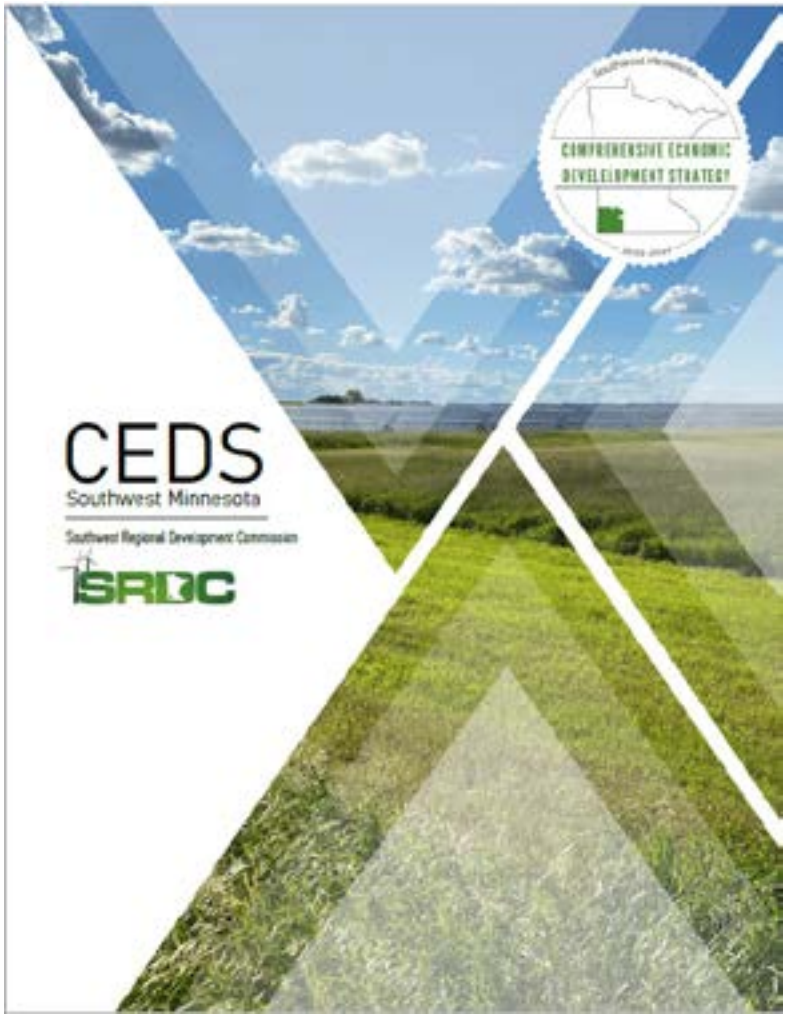
3. **Orderly Growth and Infrastructure Planning Potential**

Because both the County and City of Worthington stress orderly growth, a large project such as a data center needs to be carefully considered. Future secondary sector growth needs to be directed to previously identified areas in the Worthington 2045 Plan. This strategy would align with expected infrastructure investment (roads, utilities, water, electrical), potentially benefiting future development beyond the data center itself.

4. **Balancing Environmental, Agricultural, and Resource Conservation Goals**

At the same time, the County's Comprehensive Plan underscores conservation: preserving natural resources, avoiding development on environmentally sensitive lands (wetlands, floodplains), and protecting open space and wildlife habitats. Thus, any data center proposal must be evaluated against these conservation and land stewardship goals. If sited carefully, the development could satisfy both economic and environmental aims.

CEDS: An Economic Roadmap to Diversify and Strengthen Our Region

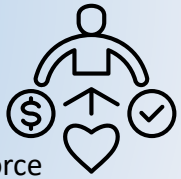


The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC), supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce, prepares and updates the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the nine-county region of Southwest Minnesota, including Nobles County. The CEDS serves as the region's economic roadmap; analyzing economic conditions, setting goals and objectives, outlining action strategies, and identifying funding priorities to strengthen and diversify the regional economy. Updated annually and fully revised every five years, the CEDS is developed through a collaborative process, and establishes a long-term strategy for economic resilience and growth. The CEDS framework is organized into four cornerstones: Human Capital, Economic Competitiveness, Community Resources, and Foundational Assets.

CEDS: An Economic Roadmap to Diversify and Strengthen Our Region

Human Capital strategies focus on expanding the region's labor force by aligning education and training with employer needs, improving access to affordable childcare, building a strong local talent pipeline, and fostering vibrant communities that attract and retain residents. To reduce labor shortages, the plan emphasizes strengthening career and technical education and collaborating across the region on talent retention and attraction initiatives.

Economic Competitiveness strategies include helping communities work with businesses to strengthen communication, build an online presence, and expand digital sales and customer engagement. They also focus on supporting value-added linkages, equity investments, new resource uses, and technological or market transformations within existing industries to diversify and strengthen the regional economy.



Community Resources strategies include revitalizing main streets by increasing shopping, restaurants, and entertainment options to boost spending and support workforce attraction and retention. Additional priorities include reducing the region's carbon footprint through renewable energy and energy efficiency programs and protecting natural resources by identifying critical ecosystems and promoting conservation best practices.

Foundational Assets strategies focus on proactively addressing infrastructure needs that expand broadband access, maintain and improve roads, bridges, and transit systems. They also emphasize enhancing regional bicycle and pedestrian networks, supporting trail system expansion, and collaborating with communities and businesses to address student and workforce housing shortages.

Needs Assessment

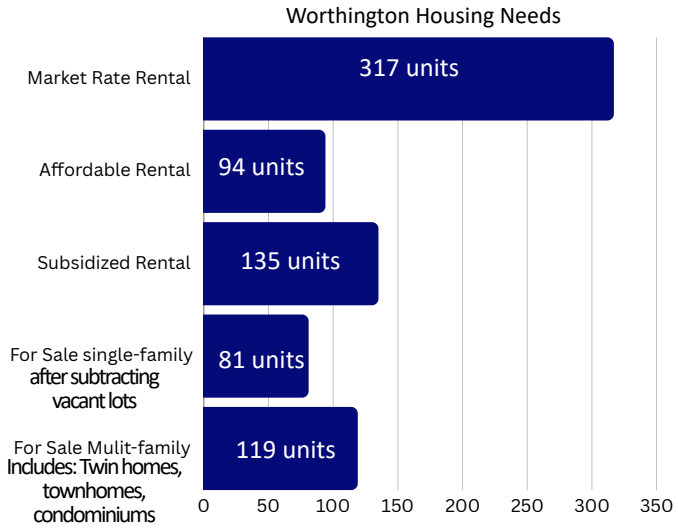
A project on this scale will create significant demands on resources in the region. This section addresses the needs of housing, childcare, workforce development, water, and energy.

Housing

During the operations phase, the data center is projected to employ approximately 80+ full-time employees at wages well above the region's median. Data centers attract skilled professionals, and those workers want places to live, shop, and play. Developers in the area will need to build additional market-rate rental properties, including "missing middle housing," and single-family housing to suit their lifestyles, and local units of government will need to build out their local infrastructure and amenities to make the region attractive for the data center's workforce.

