



# Rural Partners Network

Advancing equitable rural prosperity through local job creation, infrastructure development, and community improvement.



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## **Purpose:**

Advance equitable rural prosperity through local job creation, infrastructure development, and community improvement.

# Rural Partners Network Strategies

## ✓ **Place-Based Support for Identified Communities**

- 3-4 staff per state focused, on all of government perspective
- Navigation, application and capacity building support
- Learning and feedback to federal partners

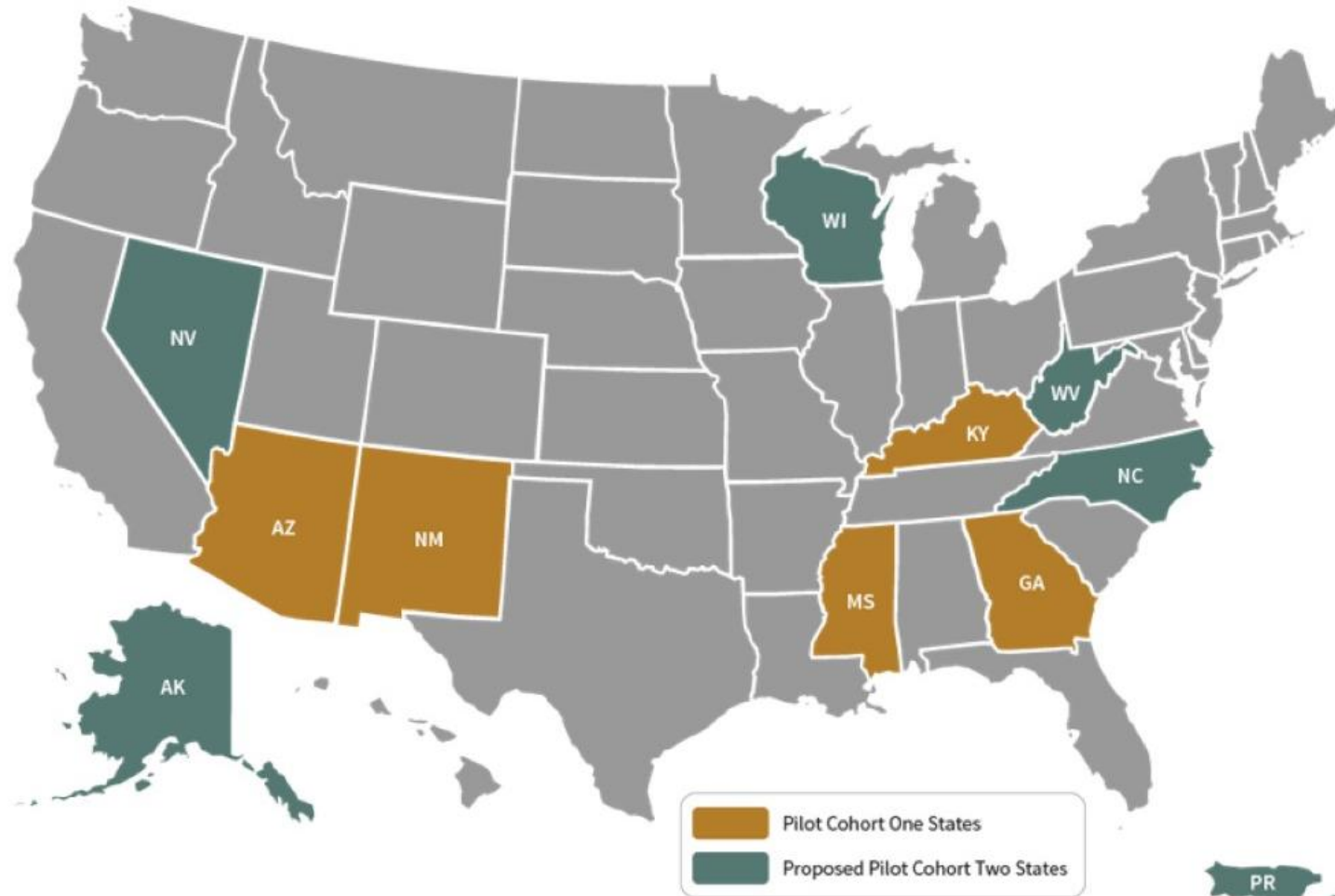
## ✓ **Broad Federal Agency Rural Commitment**

- Inter and intra-agency coordination on rural development
- Dedicated staff and better engagement with rural communities
- Rural focused website ([rural.gov](http://rural.gov)) for all federal resources and opportunities

# Rural Partners Network: Interagency Partners



# Rural Partners Network



**Cohort One States:**  
Georgia, Kentucky  
New Mexico,  
Mississippi and Three  
Tribes in Arizona

**Cohort Two States  
and Territory:**  
Alaska, Nevada,  
North Carolina,  
Puerto Rico,  
Wisconsin, and West  
Virginia.