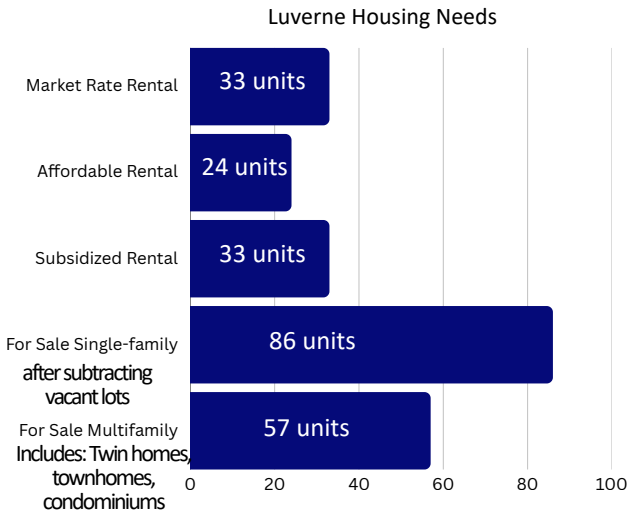
Housing needs will change with the phases of the data center project. During the construction phase, over 1,000 construction workers will be on site, many of whom will be coming from outside the region. These workers will need hotel rooms, campsites, and other modular solutions while they are on site.

Worthington - According to Worthington's comprehensive plan (City of Worthington, 2024), demand exists in the city for the following general occupancy product types between 2023 and 2035.



Since these projections were done in 2023, they, of course, did not account for a new, large data center being built in Nobles County. Thus, the demand for housing, especially for market-rate rental units and for-sale single-family units, would be higher than projected here. Forward Worthington maintains a website with a list of apartments, realtors and contractors at https://forwardworthington.com/life-in-worthington/housing/. Also, new apartment buildings are in the works. Kueper Construction is moving forward with the development of two of the five planned 38-unit apartment building projects. They are to be located on a new street between Flower Lane and U.S. 59/Minnesota 60, and their estimated completion is August/September 2026 (Martin, 2025).

Needs Assessment



Luverne – According to Luverne's 2023 Comprehensive Housing Study, demand exists in the city for the general occupancy product types between 2022 and 2035.

Since the completion of Luverne's housing study, a developer built PrairiE Lofts, a 54-unit eco-friendly, market-rate apartment complex. The facility was 100% full at the time this report was written (January 2026), demonstrating a demand even greater than projected in 2022

Jackson – Jackson's most recent housing study is from 2019, which makes their projected demand outdated; however, they have capacity for market-rate rentals now as construction just finished (open house in October 2025) on Belmont Heights Phase 1 -- a 30-unit complex. Most of the new facility's capacity is in its 2-bedroom units. Occupancy is currently at 12-15%, and they plan to add two more phases. Phase 2 would be another complex, and then phase 3 is building 20-25 townhomes.

Murray County – The last housing study done in Murray County was in 2007; however, SRDC reached out to Josh Malchow, Slayton City Administrator, to determine housing availability in Slayton and in the county. According to Malchow, Slayton built a new subdivision in 2019 with 27 lots and they have sold 10, with 17 lots remaining for development. They have plans to develop an owner-occupied duplex in the next year, and a developer is hoping to develop duplexes for rental in the city. The county does not have homes built on speculation. In surrounding Fulda and Lake Wilson, he estimated that they each had 5 or fewer open lots remaining in their subdivisions for development.

Apartments

A review of available housing within the region surrounding the proposed Geronimo Power data center site shows a modest but diverse inventory of apartments and rental units. The communities of Worthington, Luverne, Slayton, Lakefield, Jackson, and several smaller towns offer a mix of market-rate and subsidized housing options that may support long-term or temporary workforce needs. Worthington provides the largest selection, with multiple 1- and 2-bedroom units available through local property managers and the Worthington Housing & Redevelopment Authority. Rental rates in this community are generally affordable, and units range from traditional apartment complexes to townhome-style housing. Jackson and Lakefield also contribute a small but steady supply of apartments and furnished rentals, suitable for workers who prefer quieter residential areas while remaining within commuting distance of the project site.

Buffalo Ridge Apartments, Worthington

Grand Terrace Apartments, Worthington

The Heights Apartments, Jackson

In the smaller communities of Luverne, Slayton, Adrian, and Hills, rental options are more limited but still provide valuable alternatives for long-term stays. These towns primarily offer privately owned apartments, converted older buildings, or single-family homes available for rent on a month-to-month basis. While availability fluctuates, these rural communities may appeal to workers seeking low-traffic neighborhoods and lower overall living costs. Collectively, the regional apartment market—though limited in scale—provides a range of options that can help accommodate the expected workforce associated with the data center project, particularly when paired with local hotels, motels, and short-term furnished rentals included in the appendix.

Campgrounds

The area around Reading, MN (and the surrounding towns of Worthington, Luverne, Slayton, Lakefield, Jackson, etc.) enjoys a fair number of public, private, and municipal campgrounds — from full-service RV parks to primitive tent sites. These camping facilities provide a useful alternative to traditional apartment or hotel housing, especially for short to medium-term stays, for workers with RVs, camper-trailers, or those who prefer camping-style accommodation.

Many of these campgrounds are reachable within 30–60 minutes of Reading or the other nearby towns, making commuting feasible. They span a mix of amenities, including electric/water/sewer hookups (for RVs), tent-friendly sites, cabins or small "tiny-home" rentals, and lakeside or park-based settings — giving flexibility depending on the size of household and comfort preferences.

Adrian Campground,

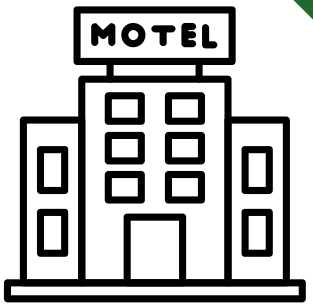
River Road Campground, Luverne

Olson Campground, Worthington

Sandy Point Campground, Lakefield

Lake Shetek State Park, Currie

Hotels/Motels



Geronimo Power's proposed data center near Reading, Minnesota is expected to bring a temporary influx of construction workers, technical staff, and support personnel to the region. To help meet anticipated housing needs, a review of lodging options within a 45-mile radius of Reading identified several hotels and motels that either offer extended-stay accommodations or are well-suited for long-term arrangements.

The closest cluster is in Worthington, which provides multiple branded options—including Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Comfort Suites, AmericInn, and Super 8—that commonly offer corporate or weekly rates. Additional extended-stay opportunities are available in nearby communities such as Jackson, Windom, Luverne, Pipestone, Slayton, and other small towns, creating a broad range of choices for project staff based on proximity, amenities, and budget.

Notably, Luverne and Pipestone both feature GrandStay Hotel & Suites properties with dedicated extended-stay suites equipped with kitchen facilities, making them particularly suitable for longer assignments. Several economy motels across the region also provide weekly or monthly rate options upon request, offering flexibility for contractors or rotating crews. The inventory of available long-term lodging demonstrates that the region is well positioned to support workforce housing needs during both the construction phase and early operational period of the data center. This summary accompanies a detailed lodging list included in the appendix for reference.

GrandStay Hotel & Suites, Luverne

Holiday Inn Express, Worthington

GrandStay Hotel & Suites, Pipestone

Childcare Needs in the Region

To attract and retain a workforce, childcare is essential. Southwest Minnesota, like many areas of the country, is facing challenges with maintaining enough childcare slots to meet the demand. Communities are seeking ways to retain existing childcare providers and expand the number of available slots in a manner that offers a variety of options for working families.

Data retrieved from a 2025 report from First Children's Finance highlights childcare needs in Nobles, Murray, Rock, and Jackson counties. Of these counties, Nobles County shows the highest deficit in childcare capacity compared to demand, with a shortage of 1,134 childcare slots.

Notes on the data from First Children's Finance: The need is calculated by subtracting the "Adjusted Capacity" from the number of "Children Under 6 with Working Parents." The "Adjusted Capacity" is smaller than the licensed capacity because several factors, including staffing and the age range of children at a facility, often prevent child care providers from operating at maximum capacity.

In Nobles County they contract with Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) to provide services, and they are leading the charge on childcare initiatives. They have two funds available to support providers in the area that need continuous and generous support. The Nobles County website describes them as:

The Child Care Expansion and Capacity Grant is designed to help childcare providers who are looking to add new childcare slots to their businesses or are in the process of starting a new childcare business. This grant program provides financial support to cover costs associated with expanding the capacity of childcare services.

The Child Care Provider Fund Grant is intended for both new and current providers who need assistance with different expenses that come up when running a childcare program. These expenses may include repairs, playground equipment, toys, and other necessary items to provide quality childcare services.

Nobles County

According to Angie Kapplow, the Community and Business Development Specialist with CEDA in Nobles County, the pipeline of new childcare providers will not keep up with the demand. She said two in-home providers are planning to open in 2026, adding 20 childcare slots, pending license approval. Unfortunately, due to retirements, they are projected to lose eight in-home providers over the next five years, resulting in the loss of over 80 slots. They also lost the We Care Daycare in 2025. They were only licensed for preschool and school-age children, and when the Worthington School District opened a free preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds, with the 4-year-olds able to attend full days, they could not compete with free.

To address some of the needs, the YMCA in Worthington is exploring opening another daycare center in town, but they are first conducting a feasibility study. The other daycare center, Kids R It, is in dire need of repairs. Another project moving forward, thanks to Nobles County receiving a DEED Childcare Grant, is a special family childcare project in Rushmore to renovate an existing building to create space for up to three providers. They are hoping to open by June 2026 and would have space for about 30 children.

Adjusted Capacity: **471**

Children Under 6 with Working Parents: **1,605**

Child Care Need: **-1,134 (shortage)**

Murray County

Wonder World Preschool in Slayton is the only daycare center in Murray County and is running a capital campaign to build a new facility in order to continue operations past 2026. In June of 2024, Wonder World Preschool, Inc. was notified by their current landlord of 52 years that their lease would end, with no renewal option. After some negotiations for an extension, their lease is set to expire on July 31, 2026 unless visible progress is made on the building project. Then they would be able to extend their lease to July 31, 2027. The loss of the lease is through no fault of Wonder World, but rather due to their landlord's (a local church) desire to expand their ministries and needing the space to do so.

If they close due to no new space by then, Murray County will lose 76 licensed childcare spots. Additionally, multiple in-home childcare providers are set to retire over the next 4-5 years. Of those, one retired in the summer of 2025. These natural closures and the potential loss of Murray County's only childcare center would leave the county running a deficit of 160 childcare spots. After learning about this project, Geronimo Power, through its Plum Creek 2 and Lime Creek Wind Projects, partially located in Murray County, donated $15,000 to Wonder World. As of January 2026, with this donation included, Wonder World had raised approximately $1.8 million toward their $2.1 million goal, with $300,000 remaining to fund their project.

Adjusted Capacity: **277**

Children Under 6 with Working Parents: **328**

Child Care Need: **-51 (shortage)**

Rock County

Rock County has invested heavily in childcare facilities in recent years. They have one center and 28 in-home childcare facilities. In Luverne, they opened Kids Rock! Childcare Center, an $8 million project, in 2025. The facility is licensed for 186 children, of which 110 are enrolled now (in December 2025), and of the 110, 20-25 are part-time, which leaves some capacity. However, the highest demand is for their three infant rooms, which are full through 2026.

The Hills-Beaver Creek School District was proactive in creating space for childcare for approximately 40 children in their new elementary school. However, it was scheduled to open in October 2025, and due to staffing shortages, it has not opened yet. Although they have staffing secured to cover the kids they have enrolled thus far, licensing requires staffing to be secured for all the slots.

In 2023 the City of Hills was proactive in renovating a dilapidated tax-forfeited property into a state-of-the-art building that houses three separate family childcare locations. All three spaces are full and occupied.

Adjusted Capacity: **447**

Children Under 6 with Working Parents: **456**

Child Care Need: **-9 (shortage)**

Jackson County

Jackson County has one center licensed for 95 children -- Little Huskies. According to the Little Huskies daycare center manager, there is currently a waiting list. They will only have two openings in the next twelve months – one in October 2026 and one in January 2027. Regarding in-home providers, they lost 5 between 2018 and 2025, representing over 50 slots, and are also likely to lose more due to retirements over the next five years. In nearby Heron Lake, according to the City Clerk, their day care center currently has openings.

Adjusted Capacity: **270**

Children Under 6 with Working Parents: **499**

Child Care Need: **-229 (shortage)**

Workforce Development

Most hyperscale data center developers, such as Meta, Google, and Microsoft, invest time, money, and resources into creating a workforce pipeline for data center careers in the regions where they locate their facilities. These companies already have highly structured training and development programs in place; thus, it would be premature to attempt to develop a local training program for data center-specific work before a buyer is known.

Geronimo Power does not, at this point, know who will buy and develop the data center, but they are invested in workforce development in the region – especially in the areas of wind, solar, and the trades, which are also essential for construction and maintenance of renewable energy projects. Another area Geronimo Power could support would be STEM education, from K-12 through college and beyond, which would provide a solid foundation and skills to build on for a variety of career paths relevant to both data centers and the renewable energy industry.

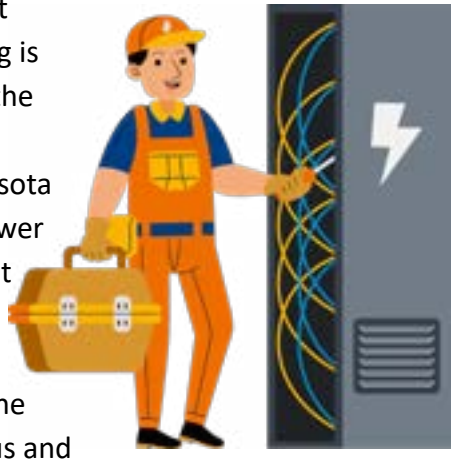
Wind Energy Technician

Program at Minnesota West on the Canby campus. They have three options: A.A.S., a certificate, or a diploma.

Solar Photovoltaic Technician

Technician program at Minnesota West on the Canby campus, which is a certificate. According to Roxanne Hayenga, with customized training at Minnesota West Worthington campus, this certificate program is offered from March to June. It is also available to electrician students to get a solar endorsement.