# **Community Liaisons and national and regional TA providers**

**Advocate for rural community needs; addressing barriers and equitable access**

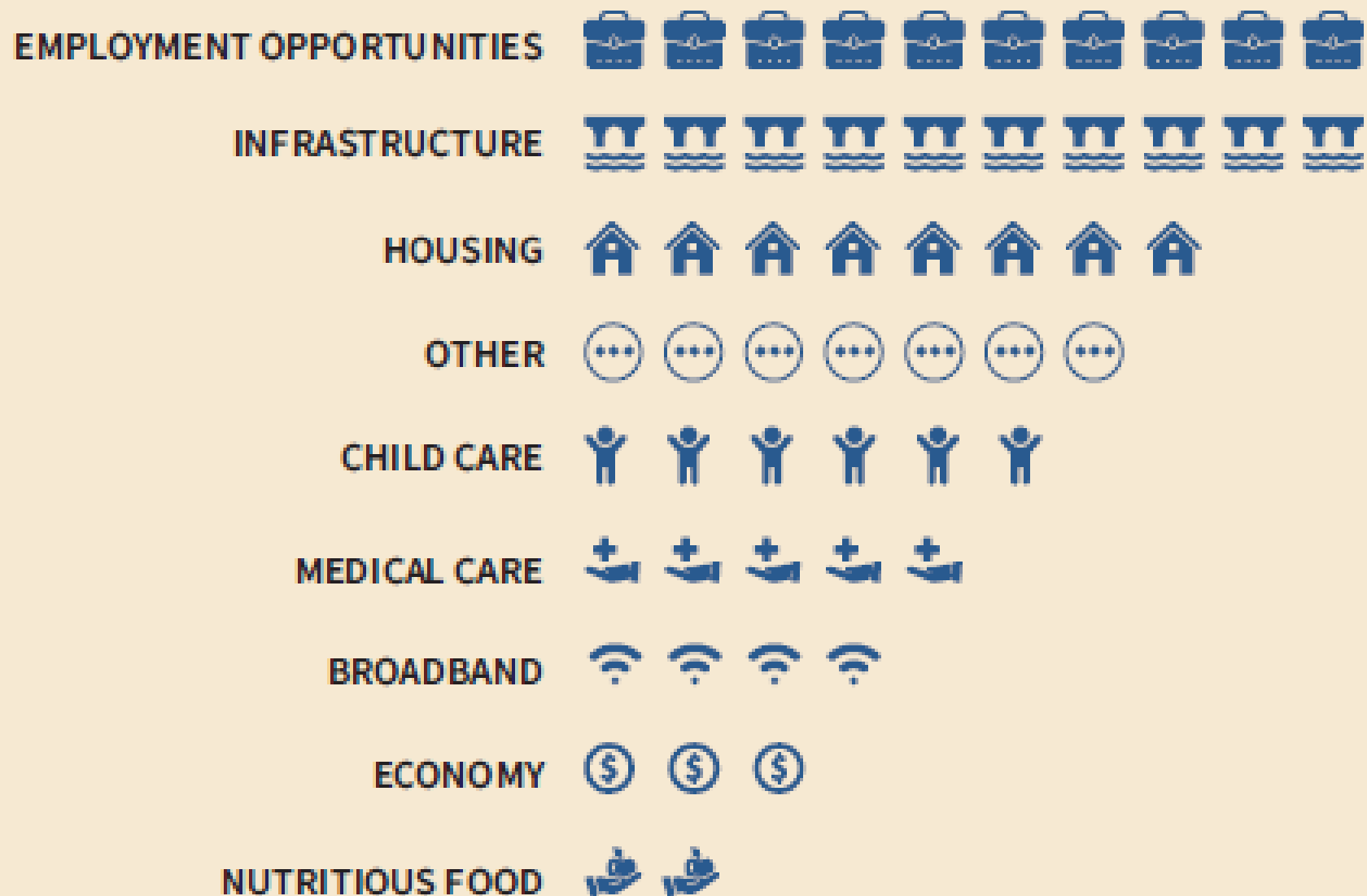


**Matchmake between community needs and agency resources and staff**

**Convene Partners:  
Federal, Tribal, state, and local governments, non-profits, and other private stakeholders**

**Provide technical assistance and capacity building support**

## TOP TRENDING AREAS OF INTEREST ACROSS ALL COMMUNITIES



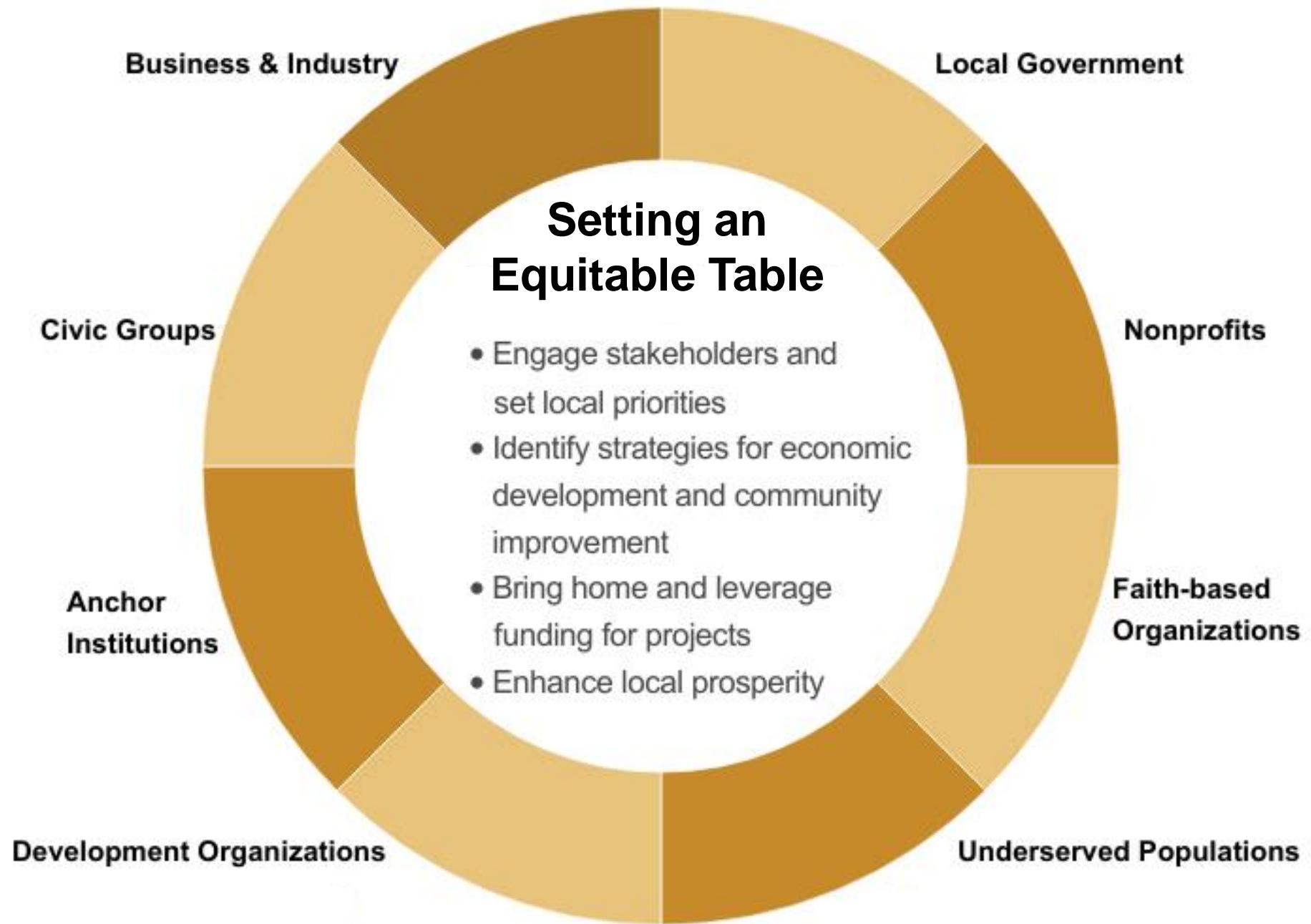
# Community Catalyst



**Rural Partners Network is specifically focused on certain states at this time. If you are not in an RPN State, how can your foundation and rural communities drive prosperity?**

- ☐ Ask: Does the community have a way to engage in an equitable manner?
- ☐ Is there a community champion that can host such a community engagement?
- ☐ Are all the community voices at the meeting?
- ☐ What is there one thing the community can work on together? A small project to build momentum and empower more to join?
- ☐ Ask your local, regional and state stakeholders to join in the work. Keep asking!
- ☐ USDA Rural Development staff are there to help and they can be your partner in this work!





# Return on Innovation (ROI)

- Inclusive community meetings
- Responsive to demonstrated needs in underserved rural communities
- Data-informed RPN community selection process
- Over 20 federal agencies and regional commissions committed to places and projects.
- Philanthropic partners at the forefront to influence federal policy
- Technical & capacity building assistance to leverage public and philanthropic dollars

# Next Steps: Nexus between Philanthropy and Community

- Join discussions with Community Networks
- Share our activities/projects and learning
- Help connect and convene
- Build capacity through identification and pursuit of federal resources
- Learn from each other; *evaluation and bench marking*
- Bring intentionality and advocacy!
- Support a community of practice



# Thank you

- Questions? Email: [RuralPartnersNetwork@USDA.gov](mailto:RuralPartnersNetwork@USDA.gov)
- Website: [Rural.gov](http://Rural.gov)
  - Opportunity to subscribe to receive the latest RPN Updates on the website.
- Twitter: @ruralgov
- Newsletter: [Rural Connections-click to subscribe](#)



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