Electrician

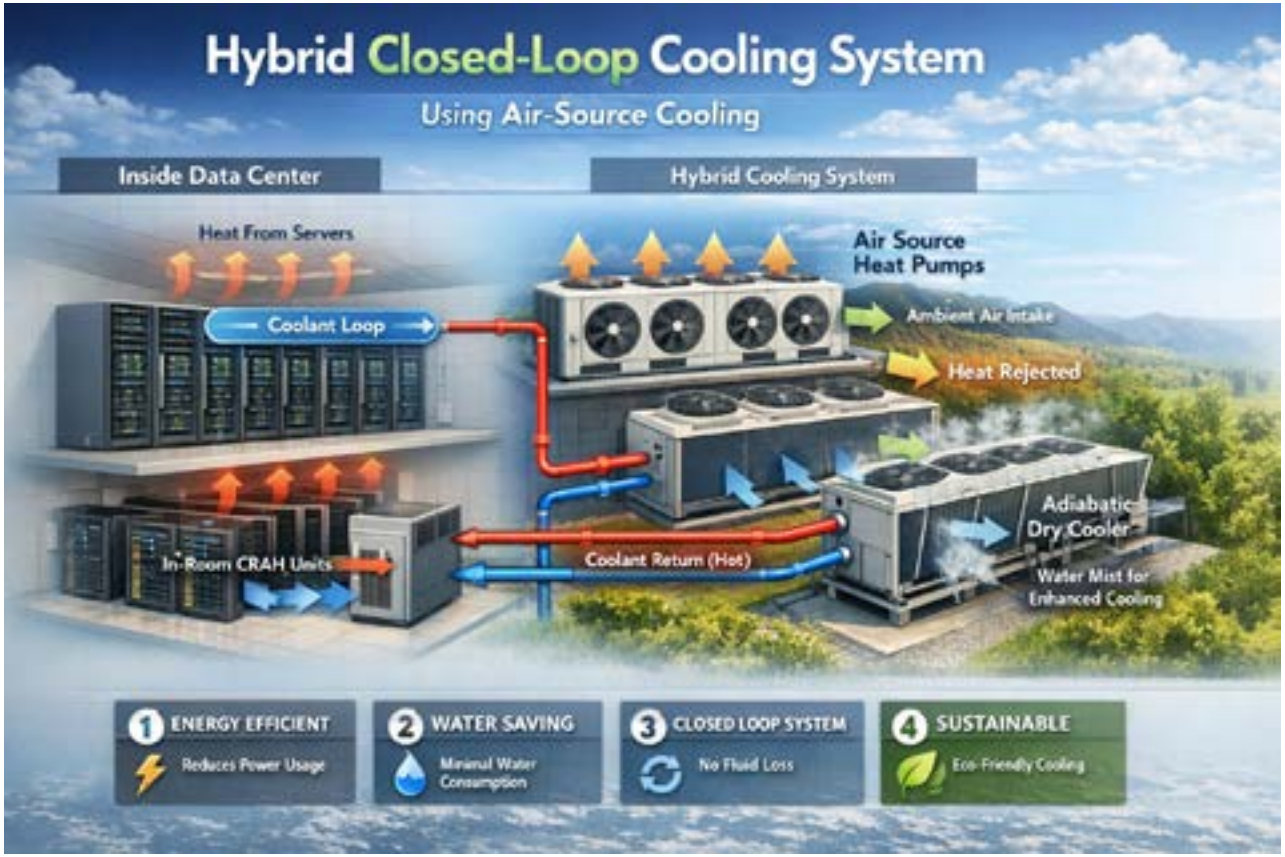


Most of the relevant college-level training is available either on the Canby or Jackson campuses of Minnesota West. Geronimo Power and Minnesota West would benefit from exploring ways to bring programs to the Worthington campus and expand offerings at the Jackson campus to bring the training closer to where the jobs will be.

Water

Data Centers tend to make headlines for how much water they consume, but not all data centers are alike. If they are evaporative-cooled, the answer is “yes”: they consume anywhere from 1 to 5 million gallons per day, or hundreds of millions of gallons per year. These systems are the most efficient, meaning they use less power, but at the cost of needing large amounts of water.

Geronimo Power is primarily an energy company, and they are aware that Nobles County could not support an evaporative-cooled data center. Instead, they are looking at a hybrid, closed-loop system which is more energy-intensive but requires much less water. A closed-loop system will continually circulate water between the servers



and chillers to dissipate heat without needing a fresh water supply. Many options exist for cooling a closed-loop system and water use will fluctuate based on weather patterns. Since the end-user is unknown, the estimate for water usage that follows is based on numbers from similar data center projects and is subject to change.

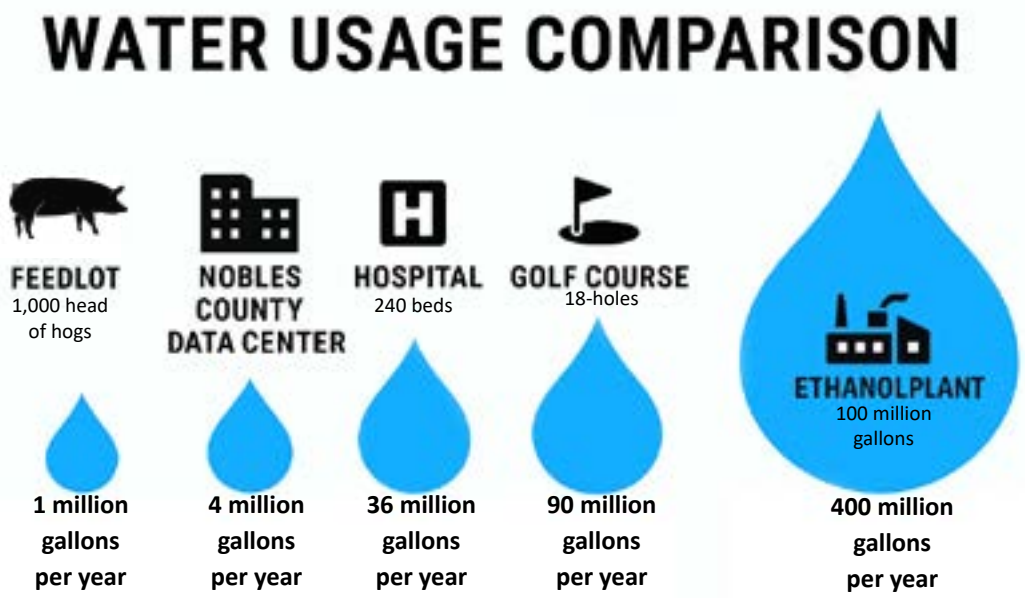
Water

DC Mechanical System Typology	Air-Cooled Split-System Direct Expansion Air Conditioning Units	Variants of Closed Loop Systems	
		Dry Coolers	Air-Cooled Chillers
Loop Fill (one time) - often times trucked in	0	1,200,000	1,200,000
Domestic GPY	3,650,000	3,650,000	3,650,000
Maintenance, wash-down 4x/year - GPY	0	0	153,600
Humidification GPY	525,600	525,600	525,600
Make-up water, Loop re-fill - GPY	0	0	48,000
Total GPY	**4,175,600**	**4,175,600**	**4,377,200**

Source: Kimley-Horn *These are example water usages of these types of systems, not design flows for this particular data center campus

While a variety of options for cooling a closed-loop system exist, the annual water needs only vary by about 200,000 gallons depending on the options chosen. All the options use an estimated 3,650,000 gallons per year for domestic use (flushing toilets, bathroom sinks, drinking water, etc.) and 525,600 gallons per year for humidification, according to Kimley-Horn, an engineering consultant, using estimates based on the type of system. Added together, the total water annually would be 4,175,600. If the project uses air-cooled chillers, there's an additional estimated usage of 153,600 gallons for washing the chillers four times per year and 48,000 gallons for make-up water, totaling 4,377,200 gallons per year.

The approximate amount of water needed for the one-time fill of a 400MW data center would be 1.2 million gallons, which can be trucked to the site.



One solution to expand capacity, according to Jason Overby, General Manager at Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water, would be to build a new treatment facility at their Holland/North Holland sources in Pipestone County that are currently operating at only 40 percent. They had to discontinue their reverse osmosis treatment processes at this location due to discharge permit requirements in 2019, and they have used their Lewis and Clark contract to make up for the loss in water supply ever since. To increase their capacity, they plan to use a new biological process for treating water at the site that is more effective at removing nitrates. Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW) received about $4 million from the state of Minnesota, but they need another $8 million more to reach their capital goal for this project.

Regarding building new wells, the SRDC spoke with Aaron Crowley, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He stated, “Wells may be tough because you don’t know the recharge rate. Also, sometimes you can dig 500 feet and not hit anything, and other times you can dig 200 feet and be done.” He also mentioned building a catch basin as part of the solution, but that would be a slow process dependent on rainfall.

As a regulatory note, new developments that require groundwater wells exceeding a site total of 10,000 gallons per day and/ or 1 million gallons per year will require water appropriations and permits from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Energy

The proposed Nobles County Data Center project is expected to draw over 400 MW of power from the grid. To support this significant increase in system load, Geronimo Power plans to build wind, solar, and battery projects to offset grid demand with renewable power.

Geronimo Power's solar project, Summit Lake Solar and Storage, is a 200 MW solar and 200 MW battery storage project in the permitting stage with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The data center is planned to be near this solar project and online around 2028

Geronimo Power's wind projects (Plum Creek 1, Plum Creek 2, and Lime Creek) are in various stages of development, with Plum Creek 1 already permitted for up to 351 MW, but not yet in the construction phase. It is also planned to go online in 2028. This wind project would be in Redwood, Cottonwood, and Murray Counties. Future expansions of the data center could be powered by Plum Creek battery storage (200MW), Plum Creek 2 (400 MW) and Lime Creek (500 MW) wind farms.

Image courtesy of Geronimo Power

Energy

In addition to new development, the large load from a new data center could help alleviate the congestion on the grid in Southwest Minnesota, which has been experiencing transmission constraints that often lead to curtailment of existing wind and solar energy. The data center could use more of that power locally, reducing curtailments and better utilizing an existing resource, which would also generate additional production tax revenue for counties in the Southwest Minnesota region. Reducing curtailments would have an immediate and significant impact on local production revenues. Between 2021 and 2022, curtailments reduced the tax revenues by over 50% in some areas of the region, costing local governments hundreds of thousands of dollars, as shown in this table.

Changes in Wind Energy Production Tax Revenue in Southwest Minnesota

Community	2020	2021	2022	Change 2021-22	Change in $ 2021-22
Murray County (pop. 8,247)	$1,149,781	$1,273,941	$834,414	-34%	-$439,527
Murray Co, Fenton Twp (pop 171)	$276,415	$326,835	$151,942	-54%	-$174,893
Nobles Co, Dewald Twp (pop. 258)	$225,079	$243,668	$120,535	-51%	-$123,133
Nobles Co, Olney Twp (pop. 209)	$75,026	$81,223	$40,178	-51%	-$41,045
Nobles Co, Summit Lake Twp (pop. 327)	$360,284	$352,135	$184,824	-48%	-$167,311
Nobles Co, Wilmont Twp* (pop. 286)	$98,720	$116,728	$54,265	-54%	-$62,462
Jackson Co, Enterprise Twp (pop 182)	$463,605	$414,813	$311,784	-25%	-$103,029

*Figures are whole numbers. 80% goes to the county, 20% to the township

Will the Data Center Result in Increased Electric Rates for Consumers?

One primary concern is whether local ratepayers in Nobles County will bear the cost of building and maintaining the energy infrastructure a new hyperscale data center would demand. To answer this question, SRDC reached out to Adam Tromblay, General Manager at Nobles Cooperative Electric. He said:

"Geronimo Power will be 94% of our business, but they would be one member and get one vote. Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) will build a large construction substation that will be 20 – 40 MW and will be powered in 2027, but Geronimo is paying for it, along with any engineering costs, lawyers, and anything external. We're not spending member funds to try to attract them, and we will have no stranded assets because we are not paying for the assets."

Tromblay noted that with all their current NCE customers combined, their peak demand is 37 MW. With the new data center, that demand would rise to over 437 MW; however, he was not concerned that this extra demand would add costs.

When asked whether they would need additional staffing, Tromblay said that they would likely only need to add one more person to handle weekly invoicing and ensure accurate billing for a customer as large as this one. This new staff member would then take on additional duties as needed when not servicing the Geronimo account.

"We would spread out all our fixed costs over billions of kilowatt hours, which would save members money. This will decrease upward rate pressure. We would be able to improve our infrastructure at a faster pace because of the money we would make off margins."

Adam Tromblay
CEO - Nobles Cooperative Electric

Current Economic Conditions in the Region

From the most recent data available, Nobles County has a population of 21,969 residents, with a median age of 36.3 years. The county's demographic mix includes substantial ethnic and racial diversity relative to many other Minnesota counties, the population comprised roughly 61% White and around 33% Hispanic (that represents a 44% increase in the past 10 years), with smaller shares of Asian, Black, Native American/other, and multiracial residents.

From an employment and industry perspective, the county labor market has faced challenges in recent years. According to the most recent profile by Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Nobles County had about 9,787 jobs in 2024, with an average annual wage of $55,351. Compared to 2019, the county saw a loss of roughly 474 jobs by 2024, a decline of about 4.6%, indicating that employment has not yet fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Manufacturing remains a substantial part of the employment base (around one-third of all jobs).

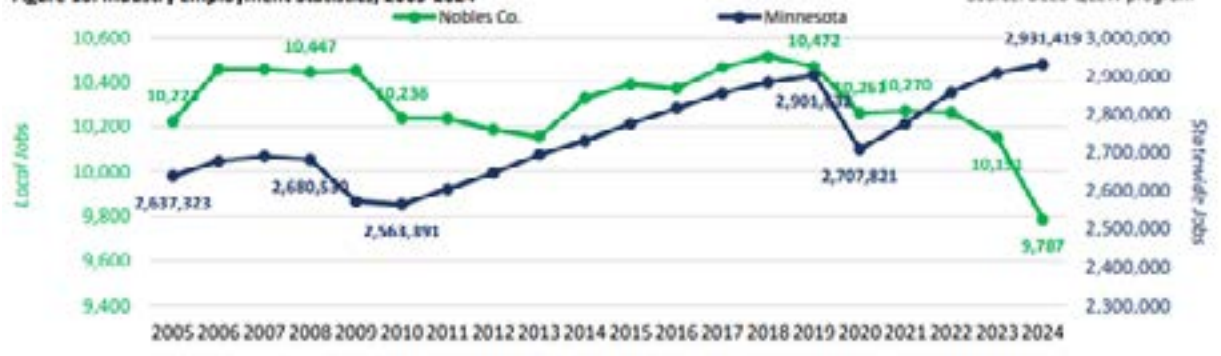
COUNTY PROFILE — **Nobles Co.**

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after losing jobs over the past year, Nobles Co. had the 39th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Nobles Co. was the 85th fastest growing in the past year and the 85th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Nobles Co. is still down from the pandemic recession.

638	business establishments	**$55,351**	annual average wage
9,787	jobs	**$541,721,712**	total industry payroll
Job change, 2019-2024	*-474 jobs, -4.6% decline*		

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024 *Source: DEED QCEW program*



Current Economic Conditions in the Region

More broadly, Nobles County shows a median household income of about $65,509 (2023 ACS 5-year), with per capita income around $30,310. The data suggests incomes are modest but broadly in line with many Greater Minnesota counties. Housing affordability appears relatively strong, (49% of housing units are valued at under $300,000), which can be advantageous when considering infrastructure investments like a data center that might attract workers needing housing. Commuting times tend to be short (around 15–20 minutes on average).

This economic profile presents what's typical of many Greater Minnesota counties: moderate median income, a labor market anchored by a specific sector (in this case, manufacturing), and relatively stable housing affordability. While employment has dropped since the pre-pandemic period, the data shows the region could support a new large economic development project.

The occupations typically associated with data-center operations offer wages substantially above the current earnings profile within Nobles County. Even entry-level or mid-tier roles in the regional tech-sector wage distribution far exceed typical local earnings. Introducing a data center would therefore inject a set of high-skill, high-wage positions into the community, expanding career pathways for residents, and attracting new residents. The presence of these occupations could also help diversify the county's employment base beyond its traditional manufacturing and service sectors, while positioning Nobles County as a competitive hub for future secondary industry investments and job creation.

Employment and Wages in **Southwest Minnesota, 2025**

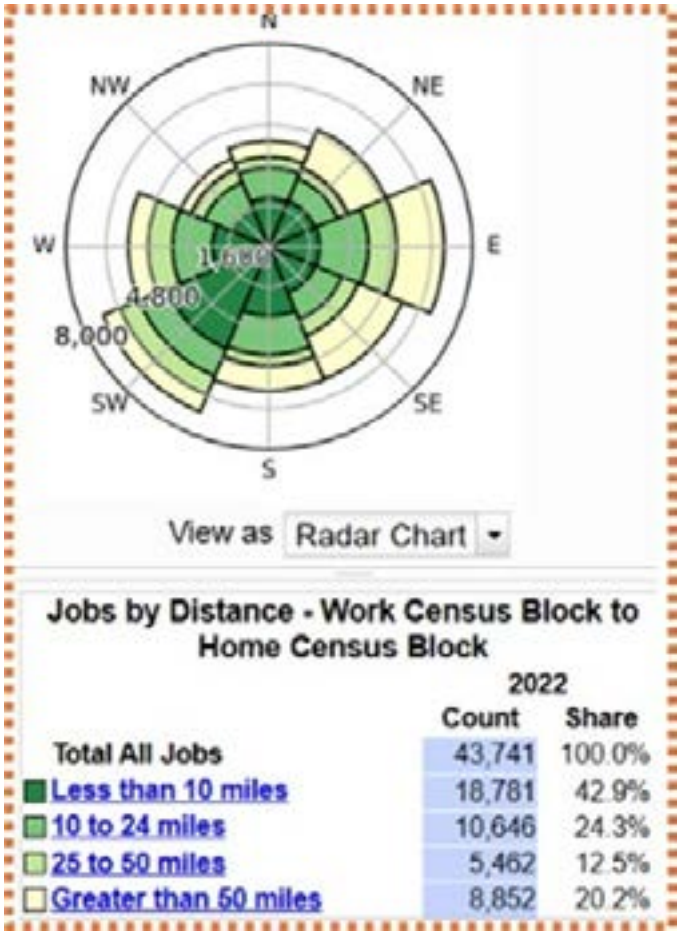
Occupation	Jobs	10th	25th	Median Wage	75th	90th
Computer and Information Systems Managers	210	$41.98	$49.23	$61.50	$77.82	$96.61
Computer Network Support Specialists	150	$25.58	$29.76	$35.15	$39.75	$45.14
Information Security Analysts	40	$27.62	$37.43	$46.56	$64.95	$70.70
Computer Network Architects	30	$40.72	$49.61	$57.65	$64.60	$82.88
Database Administrators	20	$22.98	$29.57	$36.37	$45.87	$62.20

Current Economic Conditions in the Region

The map below shows the area that is within a 35-mile radius from a location between Worthington and Reading. There are 43,741 workers who live in this region and also work in the region.

Current Economic Conditions in the Region

The map below illustrates the labor shed.17,811 workers come into the area for jobs and 17,248 leave that area for work. 25,930 live and work in the radius.



Jobs by Distance - Work Census Block to Home Census Block

	2022 Count	Share
Total All Jobs	43,741	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	18,781	42.9%
10 to 24 miles	10,646	24.3%
25 to 50 miles	5,462	12.5%
Greater than 50 miles	8,852	20.2%

Future Economic Impact Scenario - Jobs

The development of a data center in Nobles County is expected to influence the region's employment landscape by adding a set of technical, managerial, and support positions associated with long-term facility operations. In addition to short-term construction employment, the project would introduce jobs that differ from many of the roles currently available in the county's predominantly manufacturing and service-based economy. These positions would carry higher wage levels, which may affect labor market dynamics over time. Overall, the data center would represent a notable shift in employees with a higher level of income that would affect the composition of available employment opportunities, with implications for the county's workforce development needs and future economic structure.

- **Direct Impacts:** The most immediate effects, including the initial jobs, wages, and output generated directly by the project or industry in question (e.g., a new data center's employees, its direct purchases).

- **Indirect Impacts:** The "business-to-business" or supply-chain effects; money spent by the directly impacted businesses on other local businesses for goods and services (e.g., the data center buying raw materials, office supplies, or local cleaning services).

- **Induced Impacts:** The "household spending" effects; money earned by workers (from direct and indirect jobs) and then spent on everyday items like food, housing, entertainment, and retail within the community.

- **Total Supported Output:** The sum of all these rounds of spending (Direct + Indirect + Induced) shows the total economic value supported in the region from that initial activity.

Future Economic Impact Scenario - Jobs

One of the most common ways to measure the economic impact of a business or industry is an input-output model, in this case IMPLAN, to determine the multiplier effect of the inputs (jobs, wages, capital investments, etc.), using regional data to refine the model. Both the Data Center Coalition for state-level analysis, and Geronimo Power, for a project-specific analysis, contracted with consultants to analyze their economic impact using this model.

In Minnesota data centers are already having an economic impact, but the size of that impact is poised to explode in the next five years if projects such as the one in Rosemount and the proposed project in Nobles County come into fruition. To set a baseline, refer to the PwC report prepared for the Data Center Coalition, which analyzed the economic contribution of the data center industry in Minnesota from 2022 –2023. Based on their analysis, in 2023 the economic contribution of data centers in MN was as follows (Data Center Coalition, 2025).

MN Data Center Jobs - 2023

Direct	8,810
Indirect/Induced	40,740
Total	49,550

MN Labor Income ($MIllions)

Direct	$1,472
Indirect/Induced	$2,998
Total	$4,470

MN Total Tax Revenue

$807 Million

These state numbers reflect the cumulative impact of all data centers in Minnesota, many of which are small to medium-sized. For comparison, Magnum Economics analyzed the impact of the proposed Nobles County Data Center project, assuming a two building campus totaling 800,000 gross square feet, and a building cost of $1.3 billion before adding servers and equipment. They assumed 86 new operational jobs upon completion of the facility.

Future Economic Impact Scenario - Jobs

The direct impact of all construction jobs and operational jobs between 2027 and 2030 are detailed in Magnum's Table 6:

Construction Phase

Table 6: Direct Impact on Nobles County from All Phases of the Data Center Campus

Year	Direct Construction Jobs	Direct Operational Jobs	Total Direct Jobs	Total Direct Pay & Benefits (millions)	Total Direct Output (millions)
2027	1,400	0	1,400	$43.8	$267.8
2028	1,870	43	1,913	$60.8	$378.2
2029	470	86	556	$24.2	$173.9
2030 and after	0	86	86	$9.6	$84.6

During the construction phase, the data center project is expected to generate a significant but temporary increase in employment. In 2027, construction activity is projected to support approximately 1,400 direct construction jobs, followed by a peak of roughly 1,870 direct construction jobs in 2028. These positions account for the vast majority of direct employment during the build-out period and correspond with notable labor income, including an estimated $43.8 million in direct pay and benefits in 2027 and $60.8 million in 2028. As construction winds down, these temporary jobs are expected to phase out entirely by 2029, when only long-term operational employment remains.

Although these workers are counted as part of Nobles County's direct construction impact, they will not all reside or spend exclusively within the county. Many will be drawn from surrounding communities across the broader region, where they will secure lodging, food, services, retail purchases, and other necessities. As a result, the economic effects of the construction phase are likely to be distributed across multiple counties, contributing to economic activity in the wider regional economy rather than being concentrated solely within Nobles County.

Future Economic Impact Scenario - Jobs

Operations Phase

Table 7: Total Supported Impact on Nobles County from All Phases of the Data Center Campus

Year	Total Direct Jobs	Additional Indirect & Induced Jobs	Total Supported Jobs	Total Supported Pay & Benefits (millions)	Total Supported Output (millions)
2027	1,400	320	1,720	$62.1	$326.7
2028	1,913	490	2,403	$87.1	$468.1
2029	556	250	806	$37.9	$239.1
2030 and after	86	140	226	$17.2	$130.2

During the operations phase, the data center is expected to support 86 long-term direct jobs, with annual direct pay and benefits estimated at $17.2 million. While these positions are allocated to Nobles County, the employees filling them will likely reside across multiple counties. Communities in adjacent counties such as Rock, Murray, Jackson, and others are expected to supply a share of the workforce, given regional commuting patterns and available housing. As a result, the economic effects tied to employee spending will be distributed throughout southwest Minnesota rather than concentrated solely within Nobles County. From a county level perspective, however, the addition of $17.2 million in annual payroll represents a notable increase relative to Nobles County's existing combined payroll of approximately $541.7 million, adding roughly three percent to the county's total wage base.

Beyond the direct workforce, the data center's ongoing operations are projected to support an additional 140 indirect and induced jobs, for a total of 226 supported jobs in Nobles County after 2029. These indirect and induced roles arise from supplier purchases, contracted services, and household spending across the region. Supported pay and benefits associated with these jobs are estimated at $17.2 million annually, contributing to a total supported output of $130.2 million. Similar to the direct workforce, many of the individuals holding these induced and supplier related jobs will reside across multiple counties, distributing the economic activity more broadly across the region. Nevertheless, the portion captured within Nobles County contributes to a steady, ongoing expansion of the local economic base tied to the long-term operation of the facility.

Future Economic Impact Scenario - Taxes

In Minnesota, the state passed new legislation regarding data centers in 2025. As part of the new regulations, lawmakers eliminated the electricity sales tax exemption for data centers. They also extended a sales tax exemption for software and IT equipment for large-scale data centers to 35 years. Previously, the exemption had been set to expire in 2042.

Data centers are subject to a new annual fee based on their peak demand megawatt (MW) usage, as outlined in the table below. This fee will be used to fund energy conservation programs for low-income households. Based on the table from the legislation, the Nobles County data center would pay $3 million annually into this fund.

MW Usage	Fee
100-250 MW	$2,000,000
251-499 MW	$3,000,000
500-749 MW	$4,000,000
750+ MW	$5,000,000

Geronimo Power contracted with Magnum Economics to also examine the tax impact of a new data center in Nobles County. These numbers are on the low end of the estimated tax revenue because we are using the analysis based on a two building, high efficiency data center scenario with each building approximately 400,000 square feet and the full data center using 400 MW.

Future Economic Impact Scenario - Taxes

(Magnum, 2026)

Table 3: Investment in the Entire Nobles Data Center Campus and Local Property Tax Revenue (in millions)[4]

Year	Real Property Market Value	Assessment Ratio	Real Property Assessed Value	Annual Real Property Tax Paid
2028	$640.0	2%	$12.8	$6.4
2029 and after	$1,280.0	2%	$25.6	$12.8

Once the data center is fully operational, local units of government would expect to receive, about $12.8 million a year, contingent on a valuation of $1.3 billion. If that valuation increases or decreases, then taxes will adjust proportionally.

Local Taxing Authority	Percent of total property tax revenue	Share of annual property tax revenue
Nobles County	54%	$7.0 million
Worthington School District	35%	$4.5 million
Elk Township	8%	$1 million
Other	2%	$0.30 million

To demonstrate the scope of this increase for these local tax authorities, in 2025 Nobles County received $17.9 million in property tax revenue, the Worthington School District received $7.7 million, and Elk Township received $0.83 million. In other words, a new data center would (as a low-end estimate) increase the property tax revenue for the county by 39%, the school by 46%, and Elk Township by 120% using 2026 numbers.

As one of the “other” local taxing authorities, the SRDC received 0.109% of the total levy in Nobles County in 2025. For full disclosure, of the annual $12.8 million property tax levy, the SRDC would collect $13,952.

Estimates of tax revenue are dependent on the property's valuation each year. Using the county's tax formula for commercial property, the **revenue generated for every $100 million of valuation is $1 million**. For example, if the data center is valued at $1 billion one year, then it would generate about $10 million in property taxes assuming no abatements of taxes.

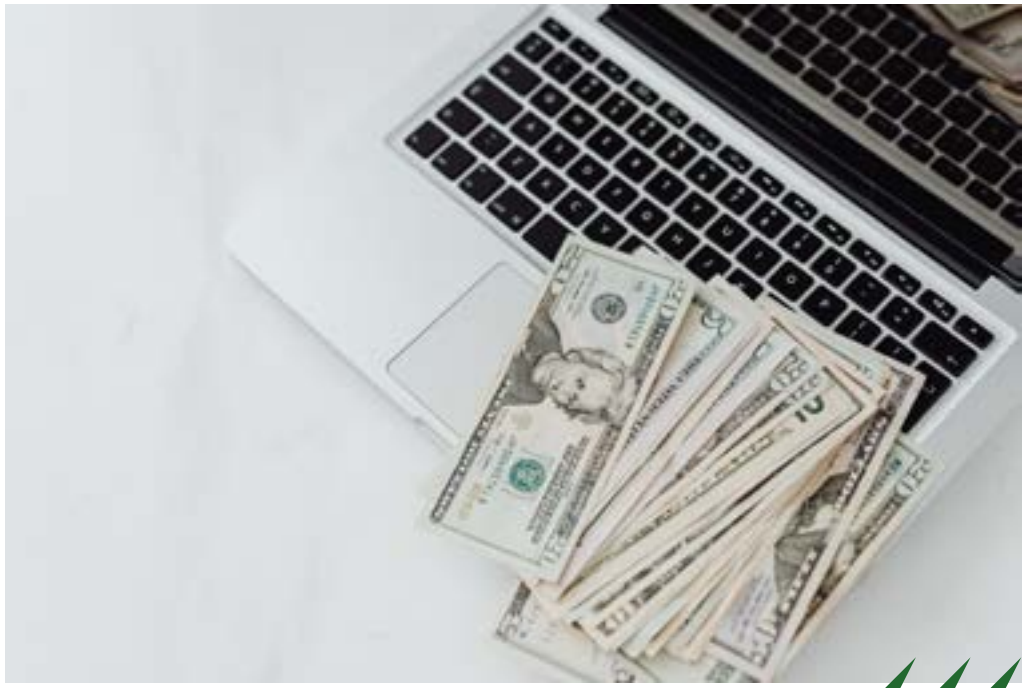
Future Economic Impact Scenario - Taxes

Total Tax Impact, Including Indirect and Induced (Magnum, 2026)

Table 8: Total Local Tax Revenues from All Phases of the Data Center Campus (in millions)

Year	Total Property Taxes Directly Paid on the Data Centers	Total Taxes Generated by Indirect & Induced Activity Supported by the Data Centers	Total Annual Local Tax Revenue
2027	$0.0	$2.7	**$2.7**
2028	$6.4	$4.1	**$10.5**
2029	$12.8	$2.7	**$15.5**
2030 and after	$12.8	$1.8	**$14.6**

When including the indirect and induced activities of building and operating a new data center, local tax revenue spikes to $15.5 million in 2029 because construction and operation occur in the same year, then stabilizes to $14.6 million in 2030 and after (not taking into account annual changes in data center valuation). When the data center is fully operational, Magnum projects an additional $1.8 million a year in indirect local tax revenue from activities such as new businesses co-locating, supporting businesses expanding, and developers building new housing.



Future Economic Impact Scenario - Charitable Giving

According to Geronimo Power, their charitable giving will happen in two phases. Before development begins, they will seek opportunities to support local charitable organizations in the region. During the second phase of construction, they will establish a local charitable fund in partnership with a local foundation. This fund will then pledge $500 per megawatt (MW)/per year for the first 20 years of operation. Assuming a 400 MW data center, that would amount to $200,000 per year, or $4 million over 20 years, starting one year after commercial operations begin.

To date, phase one giving has been focused on childcare. Geronimo Power donated $5,000 to sponsor a childcare provider appreciation dinner that CEDA organized in December 2025, and they donated $15,000 to Wonder World Preschool to support their capital campaign to build a new daycare center in Slayton. They are also engaged in discussions with local expert leaders regarding childcare in Nobles County and the surrounding region, seeking opportunities for possible donations, sponsorships, and partnerships to support their efforts.

Another high-needed area is housing. Geronimo Power is in the beginning stage of exploring housing, but they planning to dedicate resources to this issue. Thus far, one developer has approached them, and Geronimo Power is also planning to speak with local leaders and community members to determine the best ways to assist.

One idea for housing is to provide seed money to launch an affordable housing trust fund modeled after a project in Henrico County, VA (Urban Institute, 2025). Nobles County could then use future tax revenues to provide additional funding. In Henrico County, they used undesignated data center revenue and appropriated it into a housing fund that gives them “patient capital” for housing projects, avoids federal red tape, and moves quickly on new opportunities. The county partnered with a trusted housing organization in the region to administer the trust.

During the second phase of giving, Geronimo Power’s proposed model for setting up a fund with a local foundation is similar to what the company did for the Crocker Wind Project in Conde, South Dakota. They formed an advisory board comprised of landowners and community members and created the Crocker Community Fund. Annually, they send out a request for grant applications. Since beginning charitable contributions in 2020, the Crocker Community Fund Board has donated $40,000 annually to a host of nonprofits, local units of government, and civic organizations, including school clubs, sports teams, fire departments, and parks. Geronimo’s fund would likely be broad in both the types of projects it would fund and the geography it would cover, since its workforce would come from a large surrounding area.

Conclusion

The proposed hyperscale data center in Nobles County represents a transformative opportunity for Southwest Minnesota. Beyond its immediate economic benefits, such as thousands of construction jobs, 86 permanent high-wage positions, and millions in annual property tax revenue. The project aligns with long-term regional goals to diversify the economy, strengthen infrastructure, and attract new residents. By leveraging existing renewable energy investments, addressing housing and childcare needs, and planning future workforce development, the data center can serve as a catalyst for additional growth across multiple sectors in the region.

While challenges remain, such as balancing rural land-use priorities and meeting resource demands, the potential rewards are significant. With strategic planning and collaboration among local governments, educational institutions, and private partners, Nobles County can position itself as a competitive hub for next-generation technology while preserving its agricultural heritage. This project is not just an investment in infrastructure; it is an investment in the future prosperity of the region.

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Appendix

Potential sites for long-term room hotel/motel rentals:

Worthington area (closest — ~8–10 mi from Reading)
·Holiday Inn Express & Suites (IHG)
·Comfort Suites & Conference Center
·AmericInn
·Super 8

Slayton (local option, ~25–35 mi)
·The Trail Inn (Hilltop/Trail Inn)

Adrian / Lakefield / other small towns
·GrandStay / Econo Lodge / small motels in nearby towns (Adrian, Lakefield) — several small hotels and motels in the area (and GrandStay in Luverne/Pipestone) will arrange weekly/monthly corporate stays — check individual property pages or call local Chambers for additional small-property contacts.

Jackson area (~35–40 mi)
·AmericInn
·Super 8

Windom area (~30–40 mi)
·AmericInn
·Super 8

Luverne area (~30–45 mi)
·GrandStay Hotel & Suites — Luverne — explicitly advertises extended-stay suites (one-bedroom with full kitchen)
·Super 8
·Econo Lodge

Pipestone area (~25–40 mi)
·GrandStay Hotel & Suites — Pipestone — explicitly advertises extended-stay suites (one-bedroom with full kitchen)
·Super 8

Campsites

For construction workers who prefer to stay at a campsite, the region has several options, many of which offer winter options. In a 35-mile radius from the data center site (within Minnesota), there are 28 campgrounds. Visit the city or county websites for details about the sites and their capacity.

Campgrounds

1. Adrian 501 Franklin Street
2. Anderson Park, 71816 475th Ave, Jackson
3. Brown Park, 71693 483rd Ave., Jackson
4. Jackson KOA Journey 2035 US Hwy. 71, Jackson
5. Robertson Park, 48804 715th St., Jackson
6. Blue Mounds State Park, 1410 161st St., Luverne
7. Freedom Ranch Campground 1567 70th Ave, Luverne
8. Luverne Campground, 800 W. Edgehill St., Luverne
9. River Road Campground, 1405 111th St., Luverne
10. Eastside Acres, 32672 T28 Round Lake
11. Edgewater Bay, Lake Shetek
12. Garvin Park, 1440 US 59, Garvin
13. Hardwick Campground, Ross St., Hardwick
14. Rez Park, MN-270, Hills
15. Island Park, 4th Ave., Windom
16. Kilen Woods State Park, 50200 860th St., Lakefield
17. Sandy Point Park, 850th St., Lakefield
18. Lake Shetek Campground, 1 Armstrong Lane, Currie
19. Lake Shetek State Park, 163 State Park Rd, Currie
20. Schreier's on Shetek, 35 Resort Rd., Currie
21. Lime Lake County Park, Lime Lake Dr, Avoca
22. Magnolia Campground, Luverne St., Magnolia
23. Maka-Oicu County Park, 12533 Tripp Ave., Dundee
24. Olson Park, 951 N. Crailsheim Road, Worthington
25. Seven Mile Lake Park, 900 S. Lafayette Ave., Fulda
26. Talcot County Park, 53100 St. Hwy. 62, Fulda
27. Split Rock Creek State Park, 336 50th Ave., Jasper
28. Valhalla Island Campground, 6 Valhalla Dr., Slayton